

New York's 3-Ring Political Circus

By Farrell Dobbs

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Bid To German Capitalist Class Made By Byrnes

Seeks To Line Up Backers Of Hitler Regime In Drive For New Imperialist War On USSR

By Joseph Hansen

Socialist Workers Party Candidate for U. S. Senator from N. Y.

The speech of Secretary of State James F. Byrnes at Stuttgart, Germany, on Sept. 6 is another milepost on the dark and gloomy road to World War III.

There was grim symbolism in the way Anglo-American imperialism organized Byrnes' appearance. He entered Germany in the ornate car formerly used by Hitler as if he were trying to re-mind the German capitalists of the tours the dead Nazi leader staged in his "war of nerves" before 1939. Amidst the melancholy ruins of the once beautiful Stuttgart, the representative of Wall Street spoke like a Consul of the Old Roman Empire, holding out to the vanquished "enemy" the hope of junior partnership in the conqueror's grandiose scheme of world conquest.

CARVING COUNTRIES

The American Secretary of State disposed of borders, areas and whole countries of Europe as casually as a Yankee storekeeper cutting up cheese for sale across the counter.

The Ruhr, and Rhineland, he said, couldn't go to France because the people there "desire to remain united with the rest of Germany." But imperialism France can have the Saar because France has been "invaded three times by Germany in seventy years."

Byrnes' speech was a bid to the German capitalist class to line up with Anglo-American imperialism for the projected war on the Soviet Union. All the points of the text he read fit into that aim, including the declaration that the eastern border of Germany is not permanently fixed at the Oder river.

The offer to set up a "provisional government" likewise fits into this pattern, as does the promise to build up Germany's industrial strength.

IMPERIALIST PLAN

Byrnes' speech marks the definitive close of the Allied propaganda about converting Germany into pastureland—the so-called "Morgenthau plan." Even had they wished it, the Allied imperialists could not realize the



BYRNES

savage policy ascribed to Morgenthau. But the truth is, the capitalists of Britain and America have long been working on a plan that is far more realistic from their point of view.

This plan is to unite world capitalism in common battle against the Soviet Union. In 1940 Trotsky observed that the USSR "still remains a workers' state, terrifying to the bourgeoisie of the whole world."

WALL STREET AIM
Passing agreements between this or that capitalist power do not alter the fact, said Trotsky, recalling words he wrote in 1934, that "taken on the historic scale the contradiction between world imperialism and the Soviet Union is infinitely more profound than the antagonisms which set the individual capitalist countries in opposition to each other."

Hitler demanded world mastery as his price for leading the imperialist onslaught on the Soviet Union. Washington and London considered this price too high. Wall Street in particular saw the possibility of dominating the world itself.

Having crushed Hitler, Wall

(Continued on Page 3)

Nation-Wide Meat Famine Imposed By Packing Trust

Profiteering meat packers and millionaire stock-raisers are imposing another nation-wide meat famine. They are refusing to sell even at new high ceiling prices and are deliberately withholding meat supplies.

Truman's OPA on September 6 sought to coax a bit more meat into the market by fixing new ceiling prices that will snatch an additional \$600,000,000 a year from consumers and pour it into the vaults of the meat trust.

Retail prices of lamb were boosted an average of 10 cents a pound over June 30 ceilings; eight cents for beef; seven and eight cents for pork; and 5½ cents on lamb. But the profiteers' cry is: "No limit on prices—or no meat!"

As wholesale ceiling prices went into effect on September 5, the flow of cattle to market turned to a dribble. The huge Chicago stockyards, which a week before handled 3,180 animals in a day, received a scant 500. At Kansas City, an all-time record low was set.

SECRET HOARDS

On the same day, OPA investigators found in Philadelphia a hoard of 300,000 pounds of meat "hidden away" in huge cold storage plants. And they expected to uncover another 200,000 pounds.

In New York, the big packing corporations were setting the black market into operation again. They were back-dating their invoices "Sept. 4"—before wholesale ceilings became effective—and charging the highest prices in their history. Retail butchers could pay the price and cover up the racket—or close up their shops. Investigation by OPA agents was laughed at, as "several" wholesalers "refused to permit examination

of their books." (N. Y. Times, Sept. 6.)

The meat shortage in New York will be "bad next month" and "terrific" by the end of the year, said Harry Pfeffer, New York food prices enforcement chief. The shortage will spread "over most of the nation" and other Times account admitted.

At Washington, George Moncharch, deputy commissioner in charge of OPA enforcement, labeled as "nonsense" the packers' claim that the black market "reduced the supply of meat to consumers." The meat, he said, "still winds up in the mouth of the consumer. The trouble is, it winds up in the mouths of those with the money to buy."

Moncharch avoided naming the culprits. But he charged that violators are primarily "those regularly in the meat business," and not mysterious "Al Capones."

ONE ANSWER

But the packers are not worried by the angry and truthful words of one harassed OPA official. They wield too much power in the government. It's no accident that their bosom friend and fellow livestock-raiser, Clinton P. Anderson, is Secretary of Agriculture. Don't the packers always go unmolested while the OPA agents scurry around looking for "two-bit" chiselers?

There is only one way to bring the meat from the ranches to the workers' tables. That is—nationalize the meat industry and operate it under control of the workers.

MARITIME LABOR DISPLAYS MIGHT IN NATIONAL STRIKE

Truck Strike Spreads

Jersey Drivers Join N. Y. Walkout

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—The powerful grip of the general trucking strike that began here September 1 was strengthened last Wednesday when some 10,000 northern New Jersey drivers walked out in sympathy with the 15,000 striking members of the AFL Teamsters Local 807 in this city.

The militant and determined temper of the New York drivers was demonstrated at a stormy meeting of 8,000 here yesterday. Incensed by threats of the city administration to use cops to move "emergency supplies" and by provocative statements of the truck owners' spokesmen, the rank and file overwhelmingly refused even to vote on an unacceptable compromise sponsored by Democratic Mayor O'Dwyer.

INSULTING OFFER

Previously, the trucking fleet operators had already refused even to discuss O'Dwyer's proposal, thus provoking the strike. Their only counter-proposal to the union's original demands for a 30 per cent wage increase and reduction of the work-week from 44 to 40 hours was an insulting offer of five cents an hour.

O'Dwyer's proposal, which the union leaders recommended at yesterday's over-flow meeting at the Sixty-Ninth Regiment Armory, called for an 18½-cent hourly increase and a 40-hour week. But rank and file strikers pointed out that with the shorter work-week this will mean in many instances only one dollar more per week in take-home pay.

The minimum which the ranks indicated will be acceptable is the former 44-hour-weekly pay for 40 hours' work plus an 18½-cent an hour increase for 40 hours.

GETS TOUGH

O'Dwyer, dropping his mask of "impartial mediator," last Friday at a closed meeting of truck owners and drivers representatives got "tough" and threatened to use cops and city employees as scab drivers in an "emergency."

He later back-tracked on his threats and admitted that the capitalist press scare-heads about "food shortages" due to the strike are unfounded.

However, strikebreaking threats are again issuing from the offices of O'Dwyer's Police Commissioner Wallender.

A frenzied press campaign against the strikers, featured by the usual "disaster" headlines, is being unloosed as the strike tightens its grip and spreads.

("A Truckdriver Tells His Story"—See Page Two.)

Why Prices Soar

Dividend payments to rich coupon-clippers were 13.3 per cent higher in July 1946 than in July 1945, the Department of Commerce reported last week.

Food corporations are grabbing the biggest profits in their history. Price ceilings have been removed from dairy products. National Dairy Products Corp. in the first half of '46 cleaned up \$11,802,554 net profits compared to \$6,977,276 in the first half of '45. Borden Co. netted \$8,875,000, compared to the '45 take of \$5,875,000.

Armour's meat packing profits in six months ending April 30 surpassed profits for the entire previous 12 months.

No Government Wage-Cuts!



SWP Candidates In Los Angeles Pledge Fight Against Fascists

IN THE NEWS

But They Didn't Pull Out His Poison-Fangs

Mississippi's Democratic Senator Theodore G. Bilbo, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish and anti-labor lynch-inciter, underwent an operation at a Jewish hospital in New Orleans on August 31 for an "inflammation of the mouth." It was described as "highly successful."

'Long Time' Is Forever Under Capitalism

A delegation of women representing the Inter-American Peoples' Mandate Committee interviewed British Foreign Secretary Bevin at the Paris Conference on September 3. They quoted him as saying: "We must be patient and not try to do things hastily. Perhaps after the first World War peace was made too quickly. We must get things written into treaties and then see that they are applied. That will take a long time."

Law-Abiding Capitalists

A recent report of the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Division of the U. S. Department of Labor revealed that 74 per cent of all establishments inspected in 1945 for compliance under the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Act were found in violation of one or more provisions of these laws.

Which One's Lying?

"The policies of the Truman administration... are a faithful continuation of the policies of the late Franklin D. Roosevelt." (Robert E. Hannegan, National Chairman, Democratic Party.)

"... that FDR program Truman is pretty badly betraying." (Daily Worker editorial, "Truman is Not Roosevelt," August 19.)

By Al Lynn

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 8.—At a jammed meeting of the Socialist Workers Party here last night, candidates were nominated for Governor and State Assembly. This event took place a scant 24 hours after news had reached here that Gerald L. K. Smith, America's Number 1 Fascist, had scheduled several meetings in Los Angeles.

The two SWP candidates, Steve Roberts for Governor, and Cynthia Rogalin for State Assemblywoman, immediately announced their intention of making the anti-fascist struggle a central plank in their election program.

Smith announced that the Board of Education has granted him the use of the Polytechnic High School for meetings on Sept. 22 and Oct. 6.

His return to Los Angeles comes on the heels of a crushing defeat inflicted on him by the joint action of labor and minority organizations in Minneapolis, where his meeting ended in a complete rout.

Smith has once more declared that he intends to make California his base, and campaign for "pro-Nationalist" candidates ground for support in the attack in the coming elections. He sees ground for support in the attack

on the AFL by the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, and in the police brutality against strikers and minority races.

Promises of another crushing "Minneapolis-style" defeat for Smith are inherent in the action taken by the CIO Friday, the day his meetings were announced. The CIO Council unanimously passed a motion calling on the Mobilization for Democracy to organize a mass picket line against Smith. The Mobilization for Democracy twice called mass picket lines against Smith last year.

The Socialist Workers Party promptly endorsed the action of the CIO Council, and sent letters to the various local unions. It enclosed copies of the Sept. 7 Militant, containing the inspiring account of the united labor anti-Smith demonstration in Minneapolis. The SWP called for similar action here. In addition, it has sent an appeal to the Communist (Stalinist) Party for united action against Smith.

All Unions Back AFL Fight To Block Wage-Cut By WSB

By C. Thomas

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—The greatest strike in maritime history paralyzed shipping in every coastal port in the country as ships were pinned down to their piers by picket lines of the AFL Seafarers International Union and Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

This mighty demonstration of union power came in protest against Truman's Wage Stabilization Board ruling that slashed wage increases gained in collective bargaining agreements with the ship operators.

The complete effectiveness of the strike was due to the unprecedented solidarity of all sections of the waterfront workers. Longshoremen, teamsters and harbor workers pledged to respect the AFL seamen's picket lines. All seafaring unions, AFL, CIO and independent, declared their support and condemned the anti-union action of the wage-freezing WSB.

SEAMEN SOLID

The Danish, Swedish and Norwegian Seamen's Unions wired their branches in this country to do everything in their power to aid the strikers. Other union branches representing foreign seamen in the United States sent messages of solidarity and support.

The primary issue is the right of the seamen to bargain collectively with their employers. After extended negotiations the SIU-SUP finally reached agreement with the ship operators. The agreements were approved by the War Shipping Administration, the government agency directly involved, and were then submitted to the Wage Stabilization Board.

SLASHED BY WSB

The WSB refused to sanction the wage increase. It arbitrarily ruled that any increases beyond the "prevailing" rates established in June for the CIO seamen were "inflationary." This would automatically bar the AFL unions from concluding agreements with a higher wage scale. This attempt to freeze wages

at the "prevailing" level was declared to be "government policy." If permitted to stand, the WSB decision would set an adverse precedent for all unions.

The strike of the seamen is, therefore, immediately a strike against the Wall Street government's wage policy.

The spirit of the strikers is excellent. Despite long ten-hour picket watches here in the port of New York, the men express their determination to stay on the bricks until the WSB reverses its decision. No one goes through the line without an OK from the strike committee. Members of other unions employed on the ships or docks contact the strike committee for instructions.

SHIPS ARE DEAD

With the sympathy walkout of the towboatmen Saturday the busiest harbor in the world is as placid as a frog pond. Ships now entering the port are unable to dock and are compelled to ride at anchor. Men employed on ship-to-shore launches check with the union on who can ride. Control over the movement of men and cargo rests in the hands of the strike committee. The ships are dead and the men vow they will stay dead until their demands are won.

Meanwhile the administration at Washington is stalling for time. In an effort to avert the walkout, the WSB requested the unions to postpone strike action until the board has met on Sept. 10 to consider additional evidence.

The SIU-SUP strike bulletin (Continued on Page 2)

LABOR SOLIDARITY IN MARITIME STRIKE

An Editorial

The most decisive weapon of the maritime workers in their present titanic struggle is the unity and solidarity of all water-front unions in action.

This has been achieved for the first time in the long history of the seamen's struggle—a struggle that too many times in the past had been weakened by lack of coordinated joint action.

The imperative need to establish such coordinated joint action between the CIO and AFL unions was stressed by The Militant during the strike crisis involving CIO unions last June.

Unfortunately for the complete solidity of the present strike, the magnificent solidarity so far displayed by all maritime workers has not dispelled the old atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust.

This is the one thing the bosses and their government are especially counting on to drive a wedge between the different groups of water-front unions and weaken the strike. The Big Business press eagerly pounced upon the report that the SIU-SUP strike committee in the port of New York has refused to meet with the NMU-CIO committee to work out jointly the practical arrangements governing the conduct of the members of the respective organizations.

This disagreement over procedure tends to obscure what appears to be a major difference in policy.

The absolutely correct policy of the AFL unions is to tie up all shipping in order to make the strike completely effective and of short duration. Some leaders of the CIO maritime unions especially the Stalinists, propose to make all sorts of exemptions permitting many ships to sail under one or another pretext.

This vital question of policy must be clearly posed to all the seamen. No dispute over joint conferences and joint procedure should be permitted to stand in the way of a proper understanding by all the workers of the real issues involved.

Nationalize Meat Trust Demand Packing Locals

(Special to The Militant)

Chicago, Sept. 9.—Leaders of 25 locals of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers here and in Milwaukee yesterday demanded the federal government take over and nationalize the meat industry.

Their demand is aimed to halt the meat famine that the big meat packers have imposed on the country in order to force the elimination of all price ceilings. Nationalizing the meat packing industry, the UPWA local leaders said, is the only way "to guarantee the farmer a fair price for his cattle, the consumer an

adequate supply of meat at reasonable prices and the worker a steady job under decent wage and working conditions."

Thousands of packinghouse workers are being laid off as the profiteering meat packers refuse to process meat supplies.

Today, the UPWA begins a national strike vote involving 200,000 workers, including employees of Armour, Swift, Cudahy, Wilson and John Morrell Co. In addition to hourly wage increases, the UPWA is negotiating for a cost-of-living bonus to compensate for all rises in living costs.

Maritime Labor Shows Might

(Continued from Page 1)

replied: "... the Wage Stabilization Board has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday of next week to reconsider its anti-union decision. On that day, our strike will be just five days old. We venture to predict that five days of strikebound shipping in all ports will generate enough steam to thaw out the wage freezing bureaucrats of the WSB."

The Truman administration is in a dilemma. If the WSB is forced to reverse its decision, it will be a body blow to the government's key wage - freezing agency. Such tri-partite boards derive their authority from the voluntary consent of the unions. The impotence of these boards is revealed once they are faced with the determined opposition of any important section of the labor movement.

The tremendous power of the strike and the overwhelming support for the striking seamen so far has forced Truman to soft-

come of the present dispute. Most of the issues of the June 15 crisis remain unsettled. Among them is the demand for equalization of the wage scale at the maximum rates.

From the beginning of the present dispute, the National Maritime Union and other CIO affiliates have come out strongly in support of the AFL demands. All CIO affiliates are respecting the SIU-SUP picket lines. SIU-SUP men are picketing NMU contracted ships. Under the circumstances it is inevitable that questions arise daily concerning policy and practical arrangements in the conduct of the strike.

The NMU has requested a meeting with representatives of the SIU-SUP to work out a common agreement on matters concerning the conduct of members of the respective organizations. Such an arrangement is both just and necessary to prevent misunderstandings that might lead to conflicts that could otherwise be avoided.

The SUP on the Pacific Coast has reached such an understanding with the other maritime unions. Harry Lundberg, President of the SIU and Secretary of the SUP, has urged the joint SIU-SUP strike committee in New York to meet with the NMU. However, at the time this is written, the New York committee has failed to take the indicated step. The tendency in the New York AFL group has been to oppose such necessary collaboration with the NMU.

If this tendency prevails it will serve to weaken the strike front. The New York boss press immediately seized upon this "disagreement." The labor-hating Daily News carried a front-page scare-head: "CIO Seeks Hand In Ship Strike—AFL Refuses Bid For Meeting." These jackals are quick to sniff any rift and to play it up in the hope of disrupting the fighting solidarity of the waterfront workers.

The strike is an epoch-making event in American labor history. Never before have the maritime workers succeeded in coordinating their action on a nationwide scale. Such united action can mark a tremendous forward step for maritime labor. Nothing must be allowed to undermine this magnificent solidarity.

Seamen "Hit The Bricks"



Members of the AFL Sailor's Union of the Pacific and the AFL Seafarers International Union walking off their ships in New York. Federated Pictures.

Cost-Of-Living Bonus Demand Attacked By Stalinist Editor

(Special to The Militant)

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The Stalinist-controlled Minnesota Labor, organ of the Minnesota CIO, on August 23 attacked the progressive demands of CIO packinghouse, auto and rubber workers for cost-of-living bonuses or sliding wage scale escalator.

This editorial attack, entitled "Escalator Trap," was a direct stab-in-the-back at the CIO Packinghouse Workers who have made the cost-of-living bonus one of their key demands in current negotiations with the big meat packers. The Stalinist editors deliberately misrepresent the cost-of-living bonus and escalator clause. They claim such demands are "a tacit admission that the present basic wage rates are adequate and need never be advanced. Such a step also commits a union to a policy of accepting pay cuts when prices start down."

Actually, as these Stalinist falsifiers know, the packinghouse workers are simultaneously seeking a general raise in basic wages along with an additional cost-of-living bonus. There can be no reduction of basic wage rates and the union is free to fight for still higher rates. The cost-of-living bonus and sliding scale protect the workers against mounting prices after the basic wage rates are written into a contract.

The Minneapolis Star-Journal, a capitalist newspaper, echoed the Stalinist arguments the next day. These arguments are a cover-up for Stalinist opposition to a real wage fight.

Not A Ship Moving As Seamen Picket San Francisco Docks

(Special to The Militant)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 5—Ships lie idle against the docks and cargo hooks are motionless as striking AFL seamen of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and Seafarers International Union pace the entrances to all piers where their ships are moored. All other maritime workers, CIO, AFL and Independent, are respecting picket lines here in a real demonstration of working class solidarity.

This is part of the first nationwide action of seamen against the bosses since before the war. It is aimed specifically against the decision of the Wage Stabilization Board to reject some wage increases negotiated and agreed upon by the unions and the ship operators.

"GO BACK TO SLEEP"

A last minute plea by Secretary of Labor Schwelb to delay the strike while the Board reconsidered its decision, received a very fitting reply from Harry Lundberg, SUP Secretary-Treasurer.

"For my part," he said "the Board can reconsider a decision to go back to sleep." Lundberg said the picket lines would be withdrawn only when the WSB reverses itself and approves the wage raise.

The strike date was agreed upon by over 3,000 of the SUP-SIU who jammed into Eagles Hall, Tuesday night, September 3, to hear the report of their strike committee and the results of their secret strike vote. It was announced that a landslide vote of approximately 95 per cent of the members expressed their determination to oppose the WSB ruling. The dispute would now be decided on the picket line.

Without any fanfare or bluster, the strike committee proceeded with the practical plans for making the strike a success. The men were to pile off the ships the following day and prepare to begin picketing on the morning of Sept. 5, today.

Ship-operator and government hopes that the younger seamen, with the draft board at their tails, would oppose the strike, were dashed to the

ground. These seamen, though comparatively new to the industry, cast an exceptionally high vote for the strike.

NEW STAGE

This strike forces the SUP leadership into a new stage in policy. In the past they have claimed that since they were only an "economic" organization they would have nothing to do with politics.

They now find themselves in the position where the ship-owners have passed the buck to the government. The maritime workers are face to face with a government board. As one rank and file member expressed it: "Maybe we don't recognize politics, but politics sure recognized us."

Seamen Solid In Seattle; Port Tied Up

By A. Bradley

(Special to The Militant)

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 4—Broad picket lines are today covering the entire Seattle waterfront.

Members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Seafarers International Union, AFL, left their ships here yesterday morning. They began their strike against the Wage Stabilization Board's ruling of August 23, which refused approval to the \$22.50 monthly increase for able-bodied seamen recently granted the SUP in the contract negotiated with the Pacific American Shipowners Association.

At a membership meeting last night attended by over a thousand Seattle seamen, the results of the strike-vote conducted last week were announced. The vote was 3,000 to 290, overwhelmingly in favor of walking out. The membership enthusiastically accepted the recommendation of the union committee for strike action.

Today, the seamen crowded the Union Hall at 86 Seneca Street to register for picket duty and other strike activities. Picket lines will tie up the ships and will continue around the clock in four shifts for the duration of the strike. 1,800 seamen are signed up for picket duty. Welfare arrangements for the strikers are being worked out.

One-hundred per cent cooperation with SUP and SIU strikers is being observed by all local unions, both AFL and CIO.

TRADE UNION NOTES

Chrysler Profiteers Oppose Bonus Demand

Chrysler Corporation, which is stacking up big profits, quickly rejected the CIO United Auto Workers demand for a cost-of-living bonus.

Robert W. Conder, Chrysler's labor relations director, formally replied to the union's demand for reopening the wage contract by smugly saying the Chrysler moguls do not believe "there should be another round of wage increases at this time or another round of strikes."

Despite the reluctance of the top UAW leaders to undertake a fight for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living, pressure from the auto workers has forced the UAW Executive Board to authorize renegotiations by the union's Chrysler Division for higher wage increases.

The Chrysler locals have formally called for a cost-of-living bonus, in addition to basic hourly rates, to provide compensation of all living cost increases after the signing of a new contract.

New York AFL Warns Of New Wage Fight

The recent convention of the New York State Federation of Labor sounded the first note in AFL ranks of a possible fight on the wage front to combat the sharp slash in living standards due to bounding prices.

The wage-price policy resolution of the convention, representing 1,300,000 AFL members in the state, said in part: "We will not stand by and permit our real wages to shrink in the face of soaring living costs. If (price) controls are permitted to die out, one by one, we will fight to win compensating adjustments in wages."

This strikes a considerably different note than the advice being peddled by top AFL leaders like Robert J. Watt, AFL member on the National Wage Stabilization Board. Watt told the workers to "tighten their belts" and "bend all their efforts to boost production"—that means, to boost employers' profits.

ACW-CIO Prepares Pay Raise Demands

The General Executive Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, one of the largest CIO international unions, last week set up a committee of nine to prepare demands for wage increases for all branches of the men's clothing industry.

ACW leaders pointed out that rising living costs have wiped out wage gains won last fall and that the "economic stabilization" program has "broken down."

Here is further evidence that the union leaders' policy of depending on the capitalist government to "control" and "roll back" prices has had sad results. Much against their will, union officials are being forced by the sentiment and pressure of the union ranks at least to pay lip-

service to the only policy that can protect the workers' standards of living—the renewal of the struggle for higher wages.

Labor Day Marks Year-Long Strike

The longest strike in recent decades — a bitter struggle by CIO textile workers against the big Athens Manufacturing Company at Athens, Georgia—was more than a year old on Labor Day and still going strong. The anniversary of the strike, begun in August 1945, was celebrated by a Labor Day parade in Athens, with CIO unionists in a giant motorcade coming from Atlanta and other cities to back the courageous Athens strikers.

The company has tried to starve the workers out, but so far has failed. It has refused for more than a year to negotiate any form of union contract.

Bosses Use Starvation Tactics In Strikes

Never has American labor fought so many prolonged and bitter strikes as in the present period. Since the end of the great strike wave last spring, there have been a number of smaller but very important strikes which have already found the workers holding out for eight, nine and more months.

The CIO United Auto Workers has been conducting three especially grueling strikes against hard-bitten open-shoppers.

J. I. Case workers passed the 250th day of their strike on August 27. NLRB officials have admitted that the company has refused to bargain in "good faith," refusing to put into operation War Labor Board directives more than a year old. AHIS-Chalmers workers have also been out since last spring. Mack Truck workers have been on strike for nearly five months.

The CIO United Electrical Workers has been conducting a strike against the Phelps-Dodge Corporation for nine months.

These strikes are indications that the employers are placing greater emphasis on starvation tactics against strikers. Huge accumulations of war profits, government tax rebates and treasury hand-outs for "losses" are keeping the bosses in position for their strike-breaking hold-outs against the unions.

It is imperative that all sections of organized labor give full and immediate financial and other material support to these strikers, so that their valiant struggles will finally force the ruthless profiteers to terms.

HARLEM READERS

Complaints have reached us that many of our Harlem subscribers are not getting The Militant every week. If you do not receive yours, let us know. If your friend is not getting his copy of the paper, ask him to notify us. We will check each complaint.

A Truck Driver Tells His Story

By Evelyn Atwood
Staff Reporter, The Militant

NEW YORK, Sept. 5—The headquarters of Local 807, AFL International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 74 Varick Street, was a busy place today, second day of the big truck drivers strike here. Telephones rang, union men were dispatched here and there, a spirit of firmness and discipline prevailed.

Harold Williams, recording secretary of the Local, greeted me cordially and introduced me to Arthur Hammer, adding, "He's on the Hours and Wages Committee." Hammer is a big, powerfully-built man. He sat down with me at a desk in one of the bright, cheerful offices.

"I've been a truckdriver all my life, and organized teamsters for a long time," he began. "This strike we're having now will be quite a fight. The increase the employers want to give us comes to about five cents an hour. His disdainful smile showed what the men thought of that.

"Our union is asking for a 30 per cent increase and a 40-hour week on a five day a week basis. Saturday is to be a premium day, with time and a half overtime. That is a must. Another must is a two-week vacation with pay."

The last time the truckdrivers received a wage raise was in 1944, Hammer told me. "That was only \$2.50 more a week. We were asking for \$6 more. But we took it so as not to create a work stoppage during the war. The



ARTHUR HAMMER

Carriers' Association of truckmen who haul food exclusively for their stores. But the A&P is behind this organization — they give the orders."

Hammer began to organize the truckmen in April 1940. Finally in August 1945 they won their first victory when a contract was signed recognizing the union. "It took me five and a half years to do it," he said with a gleam in his gray eyes.

"When I started to organize," he continued, "the employers gave us a week's vacation with pay to try to keep us satisfied. That's the way it is—they throw the dog a bone when he starts growling! That was the first of the organizational drives.

"After the men won this, they found out they should have been organized long ago. They stopped listening to employers' propaganda about how they would lose out if they joined a union. In the second drive they threw us another bone. That was a sick benefit."

When I asked Hammer about the hours of work, he told me how for many years the greedy bosses chiseled the truckdrivers out of overtime pay. "They had a regular system so they wouldn't have to pay overtime. They figured our hours on a four-week basis. If you worked, say, 60 hours one week, they wouldn't pay overtime, but would give you only enough work the next week, so it wouldn't go over the regular 44 hours per week. So some days you would work 12 hours a day or longer and some days maybe three. We never knew where we were at."

Moreover, when the A&P closed their stores on holidays, the truckers had to make up the eight hours lost. They worked the following week without overtime pay.

"We would never know from day to day how long we were going to work the next day. We didn't know if we would work in New York City or Wappanaga Falls. At the end of each day's work, after we got home, we would have to phone in to see if we would be needed the next day. From where I live, that cost me 25 cents a phone call."

The uncertainty and irregular hours disrupted his home life, he pointed out. "I couldn't even make a date with my wife to go to a movie and be sure I could keep it."

After the second organizing drive, the corporation was finally compelled to compute the hours by the week instead of by the month. "Now they can't get away with so much juggling," he grinned.

Hammer operates a huge 20-ton trailer truck. He said the new trucks just coming out are even larger.

While I was asking him about the hazards connected with the job, Harold Williams came over and joined the conversation. Williams explained: "Driving those trucks in winter-time is plenty dangerous, especially on icy streets. When you put the brakes on, very often the trailer gets out of control."

Hammer agreed and told me that once in Hartsdale on an icy hill, his truck got out of control and lurched across the highway, colliding with a milk truck on the other side. "Fortunately, that time nobody was hurt," he concluded.

The men not only drive these mammoth trucks, but load and unload them. Each driver has one helper. They load up twice a night. "That's 80,000 pounds of freight to put on and off a truck," Hammer said. "And not only that, but we have to wheel these 40 tons of freight into the stores."

As I rose to leave the offices at the end of the interview, I asked Hammer what he thought about a United Labor Conference in Washington, as some union leaders were proposing. He replied quickly: "It would be an excellent thing. The sooner all of us workingmen get together, the better off we'll be."

At Buffalo SWP Election Rally

BUFFALO, N. Y. — William Kitt, western New York organizer for the Socialist Workers Party and SWP candidate for comptroller in the state elections, will speak here on Saturday, September 21, at 8:30 p.m. His speech will formally open the election campaign of the Buffalo-Lackawanna SWP branch, at the Militant Forum, 629 Main St.

The September 21 meeting will also mark the opening of the Militant Forum for the fall and winter season. Every Saturday night beginning September 21, there will be a lecture and discussion on current topics of interest to all workers. The talks will be followed by social activities, dancing and refreshments. Admission to the election meeting and all other Saturday night open house affairs, is free.

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Eye-Witness Report From Athens Relates Background Of Plebiscite

By Jean Paul Martin
(Special to The Militant)

ATHENS, Greece. — As of August 27, the balance sheet of 143 days of the Tsaldaris government of Greece was as follows: dead, 579; gravely wounded, 415; tortured, 1,664; disappeared (carried off by reactionary bands), 39; deported to various concentration islands, 1,266; new prisoners in the jails, 3,942. The number of people intimidated against opposing the monarchy cannot be calculated.

Despite the extent of monarchist terror organized throughout the country, the fighting spirit of the Greek masses is still unbroken. The two years that have gone by since the defeat of the December uprising have been filled by a series of working class struggles which several times reached the level of the general strike.

These struggles had their origin in the determination of the Greek workers to fight back against the consequences of inflation and of the attempts to impose a dictatorial regime on the country.

The action of the masses has been facilitated, furthermore, by the fact that the Communist Party is outside the government and in opposition thereto, and therefore tries to exert pressure on the capitalists in order to secure a definitive compromise with them.

These struggles of the working class have won for it partial gains on the economic plane, but have been unable to stop the drive toward dictatorship. As was the case during the events of December, 1944, the Greek workers did not have the benefit of direct aid from the European and world workers, and furthermore had to fight not only against the forces of Greek reaction but also against the forces of British imperialism which dominate the country. Recently again, in July and August of this year, several partial strikes have burst out in Athens, the Piraeus, Salonika, and other Greek industrial centers.

NEW MAQUIS

Side by side with these labor struggles, a new Maquis has developed in the mountainous North, the region of Olympus, Epirus, and the Yugoslav-Greek frontier. The Maquis is composed on the one hand of former ELAS partisans, who cannot or will not take up again their legal life, and on the other by

development a method of weakening the consolidation of English influence in Greece.

Large scale military operations, with the participation of the Second and Third Greek Army Corps, and under the supervision of English generals, "instructors and organizers of the new Greek Army," have recently been launched against the Maquis. The army, aided by aviation, provided with tanks, flame-throwers and artillery, has carried out several pitched battles against these new partisans, and during the latter half of July and all of August the Athens newspapers published daily "war communiqués" on the development of operations! Whole villages voluntarily abandoned by their inhabitants, taking refuge in the mountains on the approach of the troops, have been burned down as "reprisals" by the new conquerors.

In the trade union field, the great majority of the Greek workers are organized in the General Confederation of Labor, dominated by the Communist Party. In Greece, there is no important reformist wing in the trade union movement; its few representatives in the past were always considered as men ready to sell themselves to the highest bidder, and men whose authority rested only on police protection.

This Maquis is, furthermore, favored by the Yugoslavia of Tito, by Bulgaria, and the USSR itself, which sees in its

Build Marxist Party, Canadian Paper Says

"The Revolutionary Workers' Party Must Be Founded—Now!" declare the editors of Labor Challenge in the September issue of that Canadian Trotskyist newspaper.

This important editorial examines the policies of the reformist Canadian Commonwealth Federation, which recently held its ninth national convention, and of the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party, and brands them as "a brake on the struggle of the working people for socialism."

"The time has come," it continues, "to lift this stainless banner (of the Fourth International) from the realm of propaganda into the world of action by founding the Canadian party of the Fourth International."

As a result the editorial board of Labor Challenge, together with its supporting groups throughout the country, is taking immediate steps to call a representative national conference of revolutionary socialists to found the new party as soon as possible.

Restrictions In Provincial Voting Expose U. S. "Democracy" In Germany

The Military Government brags about the "democratic" elections it permits in the U. S. zone in Germany, but a letter received by The Militant this week shows how difficult it is in reality for an anti-fascist workers' party to participate in these elections.

The organization concerned is the Arbeiter-Partei (Workers Party) in Offenbach-on-the-Main. This party was organized in 1945. But since it appears to be an independent organization, critical of the policies of the capitalist, Socialist and Communist Parties, its activities are hampered and it is constantly confronted with all kinds of obstacles.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

In July of this year the Arbeiter-Partei wrote a letter to the Military Government in Wiesbaden complaining about "the undemocratic carrying through of the elections" to the Provincial Constituent Assembly in Greater Hesse on June 30. The

letter raised the following points:

1. The organization was not informed about the June 30 elections until June 14, although the bigger parties knew about them long in advance of this date. The A-P, which had planned to campaign in 30 electoral districts, was confined because of the short time at its disposal to only 16 districts.

2. In seven districts the A-P's electoral petition was rejected on the ground that it had not been sanctioned by the Military Government and therefore needed a greater number of signatures.

3. In electoral district 4, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, where the A-P claims to have its strongest support, its petition was accepted along with that of four other parties. But on election day the name of the A-P was not on the ballot anyhow.

4. The A-P notes that while other parties had access to the press and radio, "information regarding our party was either abbreviated or else distorted beyond recognition."

5. The four big parties in the province receive a 3,000 liter monthly allotment of power fuel. The A-P petitioned for a single exceptional allotment of fuel because of the June 30 elections. The petition was sanctioned by the Military Government and the Minister of Economy and submitted to the Provincial Economic Bureau for action. But no fuel was given the A-P.

6. The Provincial Election Committee is a body set up to hear complaints about pre-election irregularities. Invitations to attend were sent to A-P leaders on two occasions, each of them two days after the holding of the hearings.

GREAT DISADVANTAGE

"All in all," the A-P complaint notes, "these things placed our party at a great disadvantage and prevented us from developing our full forces in this election campaign. In actual fact, the election result is in no way related to the response which our participation in the elections received. . . . Had we had the opportunity to run in all electoral districts with a genuinely democratic preparation and procedure, then the Arbeiter-Partei would have received far more than the required five per cent of the votes."

The A-P, which was given permission by the Military Government to operate in the city of Offenbach, has been trying for some time to obtain authorization to function as an organization throughout Greater Hesse. Its letter declares in this connection:

"We are firmly convinced that a new socialist party must arise in Germany, and we know that we are joined in this conviction by great sections of the creative people."

The letter concludes by requesting that the A-P be recognized as an all-province party and warning against the consequences of continued undemocratic practices.

The Arbeiter-Partei was organized by former members of the Communist, Socialist and Social-

Greek Tyrant Put On Throne Through Fraud And Violence

U. S. Warships Back Up Greek "Election"



The U.S.S. Little Rock is part of the flotilla of U. S. warships, led by the mighty aircraft carrier Franklin D. Roosevelt, which paid a "courtesy call" at a Greek port, immediately after the Sept. 1 plebiscite. The "election," jammed through by force and fraud, placed the hated George II back on the throne.

Federated Pictures.

Byrnes' Speech Is Bid To German Capitalists

(Continued from Page 1)

Street is now preparing the ground to crush the Soviet Union. This preparation proceeds along two lines: ideological and military.

The diplomats and propagandists serving Wall Street are now whipping up a tremendous campaign against the USSR, stirring up the hot coals of war talk, trying to hypnotize the people into acquiescence to another slaughter.

On the military front, Wall Street is converting America into a permanent armed camp. Atomic bombs are being manufactured on a 24-hour basis. Experiments proceed at a feverish rate with rockets, bacteria, radio planes, and even deadlier means of wiping out masses of human beings. The plan is to continue conscription indefinitely.

ly, building up a huge reserve of trained shock troops.

At the same time, Wall Street is building up its overseas bases. In the Atlantic and in the Pacific military bases fan out from the mainland in a vast perimeter reaching almost from pole to pole.

NIGHT AND DAY

The work of lining up auxiliary powers for the gigantic undertaking continues night and day. When Congress finds it necessary to retreat in this work because of fear of retaliation at the voting booths, the Admirals and Generals continue it unofficially. All Latin America, according to the military blueprint, is destined to be brought under the control of the General Staff at Washington.

In Europe, Washington and London have been tightening an iron noose around the Soviet Union. In Greece, for example, they reinstated the puppet King George II. Byrnes' speech

Squeezing Blood Out Of A Stone

As of last week, with U. S. claims not yet in, the total of reparations demanded by the Big Four powers and their satellites from Italy amounted to more than 30 billion dollars. The total national wealth of Italy is estimated at only 26 billion dollars. That includes all land and buildings, railroads, mineral resources, etc.

constitutes a public announcement of Wall Street's drive to line up German capitalism as another auxiliary for the projected war.

For the people of the Soviet Union, Byrnes' speech is another evidence of the bankruptcy of Stalin's policies. Only a socialist revolution in Germany can convert the industrial heart of Europe into a powerhouse of planned economy. The third "alternative" listed by the Stalinists, "a new type of popular democracy," is nothing but a lying mirage.

For the German people, Byrnes' speech means Wall Street has again underwritten the German capitalist system which breeds fascism. It means the re-instatement in power of the reactionary industrialists and landholders who backed Hitler.

It means in Byrnes' own words that continued "suffering and distress in Germany is inevitable."

For the people of America and the rest of the world, Byrnes' speech draws the last curtain on the rosy scenes of a world of "Four Freedoms" painted by the war propagandists in such documents as the Atlantic Charter. The official spokesman of the State Department and the Truman Administration, has outlined Wall Street's policy for Germany, the key to Europe. It is a policy of outright reaction leading straight to a Third World War.

U. S. Blacklists Cattle Needed By Mexico

(Special to The Militant)

MEXICO, D. F., Aug. 28—U. S. government to impose the quarantine.

The editorial denounced the campaign launched by U. S. interests against "one of the richest sources of income in Brazil and the only source that is found exclusively in the hands of Brazilians."

The pressure exercised by the U. S., according to the August 27 Mexican daily *Excelsior*, "had as its basis demands by Texas breeders of zebu hybrids."

The Texans consider Mexico their private market and fear Brazilian competition. Brazilian zebus cost Mexican breeders less and are of better stock than those raised in the U. S. The three-year-old bulls under quarantine weigh approximately 1650 pounds each; five-year-olds of Texan stock weigh no more than 1100 pounds.

Mexican Secretary of Agriculture, Marte R. Gomez, stated on August 23 that Mexico was threatened with the loss of its cattle trade with the U. S. if it imported the zebus from Brazil. This trade, he said, amounted to "an annual export to the U. S. of approximately 500,000 head of cattle with a value of about \$20,000,000 a year."

The zebus have been in quarantine on the Island of Sacrifices, off the port of Vera Cruz since May 12. It appears that the U. S. will be successful in preventing their entry into Mexico.

According to *Correo Manha*, Brazilian paper, the zebus exported to Mexico were inspected there and "complied with all legal and sanitary requirements."

The Brazilian Ambassador to Mexico declared that the pretext under which the bulls are being quarantined is "absurd."

Mexico is trying to improve and augment its herds of zebu hybrids. These cattle are well adapted to the climatic conditions peculiar to various parts of Mexico. They are immune to most cattle pests, can find food where other breeds would starve, and yield more meat than ordinary cattle. Furthermore, of importance to Mexican farmers is their remarkable capacity to work as traction animals. They are considered a matchless aid to the economy of many areas.

In an editorial "International Brigandage," *Correo Manha* declared that representatives of U. S. meat trusts caused the

By Larissa Reed

Martial law and the suppression of all civil liberties, formally lifted for a few days before and after the fraudulent plebiscite returning King George II to the throne, were reinstated last week, five days after the plebiscite.

The "election" was conducted in an atmosphere of terror, backed up by the guns and troops of British and U. S. imperialism.

Armed bands drove up to village booths and voted for the king. In several villages peasants voted for the king under threat of pistol butts. Wherever anti-monarchist observers protested, they were expelled from the polling places.

Threats, intimidation and force were supplemented by fraud.

Even Hitler would have envied the methods by which the hated George II was shoved back on the throne.

ARBITRARY LIST

Out of a population of some eight millions, about a million and a half Greek citizens were permitted to vote. Since all lists of eligible voters had been destroyed during the occupation, these were arbitrarily selected. Their eligibility was determined by their loyalty to the king. The cards were stacked against the republic.

Moreover, a special system was set up for men in the armed forces and government employees. Special voting booths were used; an uncontrolled number of special voting certificates was issued. It was charged that since no effort was made to indicate on the certificate that a vote had been cast, these people voted not once, but many times. After voting in one area they used the same certificate to vote in other areas.

Buell Maben, chief of the UNRRA mission to Greece, according to an AP report of August 30, admitted "unauthorized use of UNRRA trucks for both military and political purposes." He said 400 UNRRA trucks were estimated to have been used to transport persons to a royal rally. He confessed that in the Thessaly region from which he had just returned, as many as 40 trucks at a time were commandeered by the military and police to transport personnel, contrary to regulations.

Opponents of the monarchy claim these trucks were used for multiple voting to pack the vote in favor of the king.

CONFUSING PRESENTS
Despite the presence in Greece of many reporters from the American press, their cabled reports of how the balloting was conducted, contradict each other. The capitalist press here is concerned only with fooling the American workers that a "free and democratic" election took place.

They all report that two slips were handed to each voter. A white slip was marked: "For King George." A blank slip, which was colored, so that it could be seen through the tissue paper envelope, registered a vote for the republic.

Whoever used this slip, however, became a marked man, since it could be clearly seen how he had voted.

Reports on the voting issued by the Greek Ministry of the Interior make it appear that there were three categories of voting: For the King; For the Republic; and blank ballots. The last two categories counted for the Republic.

FIGURES DON'T TALLY
But how reliable these reports are, can be seen by the final "official" tabulation, which topped off this pander "election." According to a September 4 UP dispatch, three sets of figures were given out—none of which agreed with the other.

The official breakdown placed the vote at 1,603,000. However, it listed the vote as: For King George, 1,135,675; anti-monarchy, 521,540 which totals 1,657,215. Simultaneously the Greek press was given figures showing the total vote as 1,673,933. This total was greater than the number of registered voters!

India Congress Party Leaders In Deal With British Despots

The first all-Indian Executive Council, headed by Congress Party President Nehru, was sworn into office in New Delhi last week. But British imperialism remains the master of the country. India still has only the promise and not the substance of freedom.

The British Viceroy retains the "absolute powers" which he has always exercised. He is also ex-officio chairman of the Executive Council. Consequently, the Council, whose authority is sharply limited, can do nothing without the permission of the British rulers, although its establishment is hailed as a step on the road to freedom.

The Executive Council is given what the Viceroy calls "day by day" administration of the country's national affairs. But the Viceroy keeps real control of the armed forces and economic policies, insuring that the vital interests of British imperialism are not endangered.

The Council is supposed to remain in office for an "interim" period, until a constitution is adopted.

DIVISION OF SPOILS
The establishment of the Council represents the conclusion of a deal between the Indian capitalist elements in the leadership of the Congress Party and the British imperialists. Under this deal a greater share of governing power will be turned over to the Indian capitalists in return for their assistance in supporting and defending British imperialist interests.

The exact division of spoils has not yet been made clear, but both the British and Indian capitalists see eye to eye on the need for restraining the bitter Indian masses and preventing them from achieving genuine independence through revolution. In the end the British may even find it necessary to turn over formal political power to the Indian capitalists and landlords (as U. S. imperialism did in the Philippines), but they will never surrender their economic and military power without the most violent struggle.

The leaders of the Moslem League have refused to enter the Executive Council. They are as willing as the Congress leaders to enter into a deal with the British, but they are unwilling to enter unless they are given equal representation with Congress.

After having served for many years as Britain's pretent for not permitting Indian self-rule, the Moslem League leaders feel that they have been sold down the river by the British, and they are exerting pressure in order to get more favorable terms for participation in the deal.

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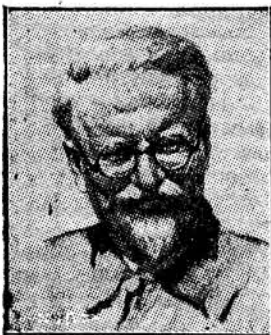
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Against a bounding rise in prices... one can fight only under the slogan of a sliding scale of wages. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in price of consumer goods.

—Leon Trotsky

Storm-Warning

Wall Street and the Stock Exchange last week flashed storm-warnings of an economic hurricane heading toward the American capitalist system.

Stock prices, a sensitive barometer, plummeted down in the sharpest break in 15 years. Small investors scrambled to unload millions of shares at a loss.

Economic sooth-sayers, press commentators and government "experts" admitted utter bewilderment, but hastily issued reassurances of capitalist well-being. Secretary of the Treasury Snyder said: "It's just the general situation. Everyone's taking a fresh look at things after Labor Day."

This is like a man with heart-disease passing off a sharp twinge in the chest as "just a little gas."

Partly, the sharp drop in stock prices is due to inside manipulations by the Big Money boys. They are squeezing out the small fry, who bought at high prices and are being forced to sell back at low prices.

But fundamentally this is the rumbling of great underground fissures opening under the seemingly solid surface of American capitalism in the very hey-day of its world power.

All the contradictions of capitalist chaos and anarchy that exploded such violence back in 1929 are building up for another titanic upheaval. Aggravated ten-fold by the trillion-dollar waste of World War II and the insatiable greed of American imperialism for world domination, the next eruption will dwarf the 1929 catastrophe.

The signs are mounting. Production, the administration boasts, is the greatest in American peace-time history. Inventories of goods in warehouses show the point of glut is being reached. The monopolies withhold these goods to force high prices, while mass purchasing power shrinks.

Inevitably, the basic contradiction of capitalism will assert itself. The market will be flooded with goods the people cannot buy. One day the factories will start to shut down. Unemployed masses will march the streets. Arrogant, almighty American capitalism will writhe in death convulsions.

What Must Be Done

Every prop of the union leaders' program for "strong" government "price control" as a substitute for a real fight on the wage front, has been blasted away.

After the Price Decontrol Board ruling several weeks ago, CIO President Philip Murray appealed to the bankers and industrialists of the Board "to reconsider its decision and reinstitute ceilings on all items which it failed to control."

The Price Decontrol Board promptly brushed this plea aside. It indicated in no uncertain terms it would not change its course. It publicly rebuked and repudiated OPA officials who even intimated it might restore price ceilings of dairy products.

The latest slap in the face to the union leaders was Truman's response last week to their pleas that he call a special session of Congress to deal once more with price control. Truman flatly told a press conference that under no circumstances would he reconvene Congress, although he had promised in July to call a special session if the new OPA bill did not check runaway prices.

Prices are rising daily. The meat trust is imposing a national meat famine to break price ceilings. It is plain, even to the most stupid, that the capitalist government is backing the profiteering price-gougers to the hilt. The union leaders' policy of dependence on the capitalist government to "control" prices is washed-out.

In its wage-price policy statement, which Murray repeated in his plea to the Decontrol Board, the CIO Executive Board said "when American workers are squeezed between rising prices and declining take-home pay, something must be done to protect their living standards."

"Something must be done." Yes! But what? The union leaders do not say.

But more and more militant sections of the

union movement are stating in sharp terms what must be done. They are demanding the reopening of wage contracts. Like the CIO packinghouse workers, the Chrysler and Ford workers, the Akron rubber workers, they are calling for higher wages.

And they are demanding not only higher wage rates, but additional cost-of-living bonuses and sliding scale of wages escalator clauses that will keep workers' incomes automatically in line with every rise in the cost of living.

Terror In Philippines

The Roxas regime has begun a reign of terror in the Philippines. Roxas has ordered the Philippine Army to suppress the Hukbalahap movement that includes 150,000 small farmers, sharecroppers and farm hands.

Roxas is backed by Wall Street. He has been supplied with artillery and other modern equipment of the U.S. armed forces. Full scale battles are now shaping in Central Luzon.

The "crime" of the Hukbalahaps is their insistence on rural reforms. They demand an end to the semi-feudal system whereby landlords on huge estates customarily appropriated 50 per cent of the crops raised by the tenants.

During the war the Hukbalahaps took over the land. Arms in hand they resisted the imperialist armies of the Japanese. The landlords and their representatives fled to the cities, seeking Japanese protection.

Roxas himself became notorious as a collaborator with the Japanese imperialists.

When MacArthur landed in the Philippines he systematically set about restoring the privileges of the landlords. He refused to recognize the Hukbalahaps. Leading figures were arrested and groups of Hukbalahaps were slaughtered.

Wall Street's imperialist interests coincided with those of the landlords. Consequently Wall Street consistently backed them against the Philippine people.

Roxas succeeded in gaining office primarily because of Wall Street's support.

Repeating the tactics of the British-backed reactionaries in Greece, Roxas served an ultimatum on the Hukbalahaps to give up their arms. These weapons had been seized by the guerrilla fighters from the Japanese or were obtained from the U.S. armed forces during the underground struggle.

Then Roxas followed up by moving the fully-equipped Philippine Army into the central Luzon districts where the Hukbalahaps are strongest. The civil strife in the Philippines is thus assuming the proportions of open war.

The sympathies of American labor belong wholly on the side of the poor people of the Philippines. Roxas is a puppet of Wall Street, just as the Greek monarch is a puppet of the British.

In defending the Philippine guerrilla fighters, American labor defends its own cause. For the principal enemy in the Philippines is the same as in America — Wall Street.

Minority Parties

How the election laws are rigged to favor the big capitalist parties at the expense of smaller parties has once again been demonstrated in New York State.

According to the law, it is necessary to obtain 12,000 signatures of eligible voters to place on the ballot an independent candidate or party. Out of this 12,000 a minimum of 50 signatures must come from each of 62 counties, many of them in sparsely populated areas with a tradition of extreme political conservatism.

The rich and powerful capitalist parties are exempted from these arbitrary regulations by the fact that having polled 50,000 votes in a previous election they are listed as a regular party on the ballot.

In the present election four minority parties met these difficult requirements: the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist (Stalinist) Party, the Socialist Party and the Liberal Party.

But after the labor of obtaining the necessary number of signatures, three of these parties have been "challenged." Formal objection was made to the Socialist Party petitions on the ground they lacked sufficient "valid" signatures although a total of 15,000 had been collected.

The same objection was made to the petitions of the Liberal Party although they had obtained 51,015.

The Communist (Stalinist) Party filed 20,000 signatures but it too was challenged on the grounds the signatures had been obtained through "misrepresentation."

The Socialist Workers Party with 23,727 signatures was not challenged.

The objections are now being considered by the Board of Elections which has the power to rule in favor, or against an objection, or even to disqualify a petition on its own initiative. Since the members of the Board of Elections belong to the Democratic or Republican parties, it is clear that in the final analysis these two political machines of the capitalists have the arbitrary power to prevent a minority party from appearing on the ballot.

When a party can be challenged after it has more than quadrupled the number of signatures required — as in the case of the Liberal Party — and its place on the ballot endangered, the voters should take note of this fact when they enter the polls.

The Militant and the Socialist Workers Party vigorously protest the undemocratic election laws that serve to bar political minorities from the ballot.



"We'll show those strikers — we'll run the ships ourselves!"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

MARTIN EDEN, By Jack London, Penguin Books, 1946, 346 pp., 25 cents.

"Let me live out my years in the heat of blood! Let me lie drunk with the dreamers wine! Let me not see this soul-house built of mud Go toppling to the dust a vacant shrine!"

With these lines Jack London prefaced his autobiographical novel. It tells the struggle of an uneducated young seaman to find a purpose for his life and thereby justify his existence. It is the fascinating story of an inquiring mind that discovers science, philosophy, and literature for the first time, opening up a new and undreamed-of world.

Martin Eden, working-man with calloused hands, scarred face and the ungrammatical speech of the sea, rescues Arthur Morse, a rich young man. Morse takes Eden home with him. There the sailor meets and falls in love with Arthur's sister, Ruth. To win her love, Eden studies with a will so vigorous that in a few years he has gained more knowledge than Ruth who was educated in a University.

Ruth's disapproving parents of course misunderstand their prospective son-in-law's determination to become a writer. They call it laziness and avoidance of work. Ruth herself has a set of values ("bourgeois," London calls them) that Martin Eden cannot follow.

When his participation in a socialist meeting makes headlines in the daily paper, the engagement is called off and Martin is left desolate. Later he achieves fame as a writer and wins the esteem of Ruth and her parents.

But it is too late. He cannot interest himself now in the attentions of people who coldly ignored him and left him to starve in his hardest days. Seeing no point to further existence, Eden ends his life.

Jack London's life story closely parallels that of his character Eden. As a child he worked a 10-hour day in canneries and jute mills for 10 cents an hour, and served his time at sea. His writings gained him the name "champion of the underdog."

Eden speaks London's philosophy when he enunciates the "survival of the fittest" theory as the biological law that justifies life. London was a socialist with an admiration for individual strength. He described it this way once: "I am Martin Eden. Martin Eden died because he was an individualist. I live because I am a socialist and have social consciousness."

London regretted the fact that the reviewers did not recognize "Martin Eden" as an attack against individualists. But this is not the only worth of the book. It gives a vivid picture of the effect of economic circumstances on man's life and views of the gap between the working class and the capitalist class. The adventures of Martin Eden present proof that these classes cannot work together, that their interests are irreconcilable.

Reviewed by Winifred Nelson

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT, by Samuel Clemens, (Mark Twain), Harper and Bros., 450 pp. \$2.50.

A husky machinist in a debate "conducted with crowbars"

knocks his foreman, a Connecticut Yankee, back into the year 528 in King Arthur's Court. Thus opens this famous and fanciful Mark Twain classic, written in 1889.

The unknown Connecticut Yankee is nearly burned at the stake. He escapes only by remembering that an eclipse of the sun will take place the next day. He threatens Britain with the permanent blotting out of the sun if he is not freed. When the eclipse takes place as the Yankee predicts, the people believe the stranger has the power to turn the sun off and on. King Arthur is so terrified he releases the Yankee and makes him Prime Minister, with the title of Sir Boss, in return for restoring the sun.

Sir Boss then has a series of adventures in feudalistic Britain. He becomes famous and notorious through the "magic" of ordinary 19th Century capitalist science. In the middle of the Dark Ages he starts newspapers, schools, factories, telephone, etc.

The story is very amusing, but also gives the author a chance to make some very pertinent criticisms of feudal England and indirectly, but by no means ineffectively, of modern capitalist society.

Reviewed by John Jones

Mead Wants "Efficient" War

By Ruth Benson

Senator Mead, chairman of the Senate War Investigating Committee, released the committee's annual report on August 31. You might think the report would stress the billions stolen from the public treasury by ruthless war profiteers. You might think it would expose the deliberate sale of defective war equipment that cost the lives of thousands of soldiers and sailors. But all you'll find is a mild scolding over "inefficiency and blunders."

The committee, a few weeks ago, got front-page publicity by revealing how an Illinois arms combine raked the treasury of a few million dollars, with the help of Congressman Andrew J. May, head of the House Military Affairs Committee.

But the committee has steered clear of bigger scandals involving powerful corporations and top government officials. Testimony of Comptroller General Lindsay Warren, "watchdog of the treasury," was quickly shut off. He was too anxious to relate how "untold billions" had been stolen with the connivance of government officials, while his own investigators were "sent to the sticks" if they dared protest.

The real purpose of the Mead Committee is not to punish big-time crooks. According to its report, the committee never had "a pinch-penny" attitude toward war expenditures. It just wants "a more business-like administration within the armed forces," to hasten preparations for World War III.

Screening the fraud, graft and greed in World War II that rained gold on Wall Street, Mead criticizes only "confusion," "duplication of effort," and "blunders."

Deliberate thievery is dismissed as "errors."

To prevent "unfortunate" waste and duplication, Mead thinks Wall Street and Washington should plan now for World War III. He complains that in the past, they "had to cope with the War and Navy Departments which sought to control every aspect of national defense." Big Business wants to give orders not take orders from the military caste.

Instead of risking the same set-up again, Mead says, "we should draw on our war experience with government controls to formulate plans now," so that "another emergency will not find us with a plan that is obsolete and unworkable."

He recommends a "workable" industrial mobilization scheme which would give contracts in advance to the huge monopolies. There would then be no last-minute scramble for war orders; no dickering around with Army contracting agents. The loot would be safely in the grip of General Motors, Ford, du Pont, General Electric, Alcoa, and other industrial giants. Small-fry operators like the Illinois combine would be locked out.

Mead also wants the government to store up supplies of rubber and other war-essentials not produced in the U.S. He wants American imperialism to hang onto all overseas bases, and snatch back any it has given up, because they may be "commercially useful in peacetime" as well as of "strategic importance in another emergency."

To further clear the way for Wall Street control of the world, Mead calls for "a more efficient intelligence agency" — a super-

FBI spying on the world. "Knowledge of international economic, political and social conditions is necessary," he says. It "can assist in determining the size and character of the armed force." And in crushing workers' revolutions!

Mead's report is written to Wall Street's order. How much it did NOT say about profiteers can be gathered from a column by Hans W. Baldwin in the Big-Business N. Y. Times, Sept. 8. Baldwin warns of what happened when World War I profits were exposed:

"The cycle that followed World War I, when it was fashionable to damn all munitions manufacturers as profiteers and 'merchants of death' and to dismiss the military as war-mongers and brass hats — must not be allowed to recur — for such a psychological attitude can do vital harm to our national defense."

Baldwin need not worry. Mead is careful not to discredit the merchants of death, for he too favors Wall Street's mad rush toward the next World War. He's helping to clear the path.

NEWARK

"Indonesia's Struggle For Freedom"

Speaker: EVELYN ATWOOD
Militant Staff Writer

Friday, September 20
Socialist Workers Party
423 Springfield, 8:30 p.m.

UNRRA Promises Prove To Be Lies

By Eugene Shays

UNRRA was founded in 1943, and a great amount of publicity assured the peoples of the world of the humanitarian intentions which especially the U.S. and Great Britain had in creating such an agency. The war-torn lands of Europe and Asia, they said, were to be at least partially rehabilitated through it, and their starving, suffering peoples were to receive some of the necessities of life until normal times had returned.

But the promises of UNRRA proved to be as empty as all the other war-time promises of imperialism. Congress appropriated \$2,700,000,000 as the American contribution to UNRRA — a trivial amount when compared to the war expenditures (two billions for the atomic bomb, 500 millions for the Bikini tests!). Before one can arrive at the paltry amount that did go for relief, one should deduct the considerable profits made from the sale of these materials to UNRRA, both by American capitalists and foreign governments reselling them to their nationals.

The fundamental indifference to the needs of 150 million destitute people in Europe and 250 million in Asia was exposed not only by the small sums appropriated for UNRRA, but also by the decision of the U.S. government to discontinue the organization.

The UNRRA Council, consisting of 48 nations, is now in session at Geneva, to deliberate the cessation of its operations, and what to do about the many tasks it left unfinished. Among them is the disposition of one million displaced persons, who cannot be repatriated and who have no place to go; the urgent need of 750 million dollars worth of food and 200 million dollars' worth of fertilizers, to say nothing of medical supplies and clothing for the coming winter. The figures cited are UNRRA figures and probably do not cover even minimum needs. According to the Department of Agriculture, even improved harvests in 1946 throughout the world "will leave food supplies next spring considerably below demand."

The reason for stopping what Under-secretary of State Clayton brazenly calls the "grave train" lies in the desire of U.S. capitalists to return to "channels of private trade." Concerning UNRRA, World Report, an authoritative business weekly stated on Aug. 15: "Normal markets, free of governmental restrictions and operations, are at the heart of the program officially sponsored by the U.S."

Private exporters thus are to be enabled to extort the last penny of profit from the devastated nations of Europe and Asia, forcing them into debts from which there is no way out, forcing them into making concessions which are to give U.S. imperialism a further hold upon their economies. Clayton's statement, in the light of these facts, clearly reveals the connection between the government and "private enterprise" — the government being the latter's eager and willing agent in this as in any other matter affecting the interests of capitalism.

The fact that the Soviet Union and areas dominated by her have received 40 per cent of UNRRA shipments and have not reciprocated with contributions of their own, with the USSR failing to give quotas of her own production and consumption of goods, is adduced as another reason, although an "unofficial" one, for the decision to discontinue UNRRA.

The true reason undoubtedly must be sought in the fact, however, that the chances of export trade with these regions have dimmed considerably since the inception of UNRRA; hence the latter has ceased to be the promising investment it appeared to be at first. The elimination of relief from this area is part of the design of Western imperialism to force it into its orbit of trade. Humanitarian considerations are, of course, completely foreign to this issue.

American workers must create their own relief agencies through which help can be given to their working class brothers overseas.

Billionaires' Club Grows And Grows

When the American workers were dragged into the Second World War, Roosevelt promised that no war millionaires would be created out of the bloody holocaust. What came out of the war were billionnaires.

A study by the United Press, made public on September 3, shows that the "Billionaire Club" which expanded steadily during the war years under Roosevelt, has not declined under his successor, Truman. There are now 43 such billionaire corporations, trusts and banks which hold a monopoly stranglehold on American economy.

Total combined assets of these 43 monopolies today amount to \$101,808,613,411, compared with \$97,731,561,226 on December 31, 1944. Of these, 18 are banks; 11, insurance companies; six, railroads; five, industrial or manufacturing corporations; and three utilities.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company tops the Billionaire Club for the third successive year, with total assets of \$7,561,997,270. Second is the Bell System, American Telephone and Telegraph Co., holding \$6,765,557,026 in resources. Prudential Insurance is third, with \$6,355,984,306.

First among the world's most powerful banks, and fourth on the billionaire list, is the Bank of America, with \$5,554,310,000. Chase National Bank comes next with \$5,403,847,000. Two more banks and two more life insurance corporations follow: National City Bank of New York, Equitable Life Assurance, New York Life Insurance and Guarantee Trust Company. Each controls from three-and-a-half to over five billions in assets.

Tops among the industrial corporations, and ranking tenth on the billionaire's list, is the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, with more than two-and-a-half billions in assets. Two more banks follow: the Manufacturers Trust Company and Continental Illinois National Bank, both with assets well over two billions.

Pennsylvania Railroad is first among the railroad billionnaires, and thirteenth on the list, with assets of \$2,223,000,000.

U.S. Steel Corporation, greatest steel producer in the world, is 16th on the list. General Motors Corporation, biggest automobile manufacturer, is in the 24th place. Consolidated Edison Company of New York, first among the nation's power and light utilities, is 31st on the list.

New additions to this select "Billionaires Club" are Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company and Northwest Bancorporation. Three billionnaires became common, ordinary multi-millionaires, when their assets dropped slightly below the billion dollar mark. These are: Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Ford Motor and First National Bank. But they're not starving.

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.

84 Years Old and Still Interested

Editor:
I give you my heartiest compliment on all the very hard work you are doing for the poor working people. I am 84 years old, but still interested in the labor movement.

Keep up that work. Your success is in sight.

T. H.
Hicksville, N. Y.

'American Way'—A Sweatshop

Editor:
The bosses think that the average wage-earner who spends most of his life in a factory, is callous about the wretched conditions in which he works. They think these conditions are "normal." That's why they continue to make fake speeches about "the American way of life."

A couple of weeks ago, I went to work in one of the largest paper factories in New York. Eight hours a day we are imprisoned in a dark, gloomy, noisy loft. I tend a machine that does one operation, a hollow drill punch that punches holes in pads. The operation is simple and monotonous. But the job of feeding the machine, piling up the finished work and finally removing it with a hand truck, is very tiring.

There are no regular rest periods. Instead there is a kind of understanding that we can take a few minutes in the morning and afternoon "to have a smoke." But everybody does this surreptitiously and hurriedly, as if they were taking something they were not entitled to.

There is no decent place to take even this phony rest period. The men go to their small, stuffy wash room, the only window opens on a shaftway. There are no chairs, so we lean up against a wall. This is called "relaxation."

Soon after I began work, I heard bells ringing at indefinite intervals, for five or ten minutes at a time. When I asked a fellow-worker what it was all about, he said he thought "the bosses are calling someone."

Later I discovered the reason for the bells. They're set off whenever we all begin to feel tired and bored. Bang! The bells remind us we're at work in a factory and that the boss and his foremen expect us to hurry up with our work.

The bells are located so that they're loudest of all in the wash room. They make you jump and hurry up to finish your cigarette. They make it impossible to relax even for a few minutes. They make you feel you are a machine, not a human being.

This is only one sample of the real "American way of life."

H. Daniels
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Canadian Reader Changes Opinion On U. S. Workers

Editor:
I have been reading The Militant for about six months now, formerly through copies given to me by your sympathizers and now through my own subscription.

My opinion of Americans has

risen since first seeing The Militant. No more do I imagine Americans as a pack of flag-waving patriotic fools (as one might gather from your capitalist-controlled radio and press). Through The Militant I see the American working class, just realizing its power and potential, and entering an era of revolutionary struggle.

In wishing you continued success, I extend the hand of international working class solidarity.

A. G.
Canada

Refugees Don't Cause Job Problem

Editor:
A Militant reader with whom I worked raised an objection to our slogan "Open America's Gates to Jewish Refugees." He pointed out the possibility that they would be used to lower wages, and create unemployment by taking jobs away. Because this conception may exist in many other minds, I believe an article should be written dealing with this question in detail.

I briefly pointed out how the victims of capitalist war include people of every nation who roam over Europe unable to find work. And we must treat these workers as we do our own relatives when they are hit by unemployment—give them a hand. Of course this is a temporary solution, and we must establish a Workers' and Farmers' Government as the only real cure for capitalist war, unemployment, and fascism.

As to the possibility that refugee immigrants will lower our wages and create unemployment, while it is a possibility, it doesn't necessarily have to follow. The labor movement is organized strong enough today so that wage cutting is not such an easy matter, at least not in union shops.

I pointed out that lower wages and unemployment are inevitable under capitalism whether we have refugees or don't have them. Only in a Socialist society, where production is carried on for use and not for profit, will the worker receive the value of his labor and work will be shared by all.

J. H.
Newark, N. J.

Stalinist Sympathizers Friendly To Seattle 'Militant' Distributors

Editor:
On Labor Day we distributed The Militant at a parade in Seattle, organized by the CIO Council, which is dominated by the Stalinists. As you can imagine, our distributors met with some hostility from the Stalinists. But what is more important, is that we met with much sympathy, interest and curiosity from many sympathizers of the Stalinist movement.

This feeling was strong enough to cause them to restrain the hardened CPers from destroying our literature, and tell them that we were sincerely working for socialism and shouldn't be attacked.

We distributed 750 pieces of campaign literature, 750 Militants and sold 40 copies of "Build a Labor Party Now" at the entrance to the hall where a meeting was held after the parade. I might add that the papers went not only to the paraders, of whom there were only a few hundred, but also to the onlookers on the sidewalk.

Clara Kaye
Seattle, Wash.

Detroit Workers Resent Production For Export Alone

Editor:
Last Thursday, August 29, a work stoppage of a few hours occurred at the Detroit Nash plant. The cause was the resentment of some of the men at being forced to work on right-hand-drive cars—that is, cars for export, at the exclusion of work on cars for home consumption.

Four men initiated the strike. When they were threatened with discharge the other workers not directly involved rallied behind the cause. To the union's query as to why so many right-hand models were being produced, the company retorted that their foreign markets must be maintained, domestic competitors must be met and it wasn't any business of the union.

The case was then sidetracked into a union-company conference. This is not an isolated case, although it is the first concrete action we know of in the Detroit area. The workers, as their own desires for cars, washing machines, etc. fail to materialize, are becoming increasingly bitter at the thought of production for foreign consumption at the expense of production for domestic consumption. They are plainly seeing the fruits of their labor denied them. In my own plant, Briggs, which produces bodies for all companies except GM, this is becoming more apparent.

Last week we were laid off for 10 days. Only one line of five men was kept running. All cars off the line were ear-marked for foreign service. There was a great deal of grumbling and many remarks to the effect that "We can't get cars and other things because they're shipping out of the country where they can make more money on them."

And the workers' watch the cars continue to roll off the belt, with increasing despair and frustration. To my mind this indicates that the next period will be one of rapid political education for the American workers. To the scoffers, those who look with disdain upon the American workers—wait, we shall see.

Incidentally, motorized bicycles are becoming increasingly common among the workers here. The American proletariat is apparently being "Europeanized"—more correctly, pauperized.

J. G.
Detroit

(Editors' Note: The Militant especially welcomes letters of the type sent by J. G. of Detroit. We urge our readers to send us similar accounts of their personal experiences and observations of conditions and issues facing the workers on the job.)

J. PIERPONT MONEYBAGS Says "JOBS FOR EVERYONE?—WHY, THAT'S SOCIALISTIC!"



Youth Group Activities

CHICAGO. — Youth Group meets Friday, 8 p.m. at 777 W. Adams St.

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

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

Open Forum: Every Sunday, 8 p.m., at Chelsea Workers Center, 130 W. 23rd St. Dancing, refreshments follow.

Queens — Open forums every Wednesday at Odd Fellows Temple, 160th St. and 90th Ave., 8 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA. — For information call ST. 4-5620, from noon to 6 p.m.

Watch this column for further announcements of youth activities.

Wall Street's Decontrol Board



After weeks of fake deliberation, Roy Thompson, George Mead and Daniel Bell, two bankers and one industrialist composing the Price Decontrol Board, ruled in favor of price gougers and profiteers. Truman's Board decided that grains, dairy products and principal grain feeds would be free of price control.

Federated Pictures.

Chicago YMCA Heads Offer Strikers "Pie In The Sky"

By Eugene Zucker

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO—Since last June, 13 Chicago AFL locals have been picketing three YMCA buildings. They hope to persuade the defenders of the open-shop who run the Young Men's Christian Association that their employees could use a little of the Christian charity they hear so much about.

The chairman of the Board of Directors of the YMCA Hotels, millionaire broker John Nuveen, Jr., has refused to recognize the unions involved, or to negotiate contracts. He maintains that his employees are fanatically Christian and not worried by such worldly trifles as paychecks.

But the miserably underpaid YMCA employees feel that the AFL unions in which they are organized are in a better position to understand their real needs than this overfed and overworked spokesman of organized Christian charity. This is not very surprising. YMCA cafeteria workers are paid only \$60 to \$70 a month. The union scale is \$108 to \$125 a month.

BIBLE STUDENTS SCAB
A club that the YMCA officials hold over the heads of the regular employees is the fact that young would-be missionaries studying at the Moody Institute are ready to work for as little as 50 cents to \$1 a day and meals. These lads have had it drummed into their heads that a little scabbing here and now is a small price to pay for the reward they are sure will come in the hereafter.

Not satisfied to wait until the righteous wrath of the Lord descends upon the heads of the pickets, YMCA office employees at the Wabash Hotel, evidently men of little faith, have hurled stones and inkwells at the pickets from the upper stories of the building.

The Chicago Federation of Labor, representing 400,000 workers, has decided to boycott the Chicago Community Fund from which the YMCA receives \$216,000 annually. In the past, the entire labor movement of Chicago has supported this fund. For example, building trades workers have donated three to six hours' pay every year. Hotel workers have given 5 to 10 per cent of a weekly pay check. However, until the YMCA changes its union-busting stand, AFL members in Chicago will not support the fund.

CIO ROLE
The CIO leaders have played a shabby role on this issue. Kenneth L. Kramer, representing the National CIO Committee Service Committee, declared that the failure of the YMCA to recognize the striking AFL unions is "clear-cut anti-labor action on the part of the agency and no amount of phrases about 'service' and 'community relations' can conceal this fact." But he added that the CIO would continue to give support to the Community Fund because it was "not in the interests of the union members" to injure an "innocent third party," namely, the Chi-

65,000 March In Detroit On Labor Day

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 2.—Labor Day was celebrated today in the traditional fashion of the Detroit labor movement, by a union parade down Woodward Avenue, the main street of the city.

Something new was added this year, however, when the AFL paraded in the morning, with an estimated turnout of 25,000 members. In the afternoon, 40,000 CIO unionists marched in their respective local contingents, winding up in Cadillac Square where they were addressed by various CIO leaders.

CIO United Auto Workers Ford Local 600 brought out the largest local representation ever seen on Labor Day, when over 10,000 workers from the Ford Rouge plant filed past the reviewing stand.

Prominent among the Local 600 slogans were "For a Cost-Of-Living Bonus"; "End Fascism"; "Wipe out the KKK"; "Stop Lynching"; and "Stop Production Speed-Ups."

The placards carried by UAW Briggs Local 212 placed particular emphasis on the slogan: "Briggs Local Wants a Labor Party—Do You?"

The labor party issue was discussed by speakers on the reviewing stand, but only to denounce the progressive elements who demand a labor party now. George Addes, UAW Secretary-Treasurer, stated that a "third party is in the cards." But he pulled out the old chestnut about "now is not the time," claiming that "those who are for a third party now sabotage the workers of the nation."

Tracy Doll, president of the Michigan State CIO Council, blamed the political weakness of the working class, not on the bankrupt policies of the CIO-PAC which continues to throw its support to candidates of the two capitalist parties, but on the workers, because "they don't come out to vote."

Working Mother Describes Domestic Servants Life

By Mille Fredrect

If I could sing for a living, I wouldn't be doing the hard work I'm doing now. Housework takes too much bending, pushing, shoving and walking about, picking up this and that, and jumping up and down like a jack-in-the-box. No job is really a good job, but some jobs are better than this!

I've often thought of doing needle point or of embroidering portraits on linen, but one has to be an artist to do portraits. My employer on Riverside Drive has just had a portrait of her dog done in oils—it cost \$1,500. She had one done of herself, too—that's bigger and cost \$25,000.

Spending \$26,500 for paintings didn't prevent her from being surprised when I told her she would have to furnish better meals for me and pay me \$8 for an eight-hour day. She wanted to know why I wanted a raise.

I told her! Rolls which cost two cents last week, are two for a nickel today. Cheddar cheese has gone up from 55 cents to 69 cents a pound. The market is flooded with eggs, say the experts, but the price of eggs—tiny ones the size of a minute!—is 71 cents a dozen.

My employer rustled herself out to buy my lunch to make me "feel better about it." She gave me two hamburgers, grapes and tea. What do you think she gave me for lunch before I demanded better food? Sometimes one egg, sometimes not a speck.

I'm not the worst off. Mathilda, the Madame's laundress, is old enough to be my mother. She has been doing the Madame's laundry for 12 years. Her ankles are swollen from strain. Her sight is impaired by the glare and steam that rise up when she irons the wet clothes. Mathilda has vacations—without pay.

Before she landed this job, Mathilda was one of thousands of women who stood on street corners during the depression, holding a scrub bucket in her

THE MILITANT ARMY

St. Louis SWP Branch Doubles Monthly Quota



St. Louis Branch of the Socialist Workers Party doubled its monthly quota of 16 subscriptions of The Militant. The comrades of that branch obtained 36 subs during August, and according to a letter from Rudy Rhodes they aim to do as well every month. "We will have to increase our Militant bundle order again very soon," he writes. "Comrade Harry has been going out for subs every Saturday and the rest of us intend to keep up with him. Last week another comrade announced that he had obtained five new subs in his plant."

"We won't have any difficulty in maintaining our quota of 16 subs per month in the future."

Pittsburgh Branch just mailed in more subs (without comment) which raises their monthly total for August to 22—double their quota.

Milwaukee Branch has completed its quota of 36 subscriptions for August. "We will just make our quota for August with the enclosed 12 subs," says Fred Martin. "We had 24 and with this 12, we hit 36. Most of these were gotten by individual comrades on their own time and not on a mobilization basis. It seems that a small minority of members

got a majority of subs. Our star saleslady was Helen Burns who got 10 renewals for the month. One of the new subs resulted from our street corner sales. The subscriber gave a comrade his name and address and asked us to call on him. I did so myself and he took a year's sub and bought two pamphlets."

Minneapolis Branch will undoubtedly get in under the wire. A. Field writes: "Enclosed are 14 subs. This brings our total up to 33 subs turned in so far this month. As you know we accepted a quota of 40 subs per month. We are having a mobilization Friday night and I hope to have the seven subs needed."

Today's mail brought five more subs and this note from Comrade Field: "These subs bring our total for the month to 38. We have one more which has not been turned in yet, and we are going out on call-backs tomorrow. So I am sure that we will get our quota of 40 for August."

A scoreboard showing the total subscriptions sold by each branch during August will appear in next week's Militant.

A report from George Grant, shows Cleveland Branch comrades are determined to get renewals: "Enclosed are six subs with a money order to cover. We have had considerable difficulty with a renewal campaign because many of the comrades are on second and third shifts, etc., but believe we will manage despite the obstacles."

We can look for exciting news in the way of subscriptions from Boston Branch, according to S. M. Brooks. "Beginning the middle of September we start an eight-week drive in the Lynn and Boston area with a goal of 250 subs. We are having Sunday mobilizations for eight weeks and now that the hot weather is about over we should find most of the workers at home. We will send you weekly reports of our progress."

E. Brent, literature agent for Detroit Branch, tells us how a comrade sells The Militant to workers in his shop: "Comrade Bertoni has been very successful in getting subscriptions in the shop. He takes several copies every week and passes them out to the best trade unionists. He gives the paper to the same workers for a couple of weeks and if they like it, and they usually do, he asks them to subscribe. Then he starts giving The Militant to other workers and so on down the line. His method has already produced a number of subscriptions."

Leon Forth of Chicago Branch writes: "Our plan here is to have about one Red Sunday a month. Last Sunday 10 of us were out—some on the North Side and some on the South Side—and got a total of 19 subs."

The comrades of Seattle Branch are successfully combining sub work with their election activity. This report was received from Clara Kaye: "The enclosed seven subs were obtained mostly by a new comrade on a branch mobilization to sell tickets for our forthcoming Election Banquet to acquaint people with our program... Thus you can see that our campaign is helping our sub work and vice versa."

ST. PAUL OPEN MEETING

The Menace Of 'White Supremacy'

Speaker: GRACE CARLSON

SWP candidate for U. S. Senate from Minn.

Friday, Sept. 20

Socialist Workers Party

540 Cedar St.

8 p.m.

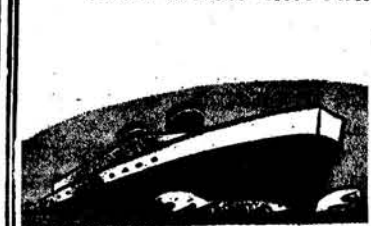
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NEW YORK

Friday Evening, Sept. 13th

Three Harlem Street Rallies To Hear Candidates Of The Socialists Workers Party

MILTON RICHARDSON—for Lieut.-Gov.

SYLVIA BLECKER—for Atty. General

JOSEPH HANSEN—for U. S. Senator

116th Street & Lenox Ave. 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

125th Street & 7th Ave. 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

135th Street & Lenox Ave. 9:00 to 10:30 p.m.

Friday Evening, Sept. 13th

BOSTON WORKERS FORUM

Every Sunday Afternoon

SEPTEMBER 22

Hear

MILTON RICHARDSON

SWP candidate for Lieut.-Gov.

of New York State

Speak on



"The Meaning Of The Wave Of Terror Against The Negro People"

Workers Educational Center

30 Stuart Street

3 p.m.

New York Democrats, Republicans And ALP Stage "3-Ring Political Circus," Says Farrell Dobbs

Text of a statement on the New York State Conventions of the Democrats, Republicans and American Labor Party by Farrell Dobbs, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Governor of New York.

The New York State Conventions of the Republicans, Democrats and American Labor Party last week constituted a three-ring political circus with Wall Street cracking the whip.

As everybody knew long in advance, the Republicans had nothing whatever to offer outside the silk-stocking personality of Governor Dewey. The "platform" cooked up by the Republican chefs does not deserve the name. It was simply a glorification of Dewey and an attempt to picture his tenure in office as somehow superior to that of the other Wall Street political machine, the Democrats.

NO BETTER

The Democratic Convention was no better than that of the Republicans. As everybody expected long in advance the Democratic donkey had nothing to offer but Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Since not even the most gullible people can vote for someone no longer among the living, it was necessary to spread Roosevelt's cloak over the political machine that survived him. Eleanor did this very neatly at the convention stating that the

sponsors, proved to be the shortest in its record. This was only natural since all the backroom deals with the capitalist political machines had long ago been put on ice. The convention was held simply as a rubber-stamp affair.

The ALP nominated the Democratic candidates, Mead for Governor and Lehman for Senator. Then to complete the shameful picture, on September 5 the ALP withdrew three of its candidates — Benjamin F. Fielding, Harry J. Chapman and John J. Abt. The ALP heads endorsed in their place three more Democratic candidates, Erastus Corning 2d, for Lt. Gov., Spencer Young for State Comptroller, and Henry Epstein for Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The ALP thus stands foursquare for the candidates of Big Business. It is backing the political party of Truman, the Bilboes, the Rankins and Talmadges.

STALINIST GAME

The Stalinists of course manipulate the policy of the ALP. They are playing the most deadly of political games — coalition politics with the capitalists. That is why the *Daily Worker* is opening up with all guns firing on the Republicans and wild shouts in favor of the Democrats.

How such politics pay off can already be seen. In the Democratic convention Mead got the greatest ovation of the gathering when, in obvious reference to his Stalinist cheering squad, he declared he would not accept "one speck of support from any Fascist, any Communist or any member or friend of the Ku Klux Klan."

But the Stalinists believe that a smile in the direction of Wall Street always pays. They staggered to their feet after this brutal kick in the mouth and forced their bruised lips into an ingratiating grin. Robert Thompson, State Chairman of the Communist (Stalinist) Party, in the September 6 *Daily Worker*, characterized the blow as one of the "elements of weakness" evident in the platform and convention of the Democratic Party. "Especially reprehensible," said Thompson, "is the equal sign placed between fascism and communism in the Democratic platform. This is historical nonsense."

3-RING CIRCUS

Nevertheless Thompson continued to shout, "The conventions of the past week have further exposed the Republican Party as the main-spring and chief instrument of reaction in our state." And he called for a "crusade" to defeat the Republicans. There's heroism in the face of a brutal kick in the mouth from the Democrats!

All this three-ring circus succeeded in proving was the utter incapacity of these political clowns and confidence men to meet the great issues facing the people.

They did not object to turning

Republican Stooze



DEWEY

over 1½ billion dollars of public funds for one year's expenses of the war machine.

They did not object to the mushrooming growth of militarism in America.

They did nothing to halt the mad rush toward a Third World War.

In fact they did everything they could to build up the military, increase the expenditures, hasten the approach of another war.

Their gestures on such grave issues as housing were nothing but the most pitiful type of campaign propaganda that will delude no one. Both parties rely mainly on "private" capital to solve the housing crisis; that is, on rent-gouging landlords interested in maintaining the present scarcity.

Particularly disgraceful was the performance on the question of Jim Crow. A ferocious wave of lynch murders has swept the country. Every person with an ounce of decency in his system is raging at the way the murderers are being covered up. The Negro people and the labor movement as a whole expect action to halt the terror and bring the guilty ones to justice. But what happened at Saratoga Springs and Albany?

OILY PHRASES

The Republicans commended Dewey's record in regard to the Ku Klux Klan and race prejudice; the Democrats gently slapped the venomous reptile Bilbo on the wrist. Both parties included the usual oily phrases about "civil rights" in their platforms. And that was that.

The two slates supported by the Republicans, the Democrats and the ALP are slates of Big Business politicians. Neither of them represents the interests of the working class. They are the worst enemies of the labor movement.

Only one party in New York stands on a program of revolutionary socialism. That party is the Socialist Workers Party.

That is the main lesson to be drawn from an analysis of the conventions of Wall Street's political thugs and their backers.

New Jersey Labor Dissatisfied With Policies Of PAC Leaders

By Alan Kohlman

New Jersey SWP Candidate For Governor

NEWARK, N. J.—Last month's conference here of the New Jersey CIO Political Action Committee (PAC) showed the growing dissatisfaction of the workers with the policies of the PAC leaders.

It was clear from the attendance at the conference that PAC's appeal has declined. Only 44 persons attended despite the urgent letter from Carl Holderman, New Jersey CIO president, to all CIO regional directors, city CIO council and local union officials.

Even the PAC leaders were forced to bewail the diminishing interest in PAC. Al Barkin, Jersey

more "friends of labor" among the boss party candidates. After much scratching of heads, the conference leaders managed to come up with just one candidate, Mary A. Norton, Congresswoman from the 13th District.

HAGUE'S "LIBERAL"

She is the nearest thing to a "liberal" the PAC leaders could find—and they fail to mention that she is Jersey City Boss Hague's personal representative in Congress.

The conference postponed further endorsements. Even by PAC's weak standards, it is pretty hard to find a capitalist politician in New Jersey who can be palmed off on the workers as a "friend of labor."

Holderman said in his conference speech that "there is something the matter with PAC and I don't know what it is."

The Socialist Workers Party and a lot of militant workers can tell Holderman "what's the matter with PAC."

CIO-PAC leaders are not conducting genuine independent labor politics. They are playing the game of throwing labor's votes to labor's political enemies in return for petty political favors—and few of those.

Everywhere, in local, state and national governments, this policy has resulted only in keeping the spokesmen of Big Business in the political saddle. Political reaction has never been more rampant in decades.

The workers will revive their interest in PAC and rally to it, only when it makes a sharp change in course — toward a complete break with the capitalist parties and politicians.

Labor's ranks will be mobilized politically around genuine labor candidates running on a fighting labor program—that is, by a struggle for an independent labor party.

Nevertheless, the conference leaders began a search for some

Thomas Scores Attempt To Evict Detroit SWP

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 9.

R. J. Thomas, Vice-President of the CIO United Automobile Workers, last week publicly denounced efforts of anti-labor forces trying to evict the Socialist Workers Party from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood Ave. Full text of the public letter follows:

"As Vice-President of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, I want to add my voice in protest against those reactionary forces in this city who are trying to oust the Socialist Workers Party from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood.

"If the Socialist Workers Party can be made to vacate its premises because Negroes attend its meetings, then freedom of speech and assembly is menaced, for a precedent will have been established which could be used against all labor and liberal organizations.

"Labor will never permit the zoning laws of the city to be utilized for the purpose of discriminating against any section of our citizens because of race, creed, color or political affiliation."

The eviction proceedings began after a fire, on July 26, started by incendiaries, imperilled the lives of more than 100 people and damaged the SWP headquarters. The fascist arson-bugs sprinkled the stairway with inflammable liquid, set fire to it and ran away.

Myra Tanner Weiss, SWP organizer in Los Angeles, was the main speaker at the meeting held on the night of the fire. She had been on a tour exposing fascist terrorists and the murderous methods they employ against Negroes and other minority races.

Scores of prominent labor leaders protested against the arson outrage, including Walter Reuther, President, R. J. Thomas, Vice-President and George Ades, Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO United Automobile Workers.

Menace Of Dread Diseases Fails To Stir Law Makers

By Susan Adams

Warm and humid weather is extremely favorable for the growth of bacteria. Every summer there are recurrent epidemics of disease, especially the dread poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). Every summer, therefore, med-

ic authorities issue warnings about safeguarding public health. And just as regularly, come September 23, the warnings cease until the following summer.

Are these epidemics unavoidable? On the contrary. They could be prevented by proper public health measures and sanitation.

In 1945 the Journal of the American Medical Association and other publications reported that the polio virus, the organism that causes infantile paralysis, was isolated from water containing raw sewage.

SANITATION NEEDED

Publication No. 34 of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis reports: "Actually the infantile paralysis virus is most highly resistant to many things that kill bacteria. It can withstand antiseptics and germicides; or it can be kept at temperatures far below freezing and retain its vitality."

This same publication adds: "Swimming itself is not thought to be harmful, but if the water is contaminated by sewage and human pollution a definite danger certainly is introduced."

An article in the N. Y. Times, August 6, also reports: "Flies may carry the virus and they probably pick it up from sewage in which it has been found. Sanitation would therefore seem one way of checking poliomyelitis."

With this knowledge of the means of the spread of this terrible disease, local, state and federal governments still permit raw sewage to be poured into rivers and lakes where the polio virus can infect swimmers or be piped into homes.

Almost all the cities along the Ohio River, including Pittsburgh, Louisville and Cincinnati, dump their sewage into the Ohio River and then take drinking water from this same "Beautiful Ohio." Similarly Chester, Pa., and Camden, N. J., pour their sewage into the Delaware River.

CONGRESS STALLS

Yet since the middle of 1945 there have been six bills pending before Congress for waterway-pollution abatement. These bills would extend federal loans to encourage cities to build modern sewage treatment plants,



From Competition To Monopoly

By V. Grey

We have stated the general law of constant capital, and particularly the machine. Constant capital produces no new value. It is merely transformed by the hand of labor into something else, thus preserving its original value in labor's creation of a greater one.

But when capitalism was young things seemed to be different. For the FIRST capitalist to get a particular machine coins money out of his advantage over his brother capitalists. His laborers can produce ten things where other laborers produce only one. As long as this rosy heaven remains for the first capitalist, the price of his product is still high.

When the other capitalists get the machine, the socially necessary amount of labor to make the product finally becomes only one-tenth of what it was. And the price drops way down.

This happened again and again in the palmy days of capitalism. As a result there were cheap goods for all. There was constantly better machinery, better ways of doing things.

The 19th century was an age of progress mainly because of the race for machinery. There was great encouragement of inventions, engineering colleges, scientific research, popular education, and finally a greater degree of PEACE in which to trade and grow rich.

Most thinkers of the 19th century saw these advances and thought such progress on a capitalist basis was going to go on and on without any interruption. They thought the golden age of man had at last arrived. But Karl Marx, the real genius of the time, peered into his sociological microscope and saw differently.

"As the use of machinery becomes more general in a particular industry, the social value of the product sinks down to its individual value. And the law that surplus value does not arise from the labor power replaced by the machinery, but from the labor power actually employed in working with the machinery, asserts itself. Surplus value arises from the variable capital alone (money spent for labor power)."

Machinery and other constant capital was heaped up more and more, until it was no longer possible to discard an old machine for a new one so easily as before. Machines were too big now, and too expensive. It was a losing proposition for the capitalist to be on the side of progress.

Moreover, the products of the machine were so cheapened by now that the machine couldn't be paid for in a short time, but only over a long period, as it reproduced its value gradually in its products.

So the same capitalists who once had price-cutting "wars" to drive each other out of business, now began to band together in monopolies to keep prices up—suppress new machinery, bury new inventions.

But only the biggest banded together. They ran smaller capitalists out of business, and began to prevent new ones from starting up. But they solved their contradiction only to make it worse. Now they had super profits to re-invest. They expanded their production again (that is, they increased their constant capital). This led to ever fiercer struggles, and on a world scale.

They conducted a world war to expand into markets of the world they did not yet control. But in the very process they expanded their productive capacity again. This means they must search for still more markets than they have yet won.

Out of capitalist competition grew capitalist monopoly. And out of capitalist peace grew capitalist war.

Next Week: The Struggle for Markets

American Sweatshop

How The Stalinists 'Manage' Our Union

By Dinah Sanders

Last week I told about the vile working conditions in the New York sweatshop where I work, making metal tubes for your shaving cream and tooth paste. We know conditions would be lots worse if we didn't have a union. But they would be lots better, if we didn't have Stalinist leaders to "manage" the union.

Our shop was organized in the fall of 1945, when we got an overall increase of 10 cents an hour, upping the starting wage to 60 cents. And that was that. We have the same filthy, unlighted locker room; the same intense heat in the unventilated washroom. The girl operators are still doing janitor's work cleaning up floors and machines after they finish regular work. We still have high-quota, low-rate piece work. Hot hunks of jagged steel are still breaking through thin "guards" to cripple workers.

The Stalinist leaders of the union act in collaboration with the bosses to hold the workers down. Shop stewards, completely inexperienced in union work, are instructed by the Stalinist organizer so that complaints against workers by foremen get immediate action, while workers' complaints against foremen are ignored.

The organizer was informed about Margaret's exposing the whole department to scarlet fever; about Jimmy's maimed hand and the bosses' lies about his "carelessness." At every meeting, the girls complain again about the filthy locker room and lack of lockers. The organizer takes comforting notes, assures us everything will be all right ship.

DETROIT

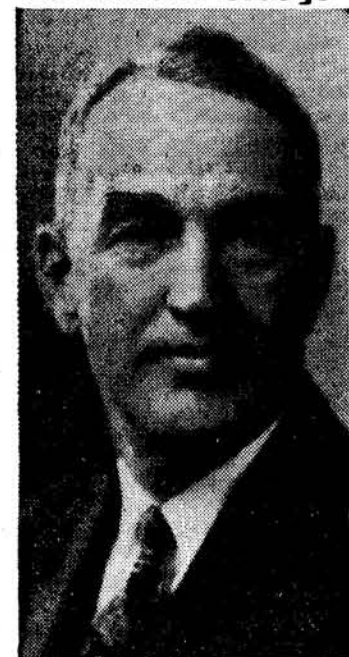
Fall Classes Begin Thursday, Sept. 19

- Parliamentary Procedure
- Public Speaking
- History of American Trotskyism

6108 Linwood Ave.

8 p.m.

Democratic Stooze



MEAD

Truman administration "has adhered to the progressive ideals of the Democratic party" — meaning Roosevelt.

Then the opening paragraph of the Democratic platform pledged "the accomplishment of the progressive Democratic program in this State and in the nation under President Harry S. Truman, in the tradition of our late great leader, Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

In this way the Democrats hope to lend the aura of Roosevelt to Truman and crown the strike-breaking, militaristic, Jim-Crow Democratic political machine with the halo of the man who promised "again and again and again" to keep America out of war.

ALP IS BRIEF

The real issues that face the masses were avoided by both parties like the plague.

The American Labor Party convention, as advertised by its

Wages, Prices And Profits

Productive And Unproductive Labor

By Warren Creel

Not all labor is productive. Capitalism in the present stage turns more and more labor to waste in unproductive channels, which is one of the things wrong with capitalism. To see clearly what really happened in war production and in the post-war period we have to clear up this difference between productive and unproductive labor.

Productive labor produces goods, and also distributes them in the real sense of moving the goods to consumers. By making and delivering all our food, clothing, and so on, productive labor creates the total output of commodities.

There is another kind of labor that is necessary only to the capitalist because he is selling goods in the commodity form. He hires workers for advertising and selling. Now selling contains two kinds of labor, which we can call real distribution and commodity selling. The first kind, real distribution, is necessary and would be necessary under any economic system; it is shipping and warehousing goods, and handing them over the counter to customers, etc. The other kind, commodity selling, is wasted labor, used up by the capitalists in getting business away from each other. Most selling and commercial work belongs to this type of unproductive labor.

The Brown Corporation spends money and hires workers just to move merchandise by getting customers away from Black, Incorporated. And Black, Incorporated, spends money and hires workers to get the customers back again. They can use up an enormous amount of labor in outdoing each other this way.

Waste of labor in commodity selling takes many forms. A common example is three filling stations on a corner where the business only calls for one. We know the extra filling station attendants represent workers wasted in

competitive selling effort. They are not necessary to serve the public. They only serve their different corporations, each of which wants part of the business on that corner. They sell gasoline which costs five cents a gallon from the producer. They sell it for about 20 cents a gallon, leaving a fifteen cent margin. We know part of that margin is used up in paying the extra expenses of this wasteful competition. The margin, in general, as we have seen, is surplus value. So some of the surplus value in the hands of the employer does not remain as profit. He has to spend it on wasteful sales effort, to collect his profit.

Much of what is commonly called production is commodity selling. For instance, we think of construction workers as productive. But how about the carpenters and bricklayers who build the surplus filling stations, and the workers who made the bricks? Their work didn't add to society's wealth, it only helped certain corporations go after business, and keep it away from competitors.

We can buy a fifteen cent package of breakfast food, puffed by a cheap steaming process which takes almost no labor. It contains four ounces, or three-fourths of a cent's worth of wheat. The manufacturer dresses it up with a colorful cardboard box that costs far more than the food. A mountain of labor in fancy packaging in maintaining unnecessary outlets, and in other lines of work too numerous to list here, is wasted in commodity selling.

Such labor makes no goods and does society no good. It creates no labor-value and hence no surplus-value. The capitalist, as Marx pointed out, must spend part of his surplus value to collect the rest.

This is where part of the surplus value goes. As efficiency rises, waste rises also.

Next week: Capitalist Waste of Human Labor

Identified Lynchers Still At Large

Oil Swindle Motive Disclosed In Louisiana Lynch Murder

For over two weeks, the FBI has known the names of 13 Louisiana white men, including three deputy sheriffs, who murdered John C. Jones, 28-year-old Negro veteran, and left for dead Albert Harris, Jr., 17-year-old Negro youth. Yet federal authorities have not even arrested and questioned the lynch gang!

This week the story of the blow-torch and meat-cleaver lynch murder grew even more sordid. Theft of oil rights once owned by the grandfather of the two victims, emerged as a "possible motive" for the torture-killing which took place at Minden, Louisiana, on August 5.

Albert Harris Sr., father of the surviving youth, who accompanied him on the dangerous flight North, told his story to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He revealed that many years ago, oil had been discovered on the land of the boys' grandfather. The grandfather, now 76 years old, "leased" the oil wells to a powerful oil syndicate. One of the wells still pours out thousands of barrels of oil, and for this, the poverty-stricken old man receives \$1.50 a month.

'ODD' CIRCUMSTANCES

According to Mr. Harris, the circumstances under which the syndicate got the oil rights were "odd," since the aged grandfather can neither read nor write.

The NAACP points out that after the brutal lynching became known, "careful efforts" had been made to mislead the first newsmen to report the crime. The usual false charges of "attempt to rape a white woman" were given out, although both victims had already been released from the Minden jail when the white woman allegedly involved had refused to file a complaint.

After their release from jail Albert Harris, Jr. and Jones were seized by a waiting lynch mob and driven into the swamps. Harris was beaten for hours, kicked in the stomach, and left for dead. When he awakened in the morning he found his cousin still alive, his face charred by a blow-torch and his hands chopped off. Jones died in Albert's arms. Albert escaped and made his way North.

NAACP investigators, working in Minden under constant threat, tracked down clues given them by Albert, and turned over their information to the FBI. But the government is stalling and the lynchers walk the streets.

This is not the only case in which the FBI holds information to convict lynchers, and fails to

make arrests. On July 29, the NAACP turned over the names of several of the lynchers who killed two Negro men and two Negro women in Georgia. There, too, the race-hate murderers still walk the streets, free to slay again.

The labor movement must demand that the government stop the atrocities against the Negro people. It must launch, together with Negro and civil liberties organizations, a full-scale campaign for a federal anti-lynch law, that will make the national government responsible for halting the lynchers.

Urge Defense Guards Against Race Terrorists

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO. — The Committee on Racial Equality (CORE) at its recent meeting endorsed a resolution pointing out the need for a defense organization to prevent further vigilante terrorism against racial minorities in this area.

The resolution was originally introduced by the Socialist Workers' Party to the Conference to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities, in which the CORE participated. The Conference referred the resolution to all participating organizations for discussion and opinion on the question of organized defense guards.

The resolution pointed out the failure of the Police Department to give protection to those Negro families who broke through the iron wall of restrictive covenants and moved into areas outside the "black ghetto." It declared that the attacks are the concern of not only minority groups but of the entire labor movement as they are a device of the reactionaries to divide the forces of labor on racial lines.

The resolution then called for the conference to "recognize the need for the establishing of a defense organization by the powerful labor movement in cooperation with minority and progressive organizations as the only effective means of protecting minority groups against terrorist attacks."

Survivor Of Louisiana Lynch Mob



Escaped lynch victim, Albert Harris, Jr., shown with his father, upon arrival in New York. Young Harris still bears wounds on his left inflicted by a blood-thirsty Louisiana lynch mob, which left him for dead. Harris was brought to New York under the protection of Madison Jones NAACP official. Photo by courtesy of Amsterdam News.

13 Injured In Chicago Fires Set By Jim Crow Terrorists

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Sept. 7. — The wave of Jim-Crow terrorism against Negroes who cross "Black Ghetto" boundaries here, reached a new high during the last week in August. In three fires of incendiary origin, 13 Negroes were injured.

In the most serious of these fires, the front entrance of the building at 249 West Alexandria Street went up in flames, at the same time that a fire in the back room blocked the rear entrance. People on upper floors were forced to jump before the fire broke out. Seven suffered broken limbs and other injuries. The building at 228 West 23rd

Street was destroyed by fire, following an explosion. Six people were forced to jump from upper floors to save their lives. Investigations by Michael Bartel, Chicago Organizer of the Socialist Workers' Party, reveal that after the fire was extinguished about 6 a.m., white men attacked and beat up Negroes. Firemen participated in the assault. One white man pulled a gun and threatened to shoot.

The third fire occurred in the basement at 268 West 23rd Street, after an explosion. Fire Attorney Downes states that in his opinion all the fires were of incendiary origin. Police try to dismiss them as accidental or of "undetermined" origin.

The district is one in which Italians, Negroes, Mexicans, Croats and Chinese live in a densely populated area of fire-trap tenement houses. In the past the district was largely controlled by a group of Italians headed by Bruno Roti, whose "business" is beer distributing. He handles most of the political patronage for the Kelly machine and the Democratic Party.

The Chicago Defender charges that there exists "a deep-rooted political plot, using race tensions and arson as a weapon to oust Negroes from Chicago's turbulent, patronage-rich First Ward." It states: "Negro citizens point out that the influx of Negroes from the South and other sections of the city threatens to upset the delicate voting balance and affect the 'pork barrel' patronage from one of the city's richest political districts."

The "general strike" against Villarreal. The reactionary former-President Penaranda expressed joy over the hanging of Villarreal. The insurgents used tanks MADE IN THE U. S. in the street battles of La Paz. And the new government was immediately recognized by the U. S. State Department and its imperialist partner, Great Britain.

Yankee imperialism has demonstrated once again its firm intention to maintain redoubled exploitation of the semi-colonial South American countries at whatever price and by whatever means necessary.

It is obvious that the lack of a strong union movement and a conscious working class with well organized political parties facilitated the task of the imperialists. In the absence of independent working class organizations, reactionary elements were able to direct the discontent of the masses away from their own class interests and into channels favoring imperialism.

Defense Continues Grim Fight In Tennessee Frame-up Trial

Defense attorneys of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are continuing their grim battle to prevent the selection of an all-white "hanging jury" in the trial at Lawrenceburg, Tennessee of 25 Colored Negroes framed-up on a charge of "attempted murder."

Last week defense attorneys were muzzled on their rights to question prospective jurors concerning their feelings of race prejudice. A new speed-up system was instituted by Judge Ingram in which veniremen are questioned in groups of ten or more. With only seven jurors in the box, defense attorneys are fast using up their 200 peremptory challenges. After that they will be helpless to prevent the State's packing the jury with race-hating whites.

The kind of men declared "qualified" as jurors by the white court shows that the atmosphere is one in which the 25 are condemned beforehand. Frank Busbey, who was eagerly accepted by District Attorney Bumpus, admitted under defense questioning that the 25 Negroes would have to prove themselves innocent. This is a flagrant violation of the law which explicitly states that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty.

Busbey further testified that his son was a member of a state guard company sent to Columbia to participate in the pogrom against the Negroes last February. The "trial" grew out of the savage, armed assault by hundreds of state troops, police and white lynch mobs against the entire segregated Negro section of Columbia. The mass assault was launched against the Negro population after a Negro woman defended herself against a blow struck by a white man, owner of a radio repair store.

A former chain gang boss was another white man declared qualified by the white court. After he admitted that he thought all Negroes are "criminally inclined," a peremptory challenge by the defense attorneys kept him off the jury.

Another white man who was declared qualified by Bumpus, was known to have attended Ku Klux Klan meetings. He admitted, under defense questioning, that he not only believed in the principles of the KKK, but advocated "taking out persons and whipping them when they get out of their place." Bumpus cynically defended this prospective juror with the remark that his sympathy for a lynching organization "would certainly not affect the defendants."

All but five of the first panel of 312 who showed their race hatred were kept off the jury. The examination of a new panel of 230 began on Sept. 5. The 25 Negroes face 20 years in prison if convicted.

Army Court Martial System Gives Two Kinds Of Justice

From the big brass hats you never get anything but praise for the court-martial system. If you listened to them you might get the idea that there is some kind of justice in the "military justice" set-up. But recently a staff writer for the N. Y. World Telegram, Roger Stuart, had the opportunity to check some of the War Department's own records.

What he found shows that there are at least two kinds of "justice" in the Army — one kind for enlisted men, another kind for officers. Here are some of the cases Stuart cited on Aug. 22:

A Pfc in the European Theater was court-martialed for slashing a lieutenant across the chest with a knife. Charge: attacking a superior officer, the sentence for which is death. The sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

In the same theater of operations a second lieutenant attacked an enlisted man with a knife, cutting him up severely. He was court-martialed for this and for being drunk on duty. Found guilty, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and dismissal from the service. His general then remitted the prison sentence, and the lieutenant got off with dismissal from the service.

MORE "JUSTICE"
Stuart also tells about three cases of desertion. The court-martial of a private in Europe resulted in the death sentence, commuted to life imprisonment.

A second lieutenant in the same vicinity and at about the same time was also found guilty of desertion by a court martial. Sentence: dismissal from the service.

Another lieutenant was charged with "running away from the enemy." His only punishment: dismissal from the service.

Stuart also reports a contrast in two General Court-Martial Orders.

CGMO No. 652 concerned the case of a private found guilty of desertion, escaping confinement.

parliamentary procedure eight weeks beginning Sept. 11.

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

Every Friday, 8 p.m.—Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon.

SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

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

Sat. night—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.

Friday night forum, 8:30.

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.

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

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

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

By William Bohannon

The Heritage of Frederick Douglass

I urge all readers of The Militant to read the September issue of its brother publication, **Fourth International**, which contains an informative and thought-provoking article on Frederick Douglass, and sections from three of his speeches and articles.

There are many reasons why I call attention to this article. The great rebel Douglass has never been given proper recognition in our schools for the role he played in helping to prepare and carry through the fight against slavery. He was a personification of the fact that the Negro people in the nineteenth century did not merely sit back and wait to be liberated, but that wherever possible they actively contributed to the struggle, and played leading roles in it.

That alone is worth emphasizing today. Without the aid of our allies, the white workers, we cannot smash the brutal system of Jim Crow and lynching. But unless we ourselves join militantly in the fight against the capitalist sponsors of this system, we will never achieve the second emancipation. Douglass showed us that we must fight for our rights, and even if he did nothing else, we would honor him for that today.

Douglass lived a remarkable life. Born a slave, he became one of the greatest speakers, writers and organizers of the country. Although he himself managed to escape bondage and before the age of 30 to secure personal freedom, he nevertheless devoted the rest of his life and all of his many talents to the fight on behalf of his less fortunate brothers and sisters. (Yes, he was a far cry from many talented and educated Negroes even today who find a small measure of security for themselves and immediately turn their backs on the plight of the struggling masses.)

But the most remarkable part about Douglass was that he was a revolutionist to the very marrow of his bones. He did not want to merely reform the slave system, he sought to destroy it altogether. He was not a socialist, but a consistent revolutionist just the same.

In those days the modern industrial working class was just being born. The revolutionary struggle then consisted of overthrowing the remnants of pre-capitalist society, and enabling the capitalist system to develop and expand the economy of the country. (This was accomplished after the slaveholders' grip on the government was broken forever, and now the country is more than ripe for the next stage—the abolition of capitalism which today prevents progress and the establishment of socialism.)

In that progressive struggle

CORRECTION

In last week's Militant a picture of Paul Wylie, SWP candidate for the Ohio General Assembly, was incorrectly printed above the name of William E. Bohannon, SWP candidate for the House of Representatives from the 11th District, New Jersey.

during the last century Douglass not only played a leading part, but he understood the logic of the fight against the slaveholders far more clearly than most of the statesmen of that time, including Lincoln.

While Lincoln sought to compromise with the slaveholders, Douglass realized that a revolution was coming and he advocated revolutionary methods. He saw that the Civil War meant the end of slavery, while the Northern politicians were trying to close their eyes to this question.

He understood that the Negro should and would be permitted to serve in the Army when the very idea of such a thing seemed ridiculous to the Northern government. He foresaw that emancipation would have to be accompanied by economic security or the freed Negro would still have a second-class status. In other words, he was not only a revolutionist, but a far-sighted one.

What would Frederick Douglass be fighting for if he were alive today? One thing we can be certain of: he would be fighting to finish the job, that is, to secure complete equality for the Negro people. And he would be fighting as a revolutionist.

A hundred years ago he collaborated with representatives of Northern capitalism against the slaveholders, because capitalism was still a progressive force. Today he would see that capitalism has degenerated and become a completely reactionary system, and among other things the chief prop of Jim Crow oppression. Douglass would now be fighting against the capitalists and seeking to overthrow them.

The heritage of Frederick Douglass belongs to us, the twentieth century revolutionists. We honor him by continuing and extending the struggle he led. Young Negro militants who aspire to follow in his footsteps belong in the ranks of the Socialist Workers' Party. Join us and join the struggle for genuine and complete emancipation!

Yankee Imperialism Guided Overturn In Bolivian Capital

By C. Fernandez

(Special to The Militant)

MEXICO, D. F., Sept. 1.—The true character of the northern "Good Neighbor" is shown by an analysis of the events in the capital of Bolivia on July 21. On that day, an uprising led by professors and students and supported by a section of the population overthrew and assassinated President Villarreal. Follow-

ing in Washington's dictates, Yankee press correspondents in La Paz have erroneously reported it as the culmination of a genuine popular movement against the military dictatorship of Villarreal.

It is well to bear in mind that nearly 15 per cent of the world's tin supply comes from Bolivia, that tin accounts for 70 per cent of the total value of exports from this small South American country and that practically its entire economy is based on the industry.

A mining triumvirate, formed by the multi-millionaire Patino—owner of the "Patino Mines and Enterprises," Mauricio Hinchasqui and the "Companie Aramayo de Minas," is the real power behind Bolivian politics and economy, and the strongest pillar of Yankee imperialism in the country. In the past, Bolivian governments have been mere agents for these tin magnates, and have suppressed the workers with unrestrained fury.

Super-exploitation of the Bolivian masses, carried out primarily by this imperialist triumvirate, increased enormously during the war. Bolivian workers are desperately impoverished. In the last few years the cost of living has risen fantastically. It is the highest in South America.

Mass discontent reached such proportions during the war that it shook the government to its foundations. In 1943, a group of military leaders, counting on the assistance of the dissatisfied middle class and the passivity of the workers and campesinos (farmers) revolted and lifted Villar-

real to power. To gain support against the tin magnates and in order to stem the mounting tide of discontent among the poverty stricken masses, Villarreal made the latter some concessions such as relative union freedom, slight wage increase, etc. He tried to restrain the intervention of Patino and Co. in the economic and political life of the country. He issued decrees reducing concessions to the tin triumvirate, and began construction of smelting plants in Oruro, an important mining center, in an effort to reduce the profits of the tin magnates.

WALL ST. WAITED

Washington understood the Bolivian situation very well. It realized that Villarreal would not bow docilely to the interests of Wall Street. Therefore the State Department backed the movement that lifted Villarreal to power as Nazi-Fascist.

The Yankee imperialists decided an intervention would be necessary. They patiently awaited the first opportunity to reinstate a "democratic" government in Bolivia, that is, a government that would resume the role of absolute lackey to the tin triumvirate.

Every action taken by Villarreal against the tin monopoly made his government more unpopular with the Yankee State Department. The imperialists were displeased because Villarreal did not use the army to suppress the mine workers during strikes which followed each other in rapid succession. Both native and foreign mining func-

tionaries shared the same dissatisfaction. They all yearned for a return to the brutal methods employed by President Penaranda during the strike in Catavi where more than 400 miners were massacred when they demanded wage increases.

How, then, can the success of the July 21 revolt be explained? Merciless exploitation had brought the masses to an abysmal low living standard. Food is not only expensive but scarce. Agriculture has been restricted by a conscious policy of previous governments who hoped, by discouraging agriculture, to force the native population into the mines. The masses, therefore, were at the mercy of the tin magnates.

They were terribly desperate and the agents of the monopolists were able, through the middle class, to throw the blame for the situation on the Villarreal government. Groups of well-paid and well-organized agitators gave direction to the mass discontent, channeling it in a manner most favorable to the native and foreign exploiters.

Villarreal, like other Latin-American military-police dictators, relied mainly on the army for support both against imperialism and the workers. He made concessions to the workers only in an attempt to win their support as a counter pressure to the tin magnates. But when crumb from the national economy failed to placate the miners he restrained their struggles with dictatorial methods. Hence, he had no base in the country other than the army, and when he lost its support he was immediately overthrown. A new gang, selected by the tin magnates, was placed in power.

These further facts show unmistakably that the present government represents: The merchants of La Paz, who are notoriously subservient to the imperialist tin magnates, joined



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Diary Of A Steel Worker

If You Were A Negro . . .

By Theodore Kovalesky

We can read something and understand it without really feeling it, really KNOWING what it means. We can read about the lynchings in the South . . . and the North . . . and the words we read may be only words. So let's look at it another way. Imagine, white brother reading this, that it is YOU.



You look back as far as you can. You were a kid on the farm, and folks were just folks. You played, you went swimming and fishing with the white kids. You ran in the weeds and hollered and climbed trees and called everybody, naturally, by his first name. You romped and had a good time.

Then maybe one day you played a little too hard and knocked one of the white boys down. You did it without even meaning to, and you were sorry you made him skin his knee. Only, when he got up, he looked at you with mean angry eyes and called you, "Nigger!"

You fought with him. You made up again, but it wasn't the same. You grew older, and one day he said, "Jim, it's about time you start putting a handle to my name." You looked him in the eye, you remembered diving in the river together, hunting squirrel and possum together, stealing watermelons together from Mr. Dagget's big farm. But you were older now. You knew the land and the customs, so when you saw him after that, you called him "Mister."

You grew up. You never voted. You watched the politicians come and go. You heard them talk "white supremacy" and taxes. You got used to things. (Southern moon and Southern breeze and a black, battered body swinging from a poplar branch, you got used to everything, no

matter how you felt, you knew what was what.) The war came along, and they pushed you into the army. ("Boy, clean up those barracks.") "Boy, set a pick and shovel and come along with me." That was pretty much like things at home, only here there was more food and better clothing.

They packed you aboard a boat and shipped you off to Europe. They told you to fight for democracy, to beat Hitler and his race-hating Nazis. You fought. You did your best, just as good as anybody, white or black.

On the boat coming back they packed you in even tighter. They mixed you right in with the white soldiers. In the bull sessions they talked about what happened to them in Normandy, and you told them how you got hit. They had their ribbons and battle stars. You had yours. They were men, and you were a man. Things would be different, somehow.

But things weren't different. They were the same. You got in the back of the bus where the "colored" sat. (You had helped lick the race-hating Nazis.) The driver went past your stop. When you protested, he called a cop.

"Smart nigger," the cop called you, and he hit you with his club. "Run off to Europe and forget how to behave!" and he hit you again. "Please, I didn't mean any harm," you tried to plead, but he hit you again, and some watching white men laughed.

You were lucky. They didn't gouge your eyes out, didn't beat you to death or shoot you or burn or hang you like they did to some. They let you live so you could get your old overalls and go back to the fields. They just "reminded" you to remember your place.

Think it over, brother. Just suppose your skin were colored instead of white . . . and think it over.

Who's For Free Speech?

By Grace Carlson

Anti-fascists throughout the country were undoubtedly inspired by the way 1,500 members of Minneapolis unions, veteran, Jewish, Negro and other organizations successfully defended themselves against the followers of Gerald L. K. Smith and forced the cancellation of his scheduled fascist meeting on Aug. 21.

But the Minneapolis bosses were not inspired by it! And the Minneapolis daily press heaped abuse on the heads of the anti-fascists.

"Because a little mob of irresponsible citizens refused to let him exercise his constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly, Mr. Smith currently dons the robes of a martyr," say the editors of the Minneapolis Daily Times (Sept. 3).

After reading this plea for "free speech" for a fascist, I went through a complete file of the Daily Times for 1941 to see what they had said about "free speech" for the anti-fascist defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Case.

You won't find a single word of protest in this or any other Minneapolis daily paper about the violation of the "constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly" of the 29 leaders of Local 544-CIO and the Socialist Workers Party who were indicted under the infamous Smith "Gag Act" that year.

Instead, you will find a Times editorial on July 2, 1941 attacking the American Civil Liberties Union which, truly concerned about "constitutional rights" of free speech and free assembly, had entered the case on the side of the 29 defendants.

That this capitalist paper wants free speech for fascists and a gag rule for revolutionary socialists comes as no surprise to those of us who understand that fascism has its roots in the decaying capitalist system we are trying to replace. This doesn't mean that the Times is backing the fascist Smith. At present, a good section of American capitalism looks on Smith as a silly demagogue—like the German capitalists regarded Hitler in his early days.

In his book *Fascism and Big Business* Daniel Guerin tells why the German and Italian capitalists later had to turn to fascist demagogues. Guerin also offers some good advice on how to fight fascism when he quotes a speech of Hitler after the Nazis came to power: "Only one thing could have broken our movement—if the adversary had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed, with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our new movement."

Minneapolis workers want to fight fascism and know how. They are not going to permit the capitalist papers to mislead them with hypocritical arguments about "free speech" for the fascists who want to destroy all democratic rights, including free speech.

Showing Off Their War Profits

By Ruth Benson

Would you like to know where some of your money is going—the money you paid in taxes that the government gave to war profiteers?

It's buying the most fabulous clothes and extravagant trimmings in the world. Last week I walked along New York's famous Fifth Avenue, to see what they're really like.

Once just any mink coat would do to prove one's wealth. But no billionaire's wife would be satisfied with that today! For her, there are new kinds, specially bred to get attention; a Hollywood-platinum-blond mink, and a "white blaze" mink which has distinctive stripes.

For warm fall days there are "simple" suits banded with blonde mink—\$540. A blouse to go with it, handwoven from yards and yards of ribbon, is \$95. A light fall coat, with just a touch of Persian lamb, is studded with rhinestones to make it less common. That was cheap—\$395.

Of course you'd expect her to wear fancy hats. They're huge, wide, and weird; whether felt, fur, or feathers, they're likely to have se-

quins and rhinestones, too. But did you know that even her garters—costly copies of the kind Woolworth's sold in flapper days—have sequins and beads?

And when she rests at home, Mrs. du Pont or Mrs. Rockefeller can lounge in a \$145 slat suit, also dotted with sequins, while she eats \$5-a-pound chocolates, or smokes cigarettes in a pure gold holder.

Her children are equally pampered. I saw a white dotted Swiss dress, size two, hand made and embroidered. Only \$39.75. And a white satin blouse and shorts for a year-old boy, at \$42.50. Can't you imagine them all at dinner, with a table covered in Italian lace—at \$1,049?

Maybe it's because I'm a woman, that all this window shopping made me decide to do some of the real thing. I left Fifth Avenue and went to an "ordinary" department store. All I wanted was a pair of shoes to wear every day in the week; black leather, with closed toes and heels. There weren't any, of course.

That's what the "luxury market" really means—finery for the rich, and almost nothing for the working people. The manufacturers won't make practical things for us to use, when the parasites are buying finery to show off their war profits.

An Indictment Of The ICC

By G. Gustafsen

The July issue of *The Railroad Trainman*, personal organ of A. F. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, contained an article which is a damning indictment of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

This federal agency for 26 years has had the authority to force the carriers to install safety devices. These safety devices could have prevented thousands of railroad accidents and tremendous loss of life.

Whitney is finally forced to expose the record of the ICC. He shows that it has acted actually as an agency of the carriers to safeguard their profits and cover up their criminal negligence in this mass murder of railroad workers and passengers.

One of the principal hazards confronting train operation is lack of adequate protection to a train that stops or slows down on the main line. For the past 70 years automatic block signals have been in use. Yet today, according to the article, 100,000 miles of high-speed passenger track have no automatic block. In one year, 1934, there were 19 major train collisions attributable to lack of adequate block system. In these days of high-speed trains, automatic block signals are not enough protection. Automatic train control, which eliminates the human factor in safe railroading, is the answer,

But even today only about five per cent of passenger track is so equipped.

In a three year period (1925 to 1928), 203 people died and 2,025 were injured through failure of the ICC to force the carriers to install this equipment.

Lack of electrically-operated switch locks, and lack of adequate signal protection for open drawbridges still cause wrecks.

The callous disregard for the lives of passengers by the carriers and the ICC is only surpassed by their lack of interest in the safety of the railroad workers.

Over half the freight cars in interchange are equipped with a type of air brake condemned by the ICC itself back in 1924.

Although the BRT has been negotiating with the railroads since 1938 for the universal installation of safety running boards on the tops of box cars, the vast majority are of a type that become very slippery and dangerous when covered with ice and snow.

Successful automatic steam and air pipe couplings have been developed; yet the steam and air couplings now in use necessitate carmen or trainmen getting down between the cars to make these couplings. 550 trainmen were killed and 969 injured between 1940 and 1944 in coupling and uncoupling operations.

Whitney's article proves conclusively that the Interstate Commerce Commission acts to safeguard the profits of the carrier and "to delay and impede every technological advance."

Washington State SWP Election Campaign Shifts Into High Gear With Seattle Rally

SWP Candidate In Jersey Asks Housing Action

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 6—

Alan Kohlman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor, today endorsed the demand for immediate calling of a special session of the New Jersey Legislature on housing. He scored Governor Edge's obstinate refusal to call such a session.

"Governor Edge has declared that he is opposed to a special session until somebody presents a workable program. This means he has no program. This self-confessed admission of a lack of a housing program is a clear-cut confession of the bankruptcy of the Edge administration on the vital housing matter."

"The Governor's position is worsened when one recalls that as far back as August, 1945, CIO State President Holderman requested a special session to deal with housing, price and rent control. The Governor spurned this request."

Moreover, the Governor's lack of a program is in distinct contradiction to his boast made in a press interview on December 30, 1945, when he recalled the housing shortage and rent increases of 1919, and declared: "I (Edge) do not intend to stand by and permit that to happen again in New Jersey."

"However, that is precisely what Edge has done. He has stood by and permitted a most serious housing crisis to worsen without taking a single serious step, despite his pledged word, to do anything about it."

"The Socialist Workers Party advocates an 18 billion dollar annual federal appropriation for low-cost housing. In addition, we are now formulating specific State legislative measures for action by the much-needed special session. It is up to the veteran and labor organizations to compel Edge to call such a session."

Seattle SWP Candidate Backs Seamen's Strike

SEATTLE, Sept. 5—Charles

R. Swett, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U. S. Senate, today issued the following statement in support of the seamen's grievances against the Wage Stabilization Board:

"I wholeheartedly support the strike of the AFL seamen. In a viciously unfair decision the Wage Stabilization Board seeks to deprive the seamen of a large portion of the \$22.50 monthly increase that their unions won in negotiations with the ship-owners. I urge all workers in the State of Washington to help the seamen's struggle to the utmost."

"The SUP-SIU has already made it clear that the main issue involved in the strike is the WSB's attack upon labor's right to bargain collectively. By this attack, the Truman administration shows once again that its real policy is to prevent the unions from defending the workers' standard of living."

"The seamen's unions by their strike are fighting the battle of all organized labor. As an act of solidarity with the seamen, the AFL and CIO should immediately withdraw their representatives from the WSB."

"If I am elected to the U. S. Senate, I will introduce legislation to abolish the WSB and any other agency created to deprive organized labor of its right of collective bargaining."

MEET THE SWP CANDIDATES

Sylvia Blecker
Candidate for Attorney-General, New York State

Sylvia Blecker has a long and militant record of working class activity and leadership. Born in Russia in 1901, she was brought to the United States by her parents.

She plunged into educational and political activity among the immigrant Jewish population in Harlem. The educational clubs which she helped to form during this period were later transformed into working class political units. They became the base for the Young Communist League.

As a young woman Sylvia Blecker entered the millinery industry, which employed close to 10,000 unorganized women. With energy and vision she began the task of organizing these unorganized. Her work contributed greatly to the founding of the Millinery Workers Local 43 with 4,000 members. This local was to become the largest women's local in the AFL. During the period of 1925 to 1928 she was Secretary-Treasurer and Organizer of the local.

Sylvia Blecker was always more than a trade unionist, she was a political and class conscious worker. She understood the necessity for the overthrow of capitalism and throughout her early years was active in the Communist youth movement. In

Alan Kohlman
Candidate for Governor, New Jersey

Alan Kohlman was born 27 years ago in Louisville, Ky. In his sixteenth year he helped found the Louisville Branch of the Communist Party. But he soon learned of the degeneration of the Stalinist movement, and became one of the leaders of a local group which split from the Communist Party and oriented toward Trotskyism. In the summer of 1936 he entered the Socialist Party.

During 1935-37 Kohlman was active in Louisville in building the Workers Alliance, and helping to organize AFL truckdrivers and CIO textile and oil workers. His vigorous support of local strikes in a column he wrote for a student paper at the University of Louisville led to suppression of the column by the school authorities.

In the summer of 1937 he worked as a machine operator in the American Radiator plant. Shortly after, he became a member of the sectarian Revolutionary Workers League. He remained with this group until 1941 when he joined the Socialist Workers Party.

Kohlman then went to work in the steel industry. In 1942 he was one of a handful of volunteer organizers who brought 5,000 workers of the Crucible Steel Co., in Harrison, N. J., into the CIO United Steelworkers. In this plant he served thereafter as shop steward, grievance committeeman and educational director of Local 2194, United Steelworkers, CIO.

Alan Kohlman is a contributor

Toledo Readers

The Toledo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has moved to temporary headquarters located at 370 West Bancroft, Tel. Adams 2304. Watch THE MILITANT for announcement of permanent headquarters.

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 _____
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 6—The first election campaign in the history of the Washington State District Socialist Workers Party shifted into high gear last Friday evening with a rousing banquet and dance held at the Seattle Campaign Headquarters.

Members and friends of the SWP were treated to a delicious home-cooked fried chicken dinner, followed by community singing of labor and socialist songs. The after-dinner program was m.c.'d by Johnny Black, who introduced as speakers Charles Swett, candidate for U. S. Senate; Daniel Roberts, candidate for Washington State Senate; Charles Taylor, founder of the local SWP and ex-State Senator from Montana; and Clara Kaye, campaign manager.

Over \$300 was raised in donations and pledges, bringing the total amount of money already collected and pledged to well over the basic \$600 budget originally planned for. This is an excellent indication of the enthusiastic response accorded to the campaign after only a few weeks of preparatory election activity. One young worker, for instance, attending an SWP function for the first time, contributed \$10, and many \$5 donations were given by comparatively new friends of the party.

Daniel Roberts discussed the miserable record of the Republican and Democratic parties, revealing them as servants of Big Business, controlled lock, stock and barrel by America's infamous Sixty Families.

As evidence on the local scene, he cited the contemptuous treatment of Washington's old-age pensioners by Governor Wallgren, a Democrat; and on the national scene, the action of the National Wage Stabilization Board in freezing the wages of seamen and lumber workers while, at the same time, giving the go-ahead signal to the Decontrol Board—staffed with bankers and industrialists—to pave the way for inflation by increasing prices.

Roberts called for an Independent Labor Party that would truly represent the working masses of this country and the establishment of a Workers and Farmers Government.

The dire threat of a third world war was discussed by candidate Swett. "If I am elected to the U. S. Senate," he said, "I would immediately introduce legislation to take the war-making powers away from Congress and place them squarely in the hands of the people. The working class wants no more wars between rival bandits. The working class wants nothing to do with the efforts of American and British imperialism to provoke war against the Soviet Union and her people, despite its opposition to the treacherous Stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union."

Swett spoke also of the changes occurring in the minds of working people everywhere. "The time-worn slogans of the capital-



DANIEL ROBERTS

ists are falling on deaf ears as the workers, especially the Negro workers, awaken to the true nature of capitalism."

Recounting many of his rich experiences in the labor, electoral and socialist arenas in the light of the struggle for socialism, Charles Taylor pointed out the tremendous opportunity offered by an election campaign to spread revolutionary slogans and principles.

"While nothing short of a thorough social revolution can eradicate the roots of capitalism," he stated, "labor's candidates in Congress can function very effectively both in blocking reactionary legislation and utilizing to the fullest extent the broad avenues of propaganda available to members of legislative bodies."

Taylor emphasized the fact that socialism is not mere "wishful thinking" but "an historical necessity, arising from the ruins of degenerate capitalist imperialism just as capitalism itself arose to replace shattered feudal society."

Campaign Manager Kaye stressed the need for active participation in the election campaign. "Sympathy and good wishes are not enough," she stated. "In order to conduct an extensive and successful campaign, we must have the material means—both in money and manpower—necessary to lift our activity from the literary to the active doorbell-ringing plane."

Master of Ceremonies Black closed the program by urging all present to work to elect Trotskyist candidates as the only method of exposing the lies and hypocrisy of the ruling boss class. He invited everybody to study the literature display and to subscribe to *The Militant*. The evening ended with dancing and discussion groups.

The response to requests for active aid has been excellent. Now, with forces and finances guaranteed, the Washington State SWP looks forward to an exceptionally energetic and rewarding election campaign.

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!**