

**How Stalin Tramples  
On Lenin's Work**  
By M. Stein  
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VOL. XI — No. 5

## Bolivians Elect 4 Trotskyists To Parliament

"Proletarian United Front" Makes Impressive  
Showing In First Contest For Public Office

Last week's *Militant* briefly reported the election on Jan. 5 of three Trotskyists to the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies and one to the Bolivian Senate. Below is a fuller report on the elections from a Bolivian correspondent. — The Editors.

By Juan Valverde.

BOLIVIA, Jan. 14 — Prior to the July Rebellion which overthrew the Villarreal government, the Revolutionary Workers Party, Bolivian section of the Fourth International, could not even dream of participating in the electoral struggle. But the revolutionary tide which has risen notably since that time not only has awakened large masses of the exploited from their lethargy, not only has demonstrated the justice and immediate practicability of the Trotskyist slogans, but even more, has converted the RWP into a national political force.

Chicago Labor  
Unites Against  
Congress Attack

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to *The Militant*)

CHICAGO, Jan. 25 — Vigorous opposition to anti-labor legislation was expressed this week by the newly organized All-Chicago Labor Committee, representing over 700,000 members of the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods. The Committee was formed Tuesday by leaders of the three union groups here who met to map out united action against pending anti-labor bills.

The party has grown more in a few months than in many preceding years when the Stalinists with their usual stupidity ridiculed the numerical and political "insignificance" of Trotskyism, forgetting that the importance of the revolutionary vanguard lies not in numbers but in the power of its Marxist slogans and analysis.

After the July Rebellion, the big mining capitalists took over the reins of power personally. Undoubtedly, the pressure of the masses, their revolutionary onward surge, kept the capitalists from undertaking an immediate offensive against the workers' conquests or against capitalist democracy itself, leaving the workers' parties relatively free to struggle and organize.

The July events in La Paz are still fresh in the memory both of the masses and of the capitalists. The people are armed in La Paz. To launch an all-out assault on social legislation or democracy at this time would have been too dangerous.

But the common front adopted by ALL the capitalists against the workers does not wipe out the contradictions existing in the capitalist camp. The native capitalists who are simply agents of Imperialism reflect the contradictions between different imperialist groups. That is precisely the meaning of the contest between the two most important presidential candidates: Hertzog (Republican "Socialist" Union) and Guachalla. ("National Unity" backed by the Stalinists and followed reluctantly by the liberals).

While Hertzog represents the (Continued on Page 3)

## New Rent Order Chops In Ceilings; CIO Issues Huge Holes Warning

The national CIO last week issued a circular letter to all state and local affiliates directing them to fight attempts to "terminate or weaken" government rent controls.

This CIO warning came as huge holes in rent ceilings and knocks the props from under the rent control structure. Congressional tools of the real estate and landlord interests are preparing measures to grant blanket rent increases immediately and fix the termination date of all rent controls.

### RAISE ALL RENTS

Four Republican Senators announced on Jan. 27 that they have put the "finishing touches" on a bill to raise all rent ceilings from 15 to 20 per cent immediately and to end all rent controls either by Dec. 31, 1947 or Apr. 30, 1948. In either case, the housing shortage will be no less acute than today because of the almost complete failure of the government to provide an adequate program of government-financed, low-cost housing.

One of the hooks in the new rent-boost order is permission to "small" landlords to appeal for rent increases by declaring an increase in their costs over 1939 — without requiring them to show records. According to the report in the Jan. 25 N. Y. Times, these landlords "have been most remiss in the matter of keeping records and have been handicapped correspondingly in demonstrating hardships."

As the Administration chops unless a tremendous organized

# Workers Of The World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

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## SENATE SPEEDS HEARINGS ON ANTI-LABOR MEASURES



### Why Stalinists Refused To Picket French Consulate

The Vietnamese group, which picked with the Socialist Workers Party and Workers Party in last week's demonstration at the French Consulate in New York, invited the Communist Party (Stalinists) to participate. Naturally, the Stalinists rejected the invitation to protest against French imperialist butchery in Indo-China. Their colleagues, the French Stalinists, are supporting the war against the Viet-Nam Republic.

(Continued on Page 2)

## "Get Out Of Indo-China!" Cry Pickets At Consulate

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 — Shouting "Hands off Indo-China" and "No U.S. Guns to France", more than 200 demonstrators, led by the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist) and Workers Party, picketed the French consulate at Rockefeller Center on Fifth Ave. and 48th St. today at noon.

The picket line, including a group of Indo-Chinese residents of this city, protested the French government's war against the independent Viet-Nam Republic and the use of American arms to shoot down the Indo-Chinese people.

"We especially condemn the use of American arms and munitions to shoot down the people of Indo-China. We consider this as a manifestation of the reactionary role of American capitalism which is being transformed into an arsenal of world imperialism in its drive to keep the colonial peoples in subjection."

The statement demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all French troops from Indo-China and condemned "the French Government for prohibiting the Paris demonstration for freedom of Indo-China sponsored by the Parti-Communiste Internationaliste, French Section of the Fourth International."

The SWP contingent in the picket line numbered about 125

members and sympathizers. They led in the unison shouting of slogans and helped give a very militant tone to the demonstration. Mobilization of the SWP pickets had been a high point of the SWP's Lenin Memorial Meeting last night in the Hotel Capitol.

(Picture on Page 2)

## SWP Names 2 Candidates In Los Angeles Elections

By Dave Dreiser

(Special to *The Militant*)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26 — The Los Angeles Local of the Socialist Workers Party today announced it is running two candidates in the forthcoming city elections. They are Louis Kiser for City Council from District 15, and Myra Tanner Weiss for the Board of Education.

**GAINING GROUND**  
Their campaign will be coupled with SWP support for two independent labor candidates, Harry Brown of the CIO Rubber Workers and John Despol of the CIO Steelworkers, who are running for City Council in Districts 6 and 9 respectively.

The movement for independ-

ent labor candidates is gaining ground steadily here. This was reflected in last week's conference of several CIO unions here to discuss the question of nominating union candidates. (See story on page 2).

Rank and file pressure for labor candidates secured the CIO Council's endorsement for the candidacy of Harry Brown. The steelworkers nominated John Despol to run in opposition to the official PAC candidate. The Stalinists, who oppose independent labor candidates, are trying to sabotage Despol's campaign by running a Communist Party candidate in the same district.

The CIO Council has called a conference of all CIO locals here on Jan. 31 to decide CIO-PAC policies in the elections. It may then be possible to get official

PAC support for Despol.

Developments here offer a splendid opportunity for active participation in the city elections.

### WORKERS' CANDIDATE

Myra Tanner Weiss' candidacy is an answer to the recent disgraceful action of the Board of Education in allowing Fascist Gerald L. K. Smith the use of a public school for disseminating his race-hate, anti-labor poison.

All Los Angeles workers are actively interested in the councilmanic elections because of police brutality and illegal court actions against strikers here. Louis Kiser's nomination will give them a chance to vote for a workingclass candidate in Dis-

trict 15.

Even before the 80th Congress has passed a single bill to curb union rights, the Congressional anti-labor drive has already achieved a lot for Big Business.

The scared union leaders, anxious to avoid a fight at all costs, are trying to beat a retreat on the wage front in hopes of appeasing the rampaging labor-haters.

AFL leaders are trying to curry special favor with the reactionary Administration and Congress by joining in with the capitalist clamor against the CIO's portal pay suits and current wage demands.

CIO leaders, with Steelworkers President Philip Murray in the lead, are indicating their readiness to settle new negotiations for minor gains and concessions. Murray last week quickly agreed to an extension of the U.S. Steel contract under the feeble pretext that he wants to wait until the portal pay issue is clarified by the courts. The CIO Packinghouse Workers leaders recently settled with the "Big Four" meat trust for meager gains. Nowhere are the CIO leaders making preparations for a genuine struggle for needed "substantial wage increases."

### WALL ST. OUT TO CRUSH UNIONS

These union leaders are grossly in error if they believe their surrender of potential wage gains is going to satisfy Big Business and its government agents. Wall Street is not going to be content with labor's retreat on the immediate wage issues. The American plutocracy is determined to crush the fighting power of the unions, re-establish the nation-wide open shop and institute grand-scale wage slashes. Every concession to the labor-baiters only further convinces them that the time is ripe to cripple the

unions permanently with anti-labor laws. The union leaders are blind to the reality of the present situation. They are trying to meet the anti-labor offensive with their old weapons, never effective even in the best of times. They issue mild yips of verbal protest, go pleading hat in hand to the White House for a few favors, try to lobby around and make deals in the Congress corridors. Wall Street and its Congress, however, are aiming at undisputed mastery of this country and the world. They brush aside the feeble remonstrances of the union bureaucrats.

### SPINELESS LABOR LEADERS

These spineless labor leaders are behaving all the more treacherously, because the unions they lead have the means not only to beat back the anti-labor drive, but counter-attack and win new gains for the workers. It does not even occur to them to mobilize the mighty power of 15,000,000 organized American workers — the same workers who last year in giant strikes repeatedly brought the corporations to terms.

While the union leaders are ready to bow in submission, the union ranks are eager to fight. They must fight, or face the certainty of brutal laws that will undermine and ultimately annihilate the only means of protection they have, their unions.

This fight must start on the local scale, as it has already in several cities. The local CIO, AFL, and Railroad Brotherhoods should get together in every community for joint action. At the same time they must demand militant, united struggle on a national scale through a National Conference of Labor. Labor CAN win, if it stands united and fights.

# Philadelphia SWP Issues Emergency Call To Labor To Fight City's Proposed Transit Fare Increases

By Max Geldman

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25—The Philadelphia Branch of the Socialist Workers Party and the Militant Labor Forum today took the initiative in calling all labor, veterans, civic and consumers organizations to an Emergency Action Conference, Saturday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m. at 1303 W. Girard Ave. to consider means and ways of resisting the proposed fare increases by PTC, the city's transportation monopoly.

The profit-greedy corporation proposes to raise fares on all city trolley, bus and subway lines from the present two fares for 15 cents to four for 35 cents, or 10 cents straight fare on four separate points.

## THE TIME IS SHORT

The call for emergency action declared: "Immediate action is needed to prevent fare increases by the PTC. The time is short. The deadline is Feb. 5. The matter is now in the hands of the Public Utilities Commission. Unless the PUC acts before Feb. 5, the Philadelphia Transportation Company will put its proposed fare increases into effect.

"The fare increase will come out of the meager wages of Philadelphia working people already over-taxed and harassed by the rising cost of living. The fare increases mean an income loss to every Philadelphia resident dependent on PTC for transportation.

"The PTC transit monopoly is engaged in a brazen raid on the pockets of the helpless people of Philadelphia. We must halt this raid. We must act before it is too late.

"Only united action can prevent our city transit monopoly, swollen with war-time profits, from getting away with its greedy raid on the earnings of the people in our community. There is no time to lose. WE MUST ACT NOW!"

## FOR SPEEDY ACTION

PTC's fare increase demands are so obviously unjustified that even the Republican City Administration has been forced to go on record against it. An injunction was asked by the city last week and PTC has been given until Tuesday by Chief Justice George W. Maxey of the Supreme Court, to show cause why an injunction should not be issued, barring it from putting the new rates into effect.

Those most familiar with the workings of the Public Utilities Commission doubt that it will place any obstacles in the way of PTC getting its demanded fare increase. The danger exists that a deal may take place between the PUC, the City Administration and PTC under which the traction company will get its demands and the City administration and PUC save face at the expense of the picked pockets of Philadelphia residents. At best little reliance can be placed on any effective struggle to be carried out by the city officials. Only speedy united action on the part of labor and other interested organizations can prevent the coming fare hike.

**FLINT**  
"The Road Ahead For American Labor"  
Speaker:  
**Bert Cochran**  
Former CIO Leader  
Sunday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.  
215 East 9th St.

**AKRON**  
Dance - Social  
Saturday, Feb. 8  
8 S. Howard St.

## Hands Off Indo-China!



Part of the contingent of 125 Socialist Workers Party members and sympathizers who participated last Saturday in a picket-line demonstration before the French Consulate in New York City to protest French imperialist butchery of the Indo-Chinese people. (Story on P. 1.) Photo by H. Kosower

## Meat Trust's Profits Anger Packing Workers

By M. Limton  
(Special to The Militant)

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 25—Announcement that Armour & Co. in 1946 netted \$30,291,128 profits—highest in its history despite the meat famine imposed by the packing trust—was received with indignation by the organized packinghouse workers of this area.

After drawn-out negotiations with the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, Armoors and the other "Big Four" packing corporations (Swift, Cudahy and Wilson) granted a 7½-cent hourly wage increase, plus additional concessions on holidays with pay, elimination of some geographical wage differentials, sick leave, etc. But two of the most important demands, for a cost-of-living bonus (a form of escalator clause) and a guaranteed annual wage, were lost in the negotiations.

Despite popular support of the escalator clause among the under-paid packinghouse workers, the UPWA-CIO leaders quickly accepted the minor gains in order to reach a settlement without a strike. Completely underestimating the membership's militancy, the UPWA leaders attempted to bluff the packers with strike threats, but grabbed at any offer they could use to convince the workers of a "great victory."

Dissatisfaction with the company's offer was shown in the UPWA National Strike Strategy Committee, where several members are reported to have voted against the packers' proposals and urged a fight for the union's original demands. The top leadership headed by UPWA President Ralph Helstein, former lawyer for the union, pushed through acceptance of the packers' inadequate offer.

Even so, this vote of 706 compares favorably with the vote of 581 for Myra Tanner Weiss the year before, especially since these are write-in votes. Also encouraging was the high vote of 139 in the 62nd Assembly District, where the party is well known and respected among the Negro population.

Figures from other parts of the state are not yet available, but a report from San Francisco states that the vote of the party was counted in one district only. The four General Motors UAW locals here only AC Spark plug Local has put off action on building a Labor Party in this area until a referendum of the membership is taken.

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Rumblings of discontent are being heard among the UPWA ranks as they find their measly 7½-cent increase already being eaten up by rising prices. They are talking about renewing their demand for a cost-of-living bonus next April when the contract can be reopened for new wage demands.

**CONFERENCE CALL**

The Labor Party Committee of Chevrolet Local 659, which initiated the movement, has issued a call for a conference of the committees of all locals to map out further plans for strengthening the Labor Party campaign.

Among proposals to be considered is the election this April of three members to the Board of Education.

The Chevrolet committee adopted a strong resolution which it is sending to all local unions in Michigan. It was distributed to the delegates at the last Flint CIO Council meeting.

The Conference was called by the CIO Rubber Workers Firestone Local 100 for the express purpose of nominating candidates to be endorsed by the CIO Council for the April city elections. Although a large outpouring of Stalinists blocked its original purpose of nominating candidates, the Conference in itself represented a tremendous move forward for the idea of independent labor candidates.

**LABOR CANDIDATES**

For the first time in local labor history, leading unions met to discuss endorsement of capitalist party candidates, but their own candidates. The proposal to run independent labor candidates had been endorsed in advance by the Ford and General Motors auto workers locals, Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone rubber workers locals, the steelworkers Amalgamated local, the executive board of the Con-

## Ball--"Good Right Arm" Of Senate Labor-Haters

Bitterly anti-labor Republican Senator Joseph Hurst Ball appeared in the national political arena for the first time at the age of 34, when Governor Stassen of Minnesota appointed him to the U.S. Senate in 1940 to complete the term of Farmer-Laborite Ernest Lundeen, killed in an airplane crash.

Within six years Ball achieved nation-wide notoriety as one of the most rabid anti-labor politicians in the Senate, becoming the right-hand lieutenant of Robert A. Taft, boss of the Senate Republican machine and presidential aspirant for 1948.

The gangling, big-boned politician stands out on the Senate floor. With his shaggy eyebrows and undershot jaw, he reminds observers of Boris Karloff; but associates claim he is pleasant and affable.

Fresh out of college at the age of 22, Ball began his career as a reporter on the *Minneapolis Journal*. A year later he was free-lancing, and then in 1929 he made the payroll of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and Dis-

### WALL ST. CHAIN

These papers are part of a chain owned by Ridder Brothers, Inc., publishers of the *N. Y. Journal of Commerce*. Ferdinand Lundberg, in his authoritative book *America's 60 Families*, reports that the entire chain "is directly oriented in its editorial policy toward Wall Street."

For five years Ball practised prostituting his pen on these capitalist rags. Then came the great Minneapolis Teamsters strike of the summer of 1934. Led by the Trotskyists (outstanding figures were the Dunne brothers and Farrell Dobbs, now editor of *The Militant*), these strikes paved the way for the meteoric growth of the Teamsters Union in the Northwest. Minneapolis was converted from



BALL

a notorious open-shoppers' paradise into a union town.

Apparently these events opened Ball's eyes to the mighty power inherent in labor; and he saw too the great lengths the capitalists will go in battling unionism. Possibly he glimpsed the vast funds the capitalists are willing to expend for anti-labor purposes. Opportunity knocked at the door.

This same year Ball was made state political writer for the *Pioneer Press* and *Dispatch*, holding this position until he was promoted to the Senate.

### ANTI-LABOR SPECIALIST

In Congress, Ball has specialized on legislation designed to crack the spine of the labor movement. On Dec. 31, 1944, the press reported his views as follows: "It has been my conviction since 1941 that our Government's labor relations policy for the duration of the war should be written into law, applying alike to all parties and with adequate provisions to assure compliance."

Ball was not simply blowing his top. He has done his ut-

most to convert the dictatorial war-time laws into permanent legislation.

On June 20, 1945, together with Senators Burton and Hatch, Ball introduced a measure based on a "five-point" program drafted by the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It was one of the most sweeping anti-labor measures ever introduced in the Senate.

### GRINDS WALL STREET AXE

This bill failed to pass. But Ball continued to grind the axe for Wall Street. The 80th Congress had barely convened when he submitted a measure to outlaw the closed shop and all its variations, and another bill to ban industry-wide bargaining, thereby chopping the unions up into bits incapable of effectively resisting the onslaught of Big Business.

Besides these measures, Ball is co-author with Taft and Smith of the anti-labor Senate Bill No. 55 which is now being rushed through hearings.

Ball is likewise one of the crew pressing for a law to make political expenditures by trade unions a criminal offense. As a professional anti-labor politician, he understands only too well what would happen to Wall Street's reactionary schemes if the unions begin moving seriously on the road to a Labor Party. Ball is doing his utmost to crush such a development in the egg.

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### Auto Locals Push Campaign To Build Flint Labor Party

By Jerry Kirk  
(Special to The Militant)  
FLINT, Mich., Jan. 24—Meetings of two CIO United Auto Workers locals here this week took steps to implement the program of building the Labor Party in the Sixth Congressional District of Michigan.

The Buick local, carrying out a decision of its previous meeting, elected a 10-man Labor Party committee, including Cliff Rock, editor of the union's paper, and other prominent members.

The Fisher Local instructed its present PAC committee to collaborate with the Labor Party Committees of other locals.

Along with elections of district plant committeemen, Chevrolet local is nearing completion of elections of 50 district Labor Party organizers. They will be called together as a policy-making body when elections are over.

### Labor Candidates Discussed By Los Angeles CIO Unions

By Al Lynn  
(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 24—Genuine independent labor political action moved a step closer to realization in this area with a conference this week attended by many CIO unions to consider labor's need for its own political representatives. Another important step is the entry into the City Council elections of a rubber worker backed by the CIO.

The Conference was called by the CIO Rubber Workers Firestone Local 100 for the express purpose of nominating candidates to be endorsed by the CIO Council for the April city elections. Although a large outpouring of Stalinists blocked its original purpose of nominating candidates, the Conference in itself represented a tremendous move forward for the idea of independent labor candidates.

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## TRADE UNION NOTES

Dozens of CIO National Maritime Union ship crews and port locals are repudiating false reports sent by Stalinist agents to the NMU Pilot regarding the rank-and-file's position on NMU President Curran's resignation from the Stalinist-dominated, misnamed "Committee for Maritime Unity." The members are overwhelmingly for Curran's stand—which is why the Stalinist majority on the NMU National Council is trying to block a membership referendum.

The Jan. 17 Pilot reports that following its previous publication of a statement against Curran "signed by 100 crew members" of the S.S. America, it received a petition signed by 452 crew members of the S.S. America who "do hereby support Joseph Curran" on "the stand he has taken concerning the Committee of Maritime Unity."

NMU militants will be especially pleased to hear that the crew of the S.S. Washington voted three to one against the Stalinists, because the Stalinist whip on this ship was Danny Boano. He was written up with warm praise by the reactionary Collier's magazine in April 1945 for his "fine work" on behalf of the shipowners when he headed the wartime NMU "leadership" school. The title of the article, describing Boano's "educational" work, was "Readin', Writin' and No Strikin'."

The Jan. 23 Journal of Commerce, leading Wall Street newspaper, carried an interview with Frank Fenton, AFL national organization director. Fenton revealed that the AFL craft bureaucrats are contemplating a big drive against the CIO in industrial unions, despite the need for labor unity to halt new anti-labor laws. The AFL big-wigs will attempt to discredit the CIO by blaming it for the Congressional anti-labor drive. They have already joined the National

Association of Manufacturers in attacking the Nathan report on which the CIO bases its just demands for higher wages.

A front page editorial in the Jan. 13 Ohio Works Organizer, organ of CIO Steelworkers Local 1330, Youngstown, O., has the right answer to corporation lies about not being able to pay higher wages. The Organizer writes:

"The corporations claim that they cannot give a wage increase without increasing the prices of the products. They lie because figures show that labor costs per ton in the steel mills have gone down even though the workers received an 18½-cent raise. Will they deny this? Then let us request that they let us look into their books, as the automobile workers union did last year when it fought the General Motors corporation. This they will oppose bitterly because they know what the books will reveal."

The bitter strike of California redwood lumber workers, members of the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, entered its second year on Jan. 14. All labor should support these courageous and self-sacrificing union fighters. The union's Redwood District Council greeted the strike anniversary with a resolution stating: "All we have to say is that there will be picketing of these mills until they agree to an agreement that is satisfactory to our members of the Union, if it takes until 1957 OR LONGER."

More than 2,000,000 American workers were disabled by work injuries in 1946, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on Jan. 22. This toll of the speed-up and bad safety conditions cost, in addition to the vast physical suffering, an annual loss of 237,000,000 man-days of work, compared to 113,000,000 due to strikes or lockouts. No headlines in the boss press though.

## 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 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 strike-breaking!  
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!

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# How Stalinism Tramples On Lenin's Work

By M. Stein

Text of the speech delivered at the Lenin Memorial Meeting held by the Socialist Workers Party in New York City on Jan. 24:

On the eve of the October Revolution in 1917, just before the Workers and Peasant Councils, the Soviets, kicked out the provisional government of Kerensky, Lenin found the time to write a pamphlet entitled *State and Revolution*. It was a blistering polemic against the would-be Marxists who falsified and betrayed the revolutionary ideas and principles of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism.

Lenin's opening remarks in this pamphlet sound like a prophecy of what was to happen to Lenin himself, after his death. Here is what he said:

"During the lifetime of great revolutionaries the oppressing classes have visited relentless persecution on them and received their teachings with the most savage hostility, with the most furious hatred, the most ruthless campaign of lies and slanders. After their death, attempts are made to turn them into harmless icons, canonize them, and surround their names with a certain halo for the 'consolation' of the oppressed classes and with the object of duping them while at the same time emasculating and vulgarizing the real effect of their revolutionary theories and blunting their revolutionary edge."

When Lenin died Stalin summoned the best experts of that time to embalm Lenin's body. Lenin's body was placed in a glass-covered casket in a marble mausoleum on the Red Square in Moscow. The Soviet masses were given a chance to view Lenin's body, to pay homage to Lenin's corpse.

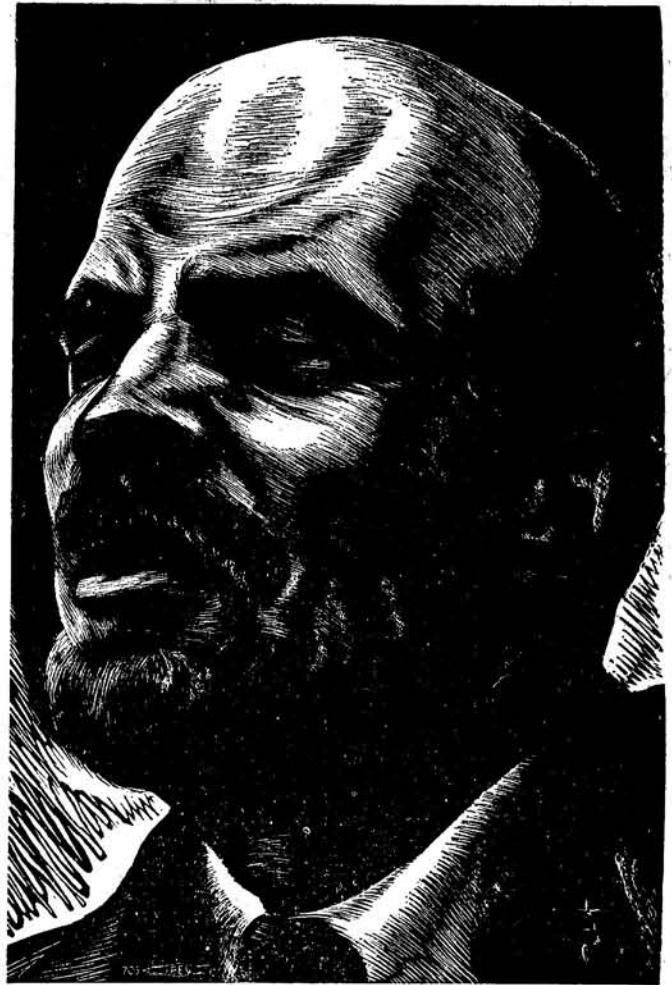
But what happened to Lenin's ideas? What happened to his revolutionary doctrine? What happened to his teachings? What happened to the Russian Revolution he led?

#### HIS COMRADES PURGED

Everything Lenin ever believed in has been trampled under Stalin's heavy boots.

All of Lenin's comrades-in-arms have been purged. They fell before the firing squads of the secret police. Their names have been blemished. Their places were taken by careerists, by unscrupulous bureaucrats who have defiled everything Lenin stood for. Lenin's party was destroyed. In its place is a hollow bureaucratic machine.

What happened to the Soviet power? To the workers' democracy created by the Russian Revolution? The Soviets have been purged over and over again



V. I. LENIN

until they have disappeared as genuine organs of workers' power.

What happened to the Red Army, the army of the revolution? Leon Trotsky organized and led to victory? This army was the army of working-class emancipation. It was the most democratic army in the world. Privates and commanders were equals—comrades-in-arms fighting for Socialism. Stalin restored in the army the heinous privileged officer caste, with its gold braid and shining epaulets. The army of liberation became under Stalin—the army of oppression. And this "genial leader" himself donned a gaudy uniform and ordered that he be called generalissimo.

#### CONQUESTS OVERTHROWN

It would take hours merely to recite all the conquests of the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia which have been overthrown since Lenin died. The Revolution was so thorough-going that it encompassed every aspect of the people's lives. Even today—after 23 years of Stalinist reaction—the revolution still survives in the economic foundation of the Soviet Union. Stalin's reactionary policies inside the Soviet Union were extended outside into the Com-

unist Parties all over the world. From parties of revolution they were transformed into their opposite—into pliant servants of imperialism.

Lenin devoted a major part of his life's work to restoring the real Marx, defending Marx's revolutionary spirit and his great liberating ideas. He spent the major part of his life fighting the opportunist Social Democracy, the Mensheviks and everyone else who tried to make a bourgeois liberal out of Marx.

#### TROTSKYIST TASK

Today this task, the task of restoring Lenin to his real stature, of building a party that truly bases itself on Lenin's doctrines—this task is today the work of the Trotskyists. And if we are today spending a good deal of our time in struggling against Stalinism, we are doing so entirely in the spirit of Lenin.

Lenin was merciless in unmasking the fakers and the traitors in labor's ranks. He never mincimed words in exposing the true role of those who, while parading under a socialist banner, deceive the masses into supporting the capitalists, their parties, their wars, their oppression.

Take, for example, one of the most recent crimes: the French imperialist war to subdue the

natives who are fighting for independence in Indo-China. The Stalinists are now the biggest party in France. They control the trade union movement there. The French capitalists could never carry on this war against the people of Indo-China if they did not have the support of the Communist Party. Thorez and the other Stalinists in the cabinet need only tell their fellow ministers: "Stop this war or else. Stop this war or we'll call on the workers to stop it." But the Stalinist traitors in France have forgotten how to speak the language of militant struggle. They are today respectable ministers administering the affairs of imperialist France.

The other day a new coalition government was formed in France and the Stalinists have taken for themselves the Ministry of National Defense. Think of it—the Ministry of National Defense in the cabinet of the Fourth French Imperialist Republic! Whom are they going to defend, and against what? It can mean only one thing—the defense of the French empire and its imperialist interests against the native peoples in the Orient. The defense of the French empire against Germany. And let us not forget—it also means the defense of the empire against the workers at home. The function of the capitalist state is first and foremost to protect the privileged few against the masses.

#### NOT LENIN'S POLICY

Can anyone by any stretch of imagination conceive that this is the policy Lenin would follow? Why, there is not even a remote resemblance between this and Leninism. This is its direct opposite. Lenin was a champion of workers' power. He never supported participation in capitalist coalition governments. One of the main slogans of the Russian Revolution was: Break with the capitalist ministers. Lenin directed his fire against the Mensheviks and against Kerensky who, while claiming to represent the workers and the peasants, served as ministers in coalition governments. Lenin aimed his fire so well that he finally blasted them out of their government posts.

#### "BACK TO FDR!"

At the Madison Square Garden meeting which the Stalinists called the other day out of old habit to desecrate Lenin's anniversary, Foster made a speech in which he accused Truman of betraying Roosevelt's program. **Back to FDR!** This is the slogan of the American Stalinists. Can anyone square this with Lenin's fight against the subordination of the working class to the liberal capitalists? The Stalinists strive desperately for the right to belong to the liberal capitalist camp. They are not wanted. They are kicked in the teeth. But they continue to beg for the right to participate. With Roosevelt gone, they are desperately hanging on to Wallace's coattails. But Lenin carried on a different kind of struggle. He fought the Mensheviks because they clung to the liberal capitalists. Lenin fought for working-class independence and self-reliance.

Lenin is remembered the world over as the leader of the Russian Revolution, as the leader of the first workers' state. The Russian Revolution came only as the culmination of many years of preparatory work—years of ideological conflict, of struggle for program. In those days Lenin often found himself isolated in a small group in exile.

#### LENIN PREPARED

Lenin's role in the Russian Revolution would have been in-

conceivable were it not for the years of preparation, of ideological struggle against the Mensheviks and the liberal capitalists. On the basis of this struggle and through this struggle he hardened his party, imbued it with irreconcilable revolutionary spirit, with self-confidence, with a will to victory. During the worst years of isolation, and reaction experienced by Lenin's party between 1906 and 1912, Lenin never lost heart. He remained sure of victory.

His was not a blind faith. He knew that capitalism, the system of exploitation and oppression and war, could deceive the masses only so long as the truth remained concealed from them.

Lenin therefore tirelessly opposed the truth to the capitalist lies.

And what is more, he knew that the capitalist system must collapse because it has reached the point where it can no longer improve the living standards of the people. On the contrary, it can lead only to greater misery, pauperization, and outright annihilation of mankind in disastrous wars. He knew that capitalism had to be destroyed, or else humanity itself would be destroyed by capitalism.

This is what Lenin meant when he said that this is the epoch of wars and revolutions. This is the epoch when either capitalism will be overthrown or there

will be more devastating, more annihilating wars, one upon another. And we clearly see this today. World War II is over, but who is fool enough to believe that we have peace? Another war is in the making, a far more devastating war—a war in which all the great technological improvements, the very latest inventions, will be employed, to wipe out what survived World War II.

#### MUST CHOOSE SOCIALISM

Look at the great discovery of atomic energy. It's a wonderful thing. It has the potentiality of liberating mankind from hard toil and drudgery, of sealing man's mastery of nature. But

what happens to this great discovery under capitalism? It was first introduced to the world at Hiroshima and Nagasaki by wiping out in two blinding flashes, two teeming cities, with their inhabitants—men, women and children.

Lenin, knowing full well that humanity must in the end choose socialism as against barbarism, prepared his party for the showdown and when the showdown came in October 1917, he was firm and resolute in the struggle for power. He thereby led the workers in transforming one-sixth of the earth's surface and changed the whole relationship of forces on a world scale. (To be concluded next week.)

## Belgium's Biggest Postwar Strike Won By 14,000 Dock Workers

By H. Vallin

(Special to *The Militant*)

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Jan. 17—The stubborn, four-week strike waged by the dock-workers of Antwerp against great odds, has ended in the greatest strike victory in this country since the "liberation."

The strike began on Dec. 13, when 14,000 dockworkers walked off their jobs despite their reformist union leaders' efforts to stop them. The dispute began over the unloading of particularly heavy goods, but the actual cause was low wages in the face of rising prices. The dockworkers were getting only 156 francs a day, which meant their wages were less than twice the pre-war level, while prices had jumped over four times that level.

After the union bureaucrats had proved helpless to end the

strike, the government, led by the "socialist" Huysmans, sent 2,000 troops to the Antwerp docks to unload perishable goods. This was intended to intimidate the strikers as well as to check the paralyzing of the most important port on the continent.

All financial support was denied to the strikers. Trade union funds were barred to them and under an act introduced by the Stalinist minister Marteaux last year, the government refused them unemployment relief for taking part in an "unauthorized"

strike. The government, bosses on their demands, the bosses were compelled to acknowledge defeat. They offered a substantial increase in the basic rate, a special travel premium, higher premiums for heavy and dangerous work. Altogether these concessions amounted to a raise of over 30 per cent. No dock-worker will earn less than 200 francs under these gains.

Another strike meeting took place on Jan. 11, with more than 11,000 present, including many women. After the bureaucrats recommended a return to work, Doremans asked for permission to speak, but the bureaucrats had him forcibly ejected by the police. To protest this shameful procedure, more than 5,000 dockworkers left the hall with him. After that the meeting voted, by 5,000 to 1,000, to return to work.

While the union leaders, CP and SP called for the end of the strike, the PCI showed conclusively that it was the only organization in the country consistently defending the workers' interests. Its energetic and persistent work was responsible for forcing the union bureaucrats to change their attitude to the strikers and for frightening the employers to offer concessions to prevent development of mass influence for the Trotskyists.

Over 8,000 strikers attended the meeting called by the union leaders. Boed by the audience, these bureaucrats claimed they had tried "to bring the strikers out of the bad situation they had got themselves into." They said they had finally asked the bosses for a premium of 24 francs for travel outside of work hours, and since the bosses had turned it down, they now were going to recognize the strike and authorize payment of strike benefits.

#### DENOUNED BUREAUCRATS

Backed by the 8,000 strikers, the militant unionist Doremans denounced the bureaucrats for trying to take over and beathead a movement they had betrayed at the beginning. He urged the strikers to fight for wage raises that would keep up with rising costs and ended with an appeal for a general strike to achieve this. This speech attracted much attention in the capitalist press.

Since the workers stood firm

name of Juan Lechin, against his will, on his vice-presidential ballot. Lechin has stated publicly that he reserves the right to prosecute them in criminal action.

The victory of the Stalinists (PIR) in different rural areas should not be interpreted as a sign of strength. It only denotes the growing political consciousness of the peasants who support the opportunists against the USSR state which was backed by the landowners. This very victory shows the inconsistencies of Stalinism, since the revolutionary road to the peasants is through the working class. In the mining centers the PIR has suffered some crushing defeats.

Thus, for example, Jose Antonio Arze, chief of the PIR, was defeated in the senatorial election in Oruro by the Proletarian United Front candidate, Juan Lechin.

The Bolivian Workers Socialist Party, led by Tristan Maroff, is to the left of the Stalinists. But it is more adventurous than revolutionary, and it has failed throughout the country and will not have a single representative in Parliament. With the heightening of the crisis, as Trotsky foresaw, the centrists must fold.

Against the candidates presented by the capitalists has risen the Proletarian United Front, which is supported by the RWP. This united front abstained from the presidential and vice-presidential election, and has instead, intervened in the electoral struggle in various mining centers.

**SOME VICTORIES**

Although formed only recently, the Proletarian United Front has nevertheless gained some outstanding victories, which show clearly the power of the revolutionary upsurge, sweeping Bolivia. The Bolivian upsurge heralds the revolutionary wave approaching in all of Latin America. In spite of the fabulous resources at the disposal of both capitalist parties, in spite of all the wire-pulling, all the deceit, so classic in Bolivian elections, several revolutionary workers' representatives will go to the next Parliament. They are:

Deputies: Guillermo Lora (RWP) from Bustillos. Humberto Salamanca (RWP) from Dalence. Javier Aspasia (RWP) from Larecaja.

A. Costa de la Torre (miner) from Pacajes.

Analí Vargas (miner) from Sud Chichas.

Mario Torrez (miner) from Quillarro.

Senators: Juan Lechin (miner) elected both in Potosi and in Oruro—in both by majority.

Lucio Mendiola (RWP) second majority in Potosi.

As compared to the number of Stalinist deputies that may come to more than 30, these representatives will, perhaps seem very few. But their importance is enormous. This is the first time that Trotskyist deputies will enter the Bolivian Parliament. And as far as I know—Bolivia is the first country in the Western Hemisphere to have Trotskyists in its Congress.

The gas workers of "Barceloneta," a maritime district of Barcelona, started a stay-in strike. The workers of the paper factory, "Godo," which is the owner of one of Barcelona's main newspapers, also went on strike.

Though the employers are forbidden to come to any agreement with striking workers, in the end they always agree to the workers' demands for better wages and better food.

The police intervene against the strikers. Sometimes they throw the workers out of the factories; sometimes they stage mass arrests. But more than once they have had to release the workers because the workers refused to leave the factories while their fellow-workers were kept in detention.

During these elections there were other factors present which are worthy of mention:

The Revolutionary Nationalist Movement (recently deposited from the government), has been defeated in the entire Republic and will have only one deputy,

in spite of having utilized the

U. S. and British diplomats are preparing "to woo Poland's Socialist party . . . as a result of the Peasant party's eclipse in Sunday's elections," according to a dispatch from Warsaw in the Jan. 25 N. Y. Times. Apparently the U. S.-British governments feel that Mikolajczyk and his Peasant party have outlived their usefulness as a means of exerting pressure on the Stalinist-controlled Polish government. Mikolajczyk's organization, credited with only 10 per cent of more than 11 million votes cast in the election, claims it was cheated of a majority of the votes through terror, intimidation and fraud.

In the Brazilian elections last week the Stalinists and Stalinist-backed candidates polled between 16 and 20 per cent of the 5,000,000 votes cast, despite vicious attacks by President Dutra and the Catholic Church. The CP vote has doubled in the last 13 months.

The general strike of Japan's government employees, scheduled for Feb. 1, was temporarily canceled last week as the union agreed to negotiate further on the basis of the government's offer of a 25 per cent wage increase and other concessions.

The threatened strike would have paralyzed the nation's railway transport, communications, water and sanitary services.

The Indian Assembly which is supposed to draw up a constitution met again last week, with the Moslem League still absent, used some "bold" language about having the "firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an independent sovereign republic."

Nothing about this resolve and adjourned until April.

The Indo-Chinese struggle for independence has the support of all the masses in the Far East.

In Burma a voluntary expeditionary force to go to the aid of Viet Nam was organized early last month. A students' "Viet Nam Day" march was violently attacked by police in Calcutta last week; one was killed,

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## International Notes

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## THE MILITANT

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"We have entered an epoch when the periods of economic revival are short-lived, while the periods of depression become deeper and deeper."

—Leon Trotsky

## Aid The SWP Fund

Big Business is pouring millions of dollars into the anti-labor campaign. The corporations made heavy contributions to the campaign funds of the Republican and Democratic Congressmen who are pushing through the vicious anti-union legislation in Washington. The entire capitalist press, controlled by millionaires and subsidized by the big advertisers, is filled with poisonous propaganda designed to turn public opinion against the unions and help deprive the working class of its hard-won rights.

The American labor movement was never in greater need of capable leadership and staunch defenders. The Socialist Workers Party and The Militant have undertaken to arouse the ranks of labor for a unified counter-offensive against the anti-union forces.

But the Socialist Workers Party does not have any of the vast financial resources placed at the disposal of the Republicans and Democrats by the capitalists. It must carry on its important work under great material difficulties and handicaps.

The Socialist Workers Party has been extremely hard-hit by the inflation. Publishing costs, for example, have almost doubled since early 1945 and the printers have just sent notice of another big increase. Costs of other activities have gone up proportionately.

To meet this emergency, the Socialist Workers Party has launched a campaign to raise \$20,000. Readers of The Militant have no doubt been following the progress of this campaign from week to week. A gratifying number have already made contributions to this Fund, either through the SWP branch in their city or directly to this paper.

Although this campaign is half over, less than half of the \$20,000 total has been received to date. Last week's results indicate that this lag is beginning to be overcome, and we confidently expect the rate of returns to mount in the weeks ahead.

But if the \$20,000 goal is to be attained, additional assistance is urgently needed from a greater number of Militant subscribers. You understand the important role of the Socialist Workers Party in mobilizing labor's ranks against the anti-union drive. You are acquainted with its sterling record in the fight to maintain and advance the rights and living standards of the workers. You have seen the members of the SWP in the forefront of the struggle against Jim Crow, anti-Semitism, and the fascist Gerald L. K. Smith. You know that the SWP points the way to a Socialist America and a Socialist world, free of war, poverty, national and race hate.

The continuation of all these activities depends upon prompt fulfillment of the \$20,000 Emergency Fund. We urge every reader to help by sending a contribution at once, care of The Militant, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

## Class Government

The government has publicly and demonstratively intervened in an attempt to sway the pending court decision on portal-to-portal pay. If the government can persuade Federal Judge Picard to reverse his decision in the Mt. Clemens Pottery case, then the profit-mongering capitalists are confident all the suits now pending for portal-to-portal back pay due millions of workers will be thrown out of court.

Judge Picard has been denounced, ridiculed and even threatened with impeachment. But government intervention in behalf of bosses under suit for back pay is the most spectacular and outrageous move in the high-pressure campaign to influence the judge.

The attitude of the capitalists and their government toward this judge who happened to rule in favor of the workers offers an instructive study by way of contrast to their attitude toward Judge Goldsborough who fined the United Mine Workers \$3,500,000. They applauded and cheered and hailed Goldsborough as the very acme of judicial wisdom.

Even if Judge Picard now reverses himself so that he can be approved by the coupon-clippers as "judicious," Wall Street does not intend to call off its dogs. Senator Caphart has announced that no matter what happens in the courts, the Republican Senate machine will proceed according to plan to cut out the heart of the Fair Labor Standards Act under

which Judge Picard made his decision.

By intervening with all its tremendous weight to make sure one judge gets properly lined up, the government has dramatically demonstrated how it acts as the instrument of monopoly capital.

## The War Crooks

We will certainly shed no tears if the U.S. courts throw the book at Andrew J. May, former chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, who was indicted last week for complicity in the war frauds of the \$78,000-Garson arms combine.

But we recognize the justification for his complaint that he did nothing that was not being done by all the rest of the Congressmen. If he is guilty — and the evidence is overwhelming — then so are they all guilty.

In a sense, May is simply being used as a fall-guy for the crimes of the whole war government. The spotlight of publicity is being concentrated on one criminal official who was associated with a relatively chicken-feed outfit. The biggest government crooks and grafters, those who turned the bulk of the war contracts over to the hundred largest corporations, are covering themselves up and trying to turn all attention to May and his small-time associates.

Giant monopolies like General Motors, which alone received over 13 billions in war contracts, or eight per cent of the total, didn't have to resort to the crude methods of the Garsons. General Motors or U.S. Steel or du Pont could simply refuse — and did refuse — to accept war contracts until they secured their price. These great monopolies controlled war production. It was the small-fry operators, like the Garsons, who had to use petty methods of bribery to dip their fingers in the war profits gravy bowl.

The prosecution of May and his war contractor associates is being pushed, in fact, by the political tools of the big war racketeers. They're preparing for World War III. They want to give the impression that the next war is going to be an "honest" one by sacrificing a few two-bit profiteers of this last war. And they want to discourage any small independent capitalists from horning in on the war contracts next time.

After World War I there was a series of investigations of the scandalous war profiteering and graft. Not one of the big crooks was put behind bars. They were left free to enjoy their blood-drenched wealth and to reap new profits out of the agony of the second imperialist world war. The same thing is taking place now.

Only when the triumphant American working class takes power and throws open the hidden records of the capitalist government war agencies and the corporations, will the full facts be made known. Only when the big war criminals stand before the bar of working class justice will they pay the penalties for their abominations against mankind.

## Student Of Hitler

Last year Drew Pearson, the Washington columnist, revealed that Eugene Talmadge, who had then won the Democratic Party primary for Governor of Georgia, "boasts he read *Mein Kampf* seven times, makes no secret of being a student of Hitler methods."

His son, Herman Talmadge, "pretender" to the Governor's seat made vacant by the death of Talmadge the Elder, has proved to be a genuine chip off the old block. As the ousted Governor Ellis Arnall describes young Talmadge's usurpation of power: "This is a deliberate experiment of whether Nazi methods and the methods of the Columbians can be used to seize the government by force. That was the formula in Italy and Germany."

The dictatorial pattern continues to unwind in Georgia. Accused of violating the will of the people, Talmadge has responded with a favorite device of dictators—the offer to hold a plebiscite.

How worthless plebiscites are in general can be judged from those conducted by Hitler which invariably returned big "ja" majorities with the help of terror and intimidation. Talmadge's proffered plebiscite would prove no exception.

First of all it would not be conducted as a general election with all parties free to appear on the ballot and the citizenry free to vote for a candidate of their choice. It would be confined to a primary of the Democratic Party.

Secondly, it would be a lily-white poll with hundreds of thousands of American citizens barred because of color.

But not even these dictatorial provisions complete the "catches" in Talmadge's offer. Among the white oligarchy of the Democratic Party, those in rural areas would receive a weighted vote to cut down the strength of those in the cities.

This would seem sufficient guarantee. However, the Georgia student of Hitler's methods intended to take not even the remotest chance. The primary would be conducted by the Democratic State Executive Committee, a body utterly subservient to Talmadge. They would appoint all the election officials, compile the vote, and—of course—announce the result.

But not even this completed the picture. Backed by powerful, labor-hating Georgia industrial and financial interests, Talmadge appears to have unlimited funds to grease an electoral machine so that the vote turns out "right." Already charges have been hurled publicly in Georgia of the role huge bribes played in convincing the Legislature it should rubber-stamp the usurpation of power.

M. E. Thompson, who would be the contestant in the plebiscite, has been described as a "liberal." But Thompson is not one whit cleaner than his foul rival. Thompson is a "liberal" who stands committed to Talmadge's lynch law program of Negro-hating, Jew-baiting, anti-labor, Jim Crow, white supremacy. He has refused to participate in the proposed plebiscite only because he sees nothing to gain from it.



## Workers' BOOKSHELF

CASUALTY by Robert Lowry, New Direction, 1946, 153 pp., \$2.

This first novel will not be liked by the brass hats or literary pimps still trying to cover up the true nature of the recent war. But millions of veterans will be able to recognize it as the best and most honest book yet written about the U. S. Army in World War II.

The plot is very simple. Snow falling over Italy in January, 1945 grounds the Air Force reconnaissance planes at the San Ciao airfield on the Foglia Plain. This stops the war temporarily at the field, giving the men time to think and making them restless and discontented.

A general comes on an inspection tour of the field. The commanding officer, Colonel Polaski, who feels insecure about his position, is worried about the inspection and its possible effects on his own ambition to become a general. Every unit has been warned in advance and the inspection goes off fairly well.

When the general comes through the photographic developing room, it is a beehive of activity, turning out photographs at mass production—even though it is a complete waste of paper and 70 men's time for they are old photographs, re-developed now only to make the inspection look good. Still, the colonel sees many things he does not like.

At the same time young Corporal Johnny Conkle gets a letter from his girl, telling him she is going to marry someone else. Broken-hearted, he gets drunk, although he is to go on guard that afternoon.

He is found in this condition by his two tent-mates—Pfc. Joe Hammond, who works in the public relations office and is becoming conscious of a great hatred for the Army and its caste system, and Sgt. Carlyle, who takes the Army seriously and does all his tasks conscientiously. Because the officer in charge

of the guard is a new man, Joe volunteers to take Johnny's place on guard that night; although it is against regulations, Carlyle finally consents because he does not want to get the reputation of a rat by turning his tentmate in.

But that night Colonel Polaski, still upset by the inspection and fears about his own future, suddenly decides to inspect the guard himself. He recognizes Joe, discovers Carlyle permitted Joe to go on guard in Johnny's name, and court-martials them. Joe is reduced to a private. So is Carlyle, for probably the one friendly human act in his life.

Joe is also transferred from the PRO to a job washing jeeps. He doesn't mind that because it is morally cleaner work. As he left to report to the motor pool, the snow had stopped and military activity was being resumed. But he felt no connection with it all. He wasn't on either side of this war—it was their war, the war of men he hated, like Polaski.

But, he checked himself, was he saying this because he had been hit personally? "But no, he thought, he'd been against it all along. He'd been human, that was all. He'd not wanted to make a stand, to be a conscientious objector, to tear himself away from the experience of his fellow men. He had wanted the experience if the rest of the world was to have it... But it's a blank experience, he thought . . .

Instead of going to the motor pool, Joe stops at some bars, gets drunk and is hit and killed by an Army truck. He is another casualty of the war, one of the great number inflicted not by the enemy, but by the Army system itself.

This novel deserves a very wide distribution, especially now when the brass hats are trying to further Prussianize the country by instituting peacetime conscription.

—George Breitman

SLAVE AND CITIZEN: THE NEGRO IN THE AMERICAS by Frank Tannenbaum, Alfred A. Knopf, 128 pp., 1947, \$2.

Another blow at the myth of racial superiority is struck by Frank Tannenbaum in this revealing account of Negro life in the Americas. He shows that while Negro slaves in the United States were confined to plantation and domestic labor, their brothers in Latin America, slave and free, were engaged in every occupation, including the professions of teaching, medicine and law.

In the United States they were held as chattels, with no more rights than cattle. In Latin America, they possessed a few human rights. For instance, slave families could not be broken up and sold separately; if brutally treated, slaves could sue for freedom, and sometimes win it. They could marry free whites, and they had the right to buy their freedom with money earned through holiday labor.

Tens of thousands of Negro slaves in Latin America today, it is a product mainly of Wall Street pressure, for Yankee imperialism strives to make its colonies reflect its own evils.

Tannenbaum slurs over the different material bases for slavery on the two continents. He prefers to see the cause of discrimination in "moral codes," without understanding that these codes themselves are part and parcel of the capitalist productive system. Nevertheless his book is an addition to the weapons against racial discrimination.

—Ruth Benson

## Congressmen At Work

## Streamlining Didn't Last Long

The appearance of Congress on a typical day invariably invites acid remarks from visitors in the galleries. Sometimes only a bare handful of Senators or Representatives are present, droning remarks into the record. Where are the rest of the law-makers?

Secondly, it would be a lily-white poll with hundreds of thousands of American citizens barred because of color.

But not even these dictatorial provisions complete the "catches" in Talmadge's offer. Among the white oligarchy of the Democratic Party, those in rural areas would receive a weighted vote to cut down the strength of those in the cities.

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63 with a comfortable income guaranteed for the rest of their lives, even though they may spend only a few years in Congress.

The 80th Congress is continuing the pay boost and the Social Security set up. But the streamlining didn't last very long. No sooner had appointments been made to the standing committees, than the Taft Senate machine moved the continuation of the War Investigating Committee. This special committee has begun the investigation of war frauds, etc., and the Taft machine wants it to continue this work. That is the laudable motive they offer the public.

Finally committees became so numerous, duplicated each other in so many fields, and accomplished so little, that they became a standing Washington joke. Last year Congress decided to "stream-line" itself, by consolidating the 33 Senate committees to 15 and the 48 House committees to 19, and limiting service of members on no more than two committees. The Congressional Reorganization Act, as it was called, quite incidentally boosted the salaries of Congressmen from \$10,000 a year to \$12,500 plus a \$2,500 tax-free expense account and \$8,000 for an administrative "assistant." In addition, Congress set up a Social Security system that permits ex-legislators to retire at

Government press agents. The real reasons for these special committees are not so public-spirited as the Republicans make out. Each committee gets sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars to hand out to political friends in carrying on "investigations." The Chairman of a committee gets a great deal of publicity, especially if his committee is assigned to uncover a little graft. The power to set up these committees, and to end them at will, thus gives Taft in the Senate and the Dewey forces in the House the means to consolidate their factional control.

Grinding their own factional axe, the Democrats pointed out that the War Investigating Committee covered a field already assigned to other committees, and that its work could easily be carried on by a regular committee.

But the Republicans paid little attention to Democratic arguments, although some of them bit sharply, knowing that if the Democrats were in the majority they too would proceed to tighten machine control of Congress in precisely the same way.

Thus the Act to "stream-line" Congress turned out to be nothing but camouflage to cover up the 50 per cent raise in pay, the 100 per cent boost in pay for the "assistant," and the social security provisions for Congressmen.

## When A Negro Was Mississippi's Senator

"... when Mississippi did have a Negro (U. S.) Senator... that Senator's eloquent appeal for fairness in elections was spread upon the record of Congress to supply a strange contrast with the doctrine of 'white supremacy' preached so violently nowadays by Mr. Bilbo," declared Bert Andrews in an article in the Jan. 18 *N. Y. Herald Tribune*.

The Negro Senator referred to was Blanche K. Bruce, who was born a slave in Virginia and elected as U. S. Senator from Mississippi (1875 to 1881) in the final days of the Reconstruction Era, before the Republicans and Democrats made their unholy deal to disfranchise the Negroes in the South.

Andrews demonstrates the difference between Bruce and Bilbo by quoting from their remarks on the question of elections:

Bruce: "But if it can be shown that we have used the ballot either to abridge the rights of our fellow citizens or to oppress them; if it shall appear that we have ever used our newly acquired power as a sword of attack and not as a shield of defense, then we may with some show of propriety be charged with incapacity, dishonesty or tyranny. But even then, I submit that the corrective is in the hands of the people, and not of a favored class, and the remedy is in the honest exercise of the ballot and not in fraud and violence."

Bilbo: "I said that the best time to keep a nigger away from a white primary in Mississippi was to see him the night before."

## Democratic Procedure And The Bilbo Fight

By George Breitman

The whole labor movement, the Negro people, the Jews and other minority groups rejoiced when Bilbo was prevented from taking a seat in the U. S. Senate last month. It was the mounting mass pressure that forced the Senate to take this action, and the masses of the people sensed this. At the same time they were dissatisfied with the Republican-Democratic compromise by which Bilbo

# 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.

## Rat Hordes Menace Akron Families

Editor:

A dangerous situation affecting the health of Akron is rapidly developing because of the failure of city authorities to deal with the rat problem. While the number of rats is increasing and while many of them are invading homes, the city authorities are passing the buck to the housing authority whose buildings, made of flimsy materials during the war, are easy prey for the rodents.

Last week the home of Paul Carmichael, 325 Hickory St., was invaded several times by rats that have eaten large holes in the walls in several places. The project where this home is located was built in an area almost completely surrounded by dumps which are being used by trash collectors. These dumps provide a feeding ground for rats.

**CITY TAX**

In addition, the city is very lax in removing garbage, sometimes allowing over a month to pass between collections. Carmichael told me:

"We are afraid to leave the children unwatched. I have placed traps near every hole in the house and have caught many large ones. The main problem is removing the garbage and the

dumps right in back of our house."

Other tenants reported seeing many rats in the area and hearing them underneath the houses and on the roofs. One tenant said, "In the summer time the rats run races up and down the walls and we can sit and place bets on them."

Other tenants reported seeing hordes of rats coming towards the houses from the dumps.

The tenants are aroused over the fact that the city officials are ignoring this problem which is a menace to the entire community. It is reported that they are preparing to organize to get some action.

**Milton Genachin**  
Akron, O.

## Belgian Reader Wants U.S. Correspondent

Editor:

I am a Belgian reader of The Militant who would like to exchange ideas about politics, literature, etc., with American comrades, masculine or feminine.

**A. C. Belgium**

**Editors' Note:** Any readers who wish to correspond with A. C. should address their first letters to THE MILITANT, and we will forward it.

**H. R. Brooklyn, N. Y.**

## Crimes Against Youth Discussed At Philadelphia Militant Forum

By Leonard Miller

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 24 — The Militant Labor Forum here last night heard a panel discussion on juvenile delinquency entitled "Young Criminals and Crimes Against Youth."

"The problem of juvenile delinquency," said George Lecompte, high school student and member of the Socialist Youth Group, "is the problem of a delinquent society. The educational system is 20 to 25 years behind the times. Youth is said to hold life cheaply — while it has been trained for five years to learn to kill. Youth today is afraid to make plans for the future. It sees ahead only war, the draft, and CCC camps."

Edith J. Blythe, of the Bureau of Colored Children, reported a lack of recreational facilities. "Young people are employed un-

**AKRON**  
EVERY SATURDAY  
8 So. Howard 8 p.m.  
Current Events  
Discussion

## Film Shown At Lenin Meeting In Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, Jan. 25 —

An enthusiastic meeting of almost 100 members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party commemorated the 23rd anniversary of the death of V. I. Lenin at a Memorial Meeting held in SWP headquarters here tonight. It was the largest meeting ever held by the Trotskyists in this city.

The two highlights of the evening were an address by Ted Selander, Cleveland SWP organizer, and a showing of the remarkable film history of the Russian Revolution of 1917, "Czar to Lenin."

This film of a tremendous event, which shows great masses of people in motion at a time when they would not take "No" for an answer, was warmly received and applauded by the audience.

Ted Selander, speaker of the evening, outlined in gripping fashion the history of the world working class movement for the last half-century and the effect of the Leninist program upon it. He also explained in forceful terms the need for Lenin's program today.

A greater number of Negro youth is reported delinquent. It is known that policemen are much more likely to arrest a Negro boy rather than a white boy for the same offense, or for no offense at all. Only socialism can offer the youth a creative future of friendship, love and security."

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

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

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

**DETROIT** — 6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m. .

**FLINT** — 215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

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

Friday, 8 p.m. — Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon. Phone Stevenson 5820.

**PITTSBURGH** — 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Office hours: Tues. and Thurs. 7 to 9 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 2 to 9 p.m.

**PORTLAND**, Ore. — Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711.

**SAN DIEGO** — Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

**SEATTLE** — 1919½ Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Tel. SE-0543 Library, bookstore.

Friday forum — 8 p.m.

**ST. LOUIS** — 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312, open Monday, 7:30-9:15 p.m.

Fridays, 8:15 p.m.: 1st and 3rd each month, open forum, 2nd and 4th, round table discussion.

**NEWARK** — 423 Springfield Ave. Phone B1gelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.

Friday night forum, 8:30.

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cussion, 8 p.m.

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Discussion on the SWP Pro-

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**BROOKLYN** — 635 Fulton St., phone ST. 3-7433.

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**PHILADELPHIA** — 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open

12-5 p.m., Monday through

Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

# New York And Boston Lead Banner Week Of \$20,000 National SWP Fund Campaign

By William F. Warde

NATIONAL FUND CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Last week was a banner one in the \$20,000 Emergency Fund Campaign for the Socialist Workers Party. \$1,713.57 was added to the scoreboard. This is the largest sum so far received in any single week of the campaign.

Total contributions now amount to \$7,525.14, or

38 per cent of the goal.

Thirteen cities collaborated in this considerable spurt in the campaign. Special distinction this week belongs to Boston and New York.

Boston climbed into the select circle of the 100 Per Cent Club along with St. Louis and Buffalo. "We were able to go over the top," says Jane Kitting, Boston's Fund Director, "thanks to the seriousness with which everyone here viewed the financial needs of the organization. Single people pledged an entire week's pay; married couples without children did the same; and those with family obligations made the maximum possible effort."

New York's Fund Director Duncan Conway writes: "Although we realize that percentages are decisive in the long run, and New York still has quite a way to go before joining the branches at the top of the column, we still feel justified in pointing with pride to the \$828.05 turned in last week. This is more than the total collected nationally in the previous week, and lifts our total to \$2,514.23, or 42 per cent."

"The comrades here are meeting this important task in a really inspiring way. We expect to be there on top with the other 100 per cent branches before the campaign ends."

Harlem branch held its second social for the Fund last Saturday night. Gloria Wall reports: "In addition to making \$25 for the Harlem quota, the social was gratifying because of the number of new friends and sympathizers it attracted. We were especially glad to greet so many members of the recently-formed Lenox Fifth Avenue Tenants League. They enjoyed themselves so well we were assured that at our next social there would be three times that many more in attendance."

Reading raised its percentage to 46 per cent by sending in \$25.40. "This includes money received from the comrades' pledges and donations from fellow-workers," writes Rose Russo.

The "General" category of the fund received a big boost through a \$500 donation from a New York supporter of the Socialist Workers Party. "What induced me most of all to make this contribution to your work," this sympathizer said, "is the remarkable role your party branches have played in mobilizing the labor movement to combat the poisonous activities of the would-be fascist leader, Gerald L. K. Smith. I firmly believe that only through such militant action can the menace of fascism be stopped in this country and that yours is the program that can do it."

Sam Taylor, the prize Militant salesman, mailed in a contribution of fifty cents from Betty Spry of Madison, Wisconsin.

From Flint, Genora Dollinger, Director of the Scotty Hunter Memorial Fund, sends a further payment of \$38. "Part of this comes from a very loyal sympathizer who makes a contribution to every party fund drive," she writes. "She has already raised \$12.50 from friends and acquaintances to aid the Party in this fund drive."

Several branches have attributed their slow start in the campaign to the fact that the first month fell in the Christmas season when there are so many other demands on an ordinary worker's income. Among these is St. Paul whose campaign director, J. Mertens, mailed in \$22.50 last week to bring up the local's mark to 38 per cent. At the same time Comrade Mertens expressed confidence that the branch will fulfill, and may possibly even slightly oversubscribe, its quota.

**\$20,000**

**15,000**

**10,000**

**5,000**

**1,000**

**\$7,525**

Jan. 27

## SCOREBOARD

BRANCH	QUOTA	PAID	PER CENT
ST. LOUIS	\$ 50	\$ 66.00	132
BOSTON	400	400.00	100
BUFFALO	700	700.00	100
Youngstown	500	367.00	73
Milwaukee	200	121.00	60
Pittsburgh	150	78.00	52
Minneapolis	670	335.00	50
Flint	200	94.50	47
Reading	150	68.40	46
Newark	300	132.00	44
New York Local	6,000	2,514.23	42
San Francisco	1,250	517.00	41
Rochester	75	30.00	40
St. Paul	330	127.12	38
San Diego	100	33.82	34
General	1,725	537.00	31
Toledo	300	85.00	28
Chicago Local	1,500	385.37	26
Philadelphia	300	77.00	26
Detroit	1,000	223.00	22
Los Angeles Local	1,500	302.00	20
Philadelphia Youth	25	5.00	20
Oakland	250	30.00	12
Seattle	800	75.00	9
Akron Youth	10	0	0
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0	0
Baltimore	20	0	0
Bayonne	25	0	0
Connecticut State	120	0	0
Houston	25	0	0
Los Angeles Youth	25	0	0
New York Youth	50		

## Dagwood And His Boss

By Theodore Kovalesky

I squirmed in my seat in the show the other night and wished we hadn't come. The main picture had been all right, but along with it we had to watch a silly comedy, where Dagwood worried and made faces, and his boss stamped and yelled, and there was general confusion.

The picture that I thought about on the way home was not the one we had wanted to see, but the stupid comedy about the trials and tribulations of the Dagwood Bumstead family. And the reason for that was a double one. First, it showed what the average person was supposed to laugh at, and second, it painted a picture of the white collar worker.

Now we like to think we're intelligent human beings; and I believe that, given a chance, most of us are. But how much of a chance do we get? When we're kids we go to school, where we learn enough to become valuable to the capitalists as their paid slaves . . . but not enough to become a menace to their rule. Given a chance, we'd become a lot different from what we are. But we don't get that chance unless we happen to join a party like the Socialist Workers Party where we can get a real education at party classes.

But the thing in that movie that struck me hardest was the way it showed life under the capitalist system. I don't suppose the author had any idea of writing a satire, but that's just what he did.

The chief character, Dagwood Bumstead, worked in an office. He wasn't just filing clerk or an office boy. No, he'd been there for years and had worked his way up into a fairly decent job. He had a little office of his own in the company, and he owned his own home.

But he wasn't as well off as it seemed. His old

## The Negro Struggle

## Political Solutions Required

By Henry Robinson

FLINT, Mich. — The union movement here, by acting to set up a Labor Party in the Sixth Congressional District, has taken a big step forward in the interest of all workers. This step has won the full support of Negro workers in Flint, and is of importance to Negro workers in all parts of the country.

The Negro struggle is political. Every problem confronting the workers today, and that includes the Negro workers, is a political problem and requires a political solution. Such measures as FEPC, an anti-lynch law, an anti-poll tax law, a full employment bill, etc. — all of these require a political solution. But who is going to represent the Negro in politics?

We have seen Wall Street's legislators in action — the Bilbos and Rankins — and we know they are just as anti-labor as they are anti-Negro. In fact, the brutality against Negroes which they uphold and encourage is mainly for the purpose of spearheading the attack on all labor.

If Bilbo should die before this article reaches the press, there would be others just as reactionary to take his place. That is because Bilbo does not represent his own ideas alone — he is above all a representative of the Democratic Party. Both this party and the Republican Party are the representatives and servants of Big Business, whose interests are served by the super-exploitation and oppression of the Negro people.

The Negro struggle is a component part of

## "The Golden Door"

By Grace Carlson

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

These are the lines carved on the base of the Statue of Liberty. The poet is here depicting Liberty as calling to the European countries to send their oppressed peoples to the United States — "the land of opportunity."

But the United States is not a "land of opportunity" for all immigrants from Europe! Martin Soderberg never found the "golden door" about which the poet speaks!

Martin Soderberg was born in Ore Socken, Sweden, on Nov. 1, 1866. On a hot July day in 1892, a passenger liner carried him into New York Harbor, past the shining Statue of Liberty, then only ten years old. Like thousands of other Scandinavian immigrants, Martin travelled to Minnesota and found employment in the huge flour mills of Minneapolis.

A skilled machinist, Martin gave 20 years of his time and ability to the Consolidated Mill Company — for the miserably low wages then paid in the open shop milling industry. Martin Soderberg was one of the organizers of the Millworkers Union, which tried to better the con-

ditions of the men in Minneapolis' flour mills. But after a long strike, the union was broken up and Martin and other strike leaders were blacklisted from the mills.

And so at 46, Martin had to try to find new employment. He did various odd jobs in the next few years but he finally worked into more or less steady employment in the trucking industry. Although he was 68 years old in 1934, at the time of the great Minneapolis truck drivers' strike, Martin was an active strike leader. Together with the Dunne brothers, Carl Skoglund, Farrell Dobbs and other militant leaders, Martin helped to make Minneapolis into a union town.

Until he was 75 years old, Martin Soderberg supported himself and his family, but physical disabilities finally forced him to ask for an old age pension. And now, at 80, after a lifetime of hard and unremitting toil, Martin is rewarded by American capitalist society with \$7.25 a month in cash plus board and room in a poorly-run "rest home"!

And yet, it isn't quite right to say that Martin missed "the golden door." True, he didn't become rich and powerful. On the capitalists' scale, he would be rated as a failure. But Martin Soderberg is a revolutionary socialist — a Trotskyist. Since his earliest youth, he has believed in the struggle for the emancipation of the working class. And that belief is the golden key, which will open "the golden door" into a better future for all mankind!

## Notes From The News

Among the reasons cited by the CIO top bureaucrats for barring cooperation between local CIO councils and the National Negro Congress is that the NNC during the war endorsed peacetime conscription and Roosevelt's proposed "National Service" (or slave-labor) legislation, both of which the CIO opposed.

Burton K. Wheeler, former Democratic Senator from Montana, has opened a law office with his son in Washington, D. C. Always a clever representative of the railroad interests in Congress, he is expected to represent them as lobbyist.

After a seven-year fight against a Jim Crow restriction, the CIO United Transport Service Employees (Red-Caps) last month won the right to participate with 22 other railroad unions in selecting labor members of the National Railroad Adjustment Board.

Truman's Advisory Commission on Universal

Training (military training, that is) has been branded a rubber-stamp outfit by AFL leader A. Philip Randolph. The Commission has no member representing labor says Randolph, because its "goose-stepping recommendations" will not coincide with labor's traditional anti-conscription stand.

Ten million homes, or almost one-third of all homes in the U. S. lack running water. Eight million homes have no electricity.

The first two-ocean fleet maneuver in preparation for World War III will be held in February or March.

"Unity conference committees" of the Social Democratic Federation and the Socialist Party, which met in New York City last month, are scheduled to resume negotiations on Feb. 15-16.

The Dairymen's League Cooperative Association was fined \$29,000 after pleading guilty to manipulation of milk prices so as to cheat the consumers in the New York area of \$600,000.

## THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1947

## FIRE DEATHS ROUSE TENANTS IN CHICAGO

By Robert L. Birchman  
(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Jan. 23 — Aroused by an eight-day toll of 11 dead, including eight children, two seriously injured and 650 homeless as a result of three tenement fires in Chicago's Negro ghettos, nearly 200 residents last Monday night organized the West Side Tenants Union at a mass meeting called by the Socialist Workers Party, Chicago Local. The meeting was held at the Progressive Baptist Church.

A fourth tenement fire, that last night consumed a three-story ramshackle building at 3642 S. Dearborn and left 75 more Negro tenants homeless in the frigid cold, has added urgency to the new organization's demands on landlords and city officials for immediate fire prevention measures and emergency housing for tenants of unsafe buildings.

The organization of fire-men-tenants was initiated by the SWP following its investigation of the tragic fire at 1733 W. Washburne Ave., where four children of James Hickman, a night-shift steel worker, were charred beyond recognition. Mrs. Hickman and another son, William, were critically injured in a four-story leap from the 14 by 14 foot attic trap where the family of eight lived. Another son, Charles, miraculously escaped down the burning stairway and sole exit from the attic.

James Hickman (kneeling), father of four children burned to death in Chicago tenement fire, and Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party organizer, examining fire-trap attic where the children died.

ers Party. They were addressed by Attorney M. J. Myer, Executive Board member of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Michael Bartell, Chicago SWP organizer. The tenants retained Myer to represent them in their battle against the landlord. He is also representing Mr. Hickman in a suit for damages against the delinquent landlord.

The Sunday morning meeting organized a tenants union, drew up a list of demands and declared rent strike until their demands are met in full. These demands include: fire escapes accessible to every apartment; fire extinguishers in every apartment; restoration of gas, electricity and water facilities and repair of toilets. They also demanded that the Chicago Housing Authority provide Quonset huts or other temporary housing on a nearby empty lot until permanent fire-safe dwellings are available.

**NO MORE VICTIMS!**

Monday night's meeting at the Progressive Baptist Church was announced in an SWP leaflet entitled: "No More Fire Victims!" It proposed a fight for: 1. Immediate measures to fight fires, adequate fire escapes, and additional firemen and equipment in dangerous areas; 2. Construction of emergency housing on all available land for tenants of unsafe buildings; 3. An adequate housing program to replace slum areas, low-cost non-restricted government housing projects, and abolition of restrictive covenants.

Despite near-zero weather the meeting was jammed. The West Side Tenants Union was established and the proposed three-point program unanimously adopted. A temporary executive committee of ten was set up.

Speakers at the meeting included James Hickman, father

## Where 4 Children Died



James Hickman (kneeling), father of four children burned to death in Chicago tenement fire, and Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party organizer, examining fire-trap attic where the children died.

of the dead children; Mrs. Julia Roger, a tenant in the same building; Reverend V. B. Watts of the Progressive Baptist Church; Michael Bartell; M. J. Myer, NAACP attorney for Hickman; and A. Miles Cartman, NAACP Legal Committee chairman.

Mrs. Rogers told the meeting: "Only by sticking together can we get anything. When you speak to the landlords about fix-

ing things they do nothing. Landlords just take your rent. They don't care." She gave a graphic picture of the vile conditions in her tenement.

Attorney Myer pointed out that "you are here not just because four children are dead, tragic and sad as that is. You are here to prevent any recurrence of these tragic fires and the loss of lives. Even if someone goes to jail for being res-

ponsible for the fire that killed the Hickman children, that does not solve the problem. The real problem is not who may have set fire to the house, but that people have to live in such conditions. The authorities don't want to tackle that problem. You must act as one to see that conditions are improved. You must organize."

SWP organizer Michael Bartell said: "How can the poor man, the little man, fight back? The rich have the money and the power, they control the government and have the law on their side. But the poor people have the greatest power on earth — the power of great numbers, of organization and strength in united action. The workers in the unions found they had power and brought the mighty industrial barons to terms in mighty strikes. We believe that action of that kind is the only answer to the housing crisis."

Reverend Watts made a militant appeal for organization. "We do not look upon this as a racial issue," he said. "We want protection regardless of the color of the landlord. Some of our folks, when they get money, just step in our faces. Let us look at what the landlords are doing. Don't be Uncle Tom! Get the union organized!"

A Miles Cartman, in his capacity as chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the NAACP, spoke and pledged the support of the NAACP.

Over \$100 was presented to Mr. Hickman by residents of the community to aid him in his family's tragedy.

## 12,000,000 Workers In Dire Need Of Homes

By John Fredericks

Of the various types of housing needed today, rental housing occupies the first place. The 12 million workers who need homes are far more interested in a home to rent than to buy. Federal, state and private agencies have failed to produce rental housing in any quantity. The housing scarcity artificially created

not, for example, measure the increased cost of being forced to buy a house and pay a monthly mortgage installment higher than previous rent. According to the National Housing Authority, home ownership has increased from 43.6% in 1940 to 53.2% in Nov. 1945. Yet terribly inflated building costs have raised building prices to 60% above those of 1940.

Although the B. L. S. Index shows a rent increase of only 4% since 1940, the Census Bureau reported on May 16, 1946, that city rents increased from \$24.60 in 1940 to \$30.25 in 1945. This 23% increase must be compared to the 4% reported by the Index.

The foregoing facts show that

the government has falsified the true increases in rents. But even these facts do not tell the whole story. In New York City, for instance, the OPA announced that 46,152 landlords had petitioned for increased rents and that 29,576 landlords had been granted such rent increases. These landlords secured their increases because of claimed "improvements in the property."

Many other devices are resorted to in order to secure a higher rental. Concessions to tenants of one or two months' rent, formerly the custom, especially in New York City, have been discontinued. The yearly painting of apartments has either been done away with or put on a three-year basis. Services and repairs have been largely abolished. All of these factors add up to an actual increase in the rent.

## RENT BILL HIGHER

When a worker had to move from one residence to another during the war, he could usually find only a higher-rent dwelling to move into. This makes his rent today more than it was before. In addition, the only way to get an apartment, in most cases, is to pay a big illegal fee "on the side" to rental agents.

All these factors combined make the worker's rent bill much higher, in millions of instances, than even the 23% increase cited by the CIO.

Not satisfied with these increases, the organized landlords are petitioning Congress to abolish the present rent control laws altogether. Organizing themselves into Real Estate Boards and Tax-Payers Associations, the landlords have accumulated vast sums to lobby in Washington against rent control.

## WHOLESALE EVICTIONS

In some sections, landlords are refusing to rent all vacancies and have instituted wholesale evictions for higher rents. Their organized drive for the unrestricted right to gouge tenants is getting support from the capitalist press and is being backed by prominent Congressmen.

On the other hand, the workers are aware of this danger confronting them. In many large cities the tenants are organizing themselves into tenants associations. These organizations are beginning to speak collectively for the tenants in the matter of building repairs, lower rents and the common grievances they have against the landlords.

(This is the fourth in a series on the housing crisis.)

## Meet The Chicago SWP Candidates

Michael Bartell  
Candidate for Mayor

Michael Bartell was born into a working-class family in New York in 1918. He early became aware of labor's struggles and while a student at City College of New York, was active in the National Students League.

The treacherous role of Stalinism in the working-class movement became apparent to Bartell by 1936 and he joined the Trotskyist movement. In 1939 he became organizer for the Young Peoples Socialist League in Los Angeles. Since 1944 he has been Chicago organizer for the SWP.

He was a shipyard worker in San Pedro from 1940 to 1944 and served as a shop steward of the Executive Board of Local 9 of the CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipyard Workers. He is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and of CORE (Committee of Racial Equality).

Michael Bartell is widely known among class-conscious workers in Chicago. He was prominent in the campaign to end Jim Crow at the White City Roller Skating Rink and was active in the campaign in defense of the home of Mrs. Grace Hardy who was bombed by terrorists. He was a leader in the organization of the Conference to Combat Terrorism Against Mi-

norities.

Homer Lewis  
Candidate for Alderman in the Third Ward

Homer Lewis was born at King's Ferry, Florida, in 1910 and moved to Chicago with his family in 1920. He attended the Francis E. Willard Grammar School and was graduated from the Wendell Phillips High School.

He is a former member of the CIO United Steel Workers Local 2928 (Pullman Shipyards) and was a shop steward and member of its grievance committee; he is treasurer of CORE (Committee of Racial Equality); a member of the Executive Board of the People's Consumers Cooperative; treasurer of the Negro History Club; he was grievance chairman of his Workers Alliance local. He is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He joined the Socialist Workers Party last year.

Lewis has long been a fighter for the rights of the Negro people and all workers. He was active in the victorious campaign

to end Jim Crow at the White City Roller Skating Rink and participated in the campaign for the defense of the Hardy home when it was bombed by terrorists.

As SWP candidate for Alderman in the Third Ward, he is the only candidate in a field of six who represents the interests of labor and is running independent of capitalist machine politics.

William Hill, President of Dodge Local 3, UAW-CIO, made a militant address, exposing the hand of the real estate inter-

ests in the move for project rent increases. Clyde Alsop, Executive Board member of UAW-Hudson Local 154, proposed that the veterans' housing demands be supported. Erwin Baur, of UAW-Hudson Local 306, offered two resolutions which were unanimously adopted: 1. That the meeting go on record not to pay one cent above the present rents; 2. That no evictions be permitted. "We will move them back in as soon as there is any attempt to move them out."

The newly elected committee sent a letter to City Housing Director Edgecomb and General Fleming, Director of Office of Temporary Controls, protesting the planned 15 per cent rent increase and proposed evictions. Plans to send delegations to city and Federal authorities are being mapped out.

The Charles Project Rent and Housing Committee consists of 12 men and eight women, and includes such prominent trade unionists as Hill, Alsop and Baur. Jack Lesnick was elected Chairman of the Committee and Mrs. Esther Baur, Secretary-Treasurer.

These organizations are beginning to speak collectively for the tenants in the matter of building repairs, lower rents and the common grievances they have against the landlords.

(This is the fourth in a series on the housing crisis.)