

## 10,000 Attend Rally Of Ceylon Trotskyists

— See Page 3 —

VOL. XI — No. 8

## Harsh Weather Hastens British Economic Crisis

Worn-Out Industrial Plant Shut Down As  
Government Tries To Patch Up Capitalism

By John Saunders

British capitalism finds itself today in the gravest economic crisis of its 300 year rule. The descent of harsh winter weather sufficed to cause a breakdown of England's worn-out and antiquated industrial plant.

Although Minister of Fuel and Power Emanuel Shinwell places the onus of the crisis on the weather, it is clear that it is only a contributing factor. Echoing Hitler's slogan, "We must export or die," the British capitalists, served by their labor lackeys in office, have driven their dilapidated machinery beyond endurance.

Declining productivity due to worn-out machinery, lack of raw materials and manpower, the general weariness of the workers, as well as the greed of the British industrialists to export

beyond the country's capacity, have brought this crisis to a head.

Lack of coal, made worse by transport difficulties, has caused a large number of the power plants to shut down completely and forced the curtailment of many others. In addition thousands of factories have turned off their power, causing widespread unemployment. This is now estimated at above 5 million, with the possibility that the situation may get even worse in the coming days.

Millions of British workers are living in darkness and bitter cold under conditions more grim than in the bleakest days of the war. Millions stand in long queues to receive their meager unemployment doles.

British industry has already lost millions of dollars as a result of the almost complete shutdown and loss of export trade. This sum is rising steadily with each passing day.

### TIGHTEN BELTS

Bewilderment mixed with bitterness is mounting among British workers, who are asked once more, this time by a Labor Government, to tighten their belts. When coal was withheld even from hospitals, workers demonstrated in London three times on Feb. 8.

Thus, the Labor Government finds itself holding the bag in the crisis, with many trade unionists resentful and hostile to the people they have placed in office.

Yet the Labor Government has thus far refused to take any necessary steps to ameliorate the situation despite the demands of the workers.

It is possible to improve the situation with regard to manpower shortage. As the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards National Council stated at a recent meeting: "The crisis makes it clear that Britain can no longer afford to keep 1,500,000 men in the services, with another half-million producing weapons for them. We must cut our foreign policy according to our cloth and bring home from the Middle East thousands of men . . ."

Further from the minds of the labor lackeys, however, is to

(Continued on Page 3)

## National Conference Seeks Consolidation Of Engineers

CHICAGO, Feb. 13—In this greatest rail center of the world representatives of locomotive engineers working on the main railroad lines from coast to coast have been meeting for the past three days in the first national conference of the Consolidation Committee of Engineers.

This rank and file caucus of progressive railroad unions is composed of members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers who aim to merge these two dual unions into one organization democratically representing all 210,000 organized engineers.

This rapidly growing unity movement, already backed by 25,000 engineers, is undoubtedly the most important development in rail labor since the May 1946 strike.

At a mass interview held by conference delegates here at the Midland Hotel yesterday their newly elected national officers explained the program and purposes of the Consolidation Committee of Engineers.

These men who operate the crack flyers and pull the freight on the main rail lines of the country, with seniority ranging from eight to 53 years, provided an extremely impressive setting for the interview. They certainly looked as though they meant business in their fight against

(Continued on Page 2)

Workers Of The World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

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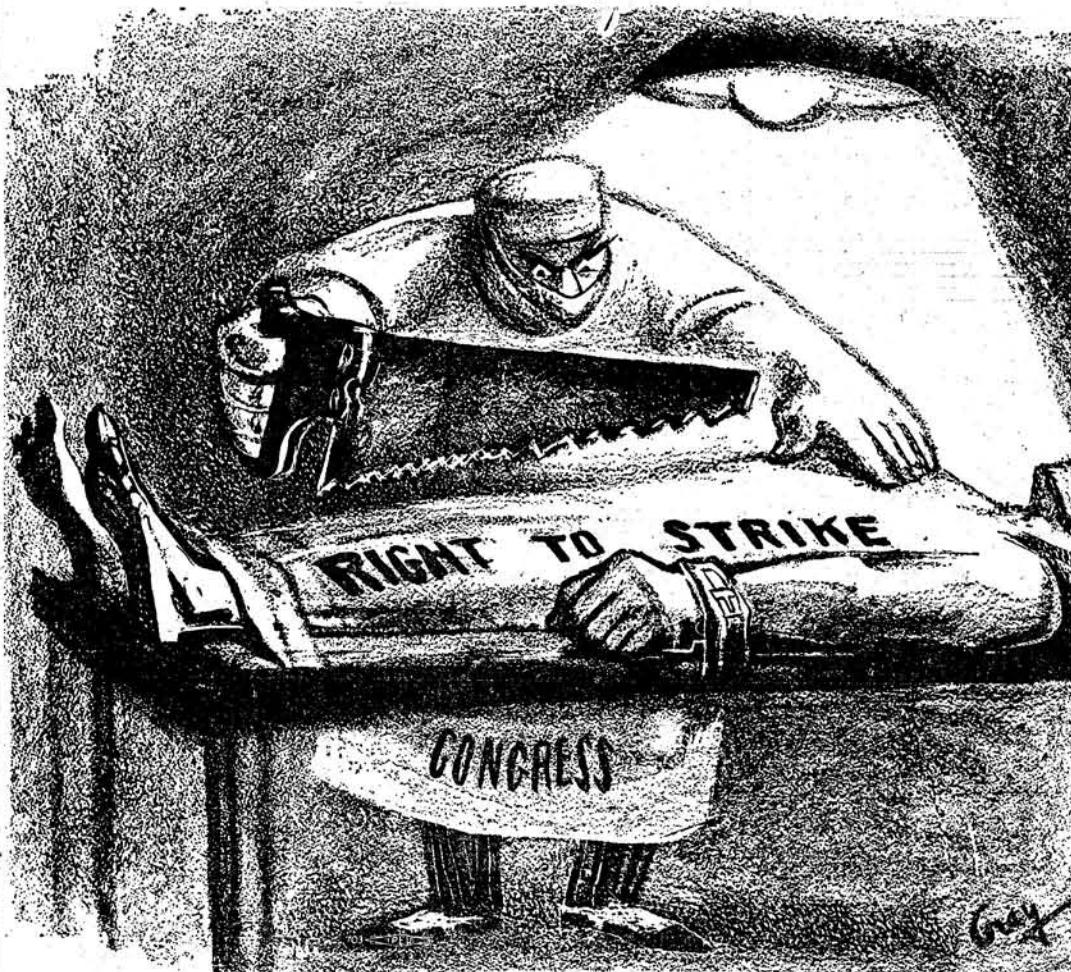
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401

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## WHITE, NEGRO UNIONISTS IN SOUTHERN MASS MARCH

A "Minor" Operation



## Chicago SWP Candidate Demands Housing Action From Government

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 — Homer Lewis, first Trotskyist ever to win a place on the municipal election ballot here, is running a vigorous campaign for Alderman in the Third Ward as the Feb. 25 election date draws near.

The Socialist Workers Party has chosen as its first candidate here a militant Negro leader who represents the most oppressed section of the Chicago workingclass.

### South Carolina Negro Murdered By Lynch Gang

Another butchered victim of the post-war wave of Jim-Crow terrorism was added on Feb. 17 to the rising toll of mob-murdered Negroes.

In Pickens, South Carolina, an armed gang of about 35 white men invaded the Pickens County Jail and seized a 25-year-old Negro, Willie Earle. Earle had been arrested the day before, accused of stabbing a Greenville taxi-driver. But he never got a trial by a jury.

When Earle was found an hour later in the dawn-light on a frosty roadside, his face had been nearly blasted away by shot-guns; his body was punctured with stab-wounds.

Jailer Ed Gilstrap described the lynchers as unmasked men who drove up in seven cars. He accompanied two of the men, armed with shotguns, to the prisoner's cell, which the turkeys unlocked. Gilstrap explained, as is usual in these cases, that he didn't "recognize" any of the murderers, although he probably knows everybody for forty miles around.

Identification of the bestially mangled body was established by Pickens County Sheriff Waymon H. Mauldin from two dirty one-dollar bills found in the clothing, the money Earle had on him when he was first arrested.

Both the BLE and BLFE compete for the same men in the cabs and often represent them in the same shop on the same grievances. Some men, called "double-headers," belong to both organizations.

He introduced one of the delegates present, J. P. Morris of Tucson, Arizona, who had a combined membership of 77 years in the two unions. This veteran engineer was anxious to consolidate himself before his retirement. Imagine his predicament last May when the BLE was called out on strike and the members

(Continued on Page 2)

## Landlords Handed "Hardship Relief"

Millions of landlord applications for rent "relief" began to flood into OPA rent division offices this week as the Administration's new "hardship" provisions went into effect on Feb. 15.

Throughout the country, OPA was spending its fast dwindling funds setting up new offices for the sole purpose of handing out rent boosts under the new "liberalized" regulations.

The Housing Appropriations Committee in Washington meanwhile rejected OPA requests for funds to continue rent control enforcement after March 31.

Almost all OPA activities are expected to be concentrated on considering landlord "hardships" and ordering the state constabulary to join in the "search" for the lynchers.

As the Truman Administration knocks the props from under rent control by the slick device of the landlord "hardship" provisions, Congress is preparing a frontal attack on all rent ceilings.

The rent subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee is expected some time

## Rubber Union Rejects 'Big 4' Contract Stall

URW Policy Committee  
Calls for Strike Vote

(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 15 — After a week of fruitless negotiations with the "Big Four" rubber corporations, the CIO United Rubber Workers, is now taking strike votes to enforce its demands for a 26-cent an hour general wage increase to meet the increased cost of living.

Negotiations between representatives of all locals in the "Big Four" set-up and representatives of the rubber monopolists broke up February 3, after the corporations refused even to discuss a wage increase. The only subject the company spokesmen would discuss was a 90-day extension of the old wage agreement.

Basing themselves on the action of CIO President Philip Murray, who had agreed to a 90-day extension in steel, the rubber bosses demanded that the rubber union follow suit. But the URW International Policy Committee, representing all local unions in the Goodrich, Goodyear, Firestone and U. S. Rubber plants, unanimously rejected this proposal. The Committee voted to take immediate strike votes and prepare to win their demands by whatever action may be necessary.

### REFUSE TO SURRENDER

Thus, the rubber workers are the first major section of the CIO to refuse to follow Murray's surrender policies.

Should the union be forced to strike, this will be the first nation-wide rubber strike.

The union is on solid ground in stubbornly pushing its demands. The corporations made

(Continued on Page 2)

## U. S. Steel Pact On Inequities Stirs Criticism

By Harry Braverman

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Feb. 17 — The recently announced CIO United Steelworkers' Wage Inequities Agreement with U. S. Steel Corporation, concluded after three-year negotiations, has stirred a hot current of criticism among steel workers and militant local unions here.

Designed to eliminate wage inequalities between jobs and geographical areas, the agreement contains some surprising union concessions to Big Steel pressure, including several large wage increases. In addition, various job ratings on both incentive and hourly jobs, have aroused considerable indignation. Workers consider the pay set for them in some of the job ratings as far too low.

Locals 1330 and 1307 at U. S. Steel's Carnegie-Illinois subsidiary are most immediately affected. They have agreed to work jointly for elimination of the agreement's undesirable features.

Other steel workers throughout the Mahoning Valley are also incensed at the pay cuts and other bad features of the agreement, because they realize that the U. S. Steel settlement sets the pattern for the whole industry.

Steel union militants here agree that the principle of eliminating wage inequalities is a good one and that the agreement as a whole fulfills a worthwhile purpose, but that in many specific cases it works a raw injustice.

Worker and veteran tenants can block rent rises only by organized mass action to freeze all rents.

## United Labor Demonstration At Tennessee State Capital

By Art Preis

Feb. 17 — The tramp of marching feet in the streets of a Southern state capital on Feb. 13 sounded a clarion call for white and Negro labor unity in common struggle against the capitalist exploiters of all workers.

In Nashville, Tennessee, some 2,500 white and Negro workers, representing every union affiliation from all parts of the state, united in a mass march on the state capitol building to fight against a threatened open shop bill and other anti-labor laws.

Never before has Nashville or any other state capitol of the labor-hating, Jim-Crow, Southern Bourbons witnessed such a scene.

A four-block-long column of AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood members, with white and Negro workers standing shoulder to shoulder, marched four-abreast behind one big banner that read:

"Opposed to the Open Shop."

They entered the capitol building in a body, filed past the Gov-

## Oil Walkout Postponed After 22-Cent Offer

A strike of 17,000 West Coast oil refinery workers, scheduled for Feb. 15, was postponed at the last moment when the Texas Company offered a wage increase of 22 cents an hour for its workers east of the Rockies, giving belief that the same increase may be extended to West Coast workers.

The CIO Oil Workers has demanded a 25-cent pay rise from Texas and other leading oil companies to bring the oil workers a total increase equal to that gained by the Sinclair Oil Co. workers under an escalator clause contract signed last November.

Sinclair workers won a basic wage increase of 18-cents retroactive to last Oct. 1. They have received an additional increase of seven cents, retroactive to Jan. 1, under an escalator clause which provides automatic wage increases for cost of living rises over each three-month period.

This contract, with its total wage gains, has set the pattern for the demands of the workers in the entire oil industry.

## "CAUTION" TALK SCREENS DEADLY ANTI-LABOR DRIVE

Wall Street's legislative drive against organized labor rolled ahead last week under cover of a propaganda smoke-screen about proceeding "cautiously."

Taft, boss of the Senate Republican steamroller, again declared that his Labor and

Public Welfare Committee will report out a revised version of the savagely anti-labor Case bill by March 15. The Senate will then discuss the measure for two weeks, he declared, and be prepared to vote by April 1.

Union spokesmen will be permitted to appear before Taft's committee for about eight sessions. But Wall Street's political representatives do not expect labor testimony to slow Taft's time schedule, since labor hasn't a single representative to defend its cause on the floor of Congress.

Frederick A. Hartley, Jr., henchman of New York's Governor Dewey and Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, announced on Feb. 17, precisely 12 days after opening hearings, that his committee has reached virtual agreement. For instance, bricklayers are cut 15 cents an hour; railroad workers, 7½ cents.

Hartley's announcement on these measures followed wide publicity that his Committee had changed its mind and decided to proceed with "caution" on anti-labor legislation. On Feb. 12 Dewey's lieutenant told the press that the House would wait to see what Taft's Senate machine decided on before plunging ahead. The time schedule set by the Dewey forces, however, is the same as that of the Taft crew. They plan to have a bill ready for action on the floor by March 15.

The real purpose of the talk about "caution" is to blind the labor movement to the deadly danger of the laws earmarked

for passage.

# N. Y. Subway Riders Win Round In Battle To Save 5-Cent Fare From Assault Of Real Estate Interests

By Joseph Hansen

New York's strap-hangers won another reprieve for the five-cent subway fare at the public hearings held February 10-11. After giving 69 speakers the floor, Mayor O'Dwyer declared that "an increase in the fare on the city's transit system is not in the best interests of the people of the city at this time."

The hearings marked a high point in Wall Street's persistent drive for a 10-cent fare. Held on Mayor O'Dwyer's initiative, the hearings gave every spokesman of the real estate interests full opportunity to argue for a higher fare and try to break down the traditional resistance of New York's masses to any tampering with the nickel fare. Twenty-two corporation lawyers and professional publicity experts were granted the rostrum. Defendants of the five-cent fare were limited to 47 spokesmen.

## LETTERS POUR IN

How heavily this ratio was weighted in Wall Street's favor can be judged from the letters pouring into City Hall. Out of 6,426 letters received in about three days, 98.1% were against any increase while only 1.9% favored socking the public.

In the face of such overwhelming sentiment the Mayor did not dare come out in favor of an increase. It would have meant political suicide. He therefore played the role of putting up a "last ditch fight" against any increase, posing as a champion of the five-cent fare.

But he skillfully avoided probing into the rotten deals that converted New York's transit system into a gold mine for Wall Street operators for decades. He did not touch the sordid scandal of City Hall's issuing \$326,000,000 in 3% bonds in 1940 for the privilege of operating its own subways.

O'Dwyer utilized the hearings to build up pressure for a further huge increase of some \$400,000,000 in New York's already staggering debt burden.

## ONLY POSTPONED

Wall Street's mouthpiece, the N. Y. Times, expressed sharp editorial disappointment over O'Dwyer's decision against an increase "at this time," and said the Mayor emerges with "damaged prestige." The financial page of the same paper took a cooler view, declaring that "it means only a new postponement of the day of reckoning."

Although the bankers and real estate interests expressed angry resentment over the postponement of a boost in fares, the hearings were far from a total loss from their viewpoint. The Christian Science Monitor considered it news of national importance that a Mayor for the first time in 30 years would dare hold a hearing on the 10-cent fare. And the New Yorker reflected a similar judgment with its cynical wisecrack: "As evidence of the frankness of the modern age, there has been open discussion in New York of the 10-cent fare. Once, a boy would have had his mouth washed with soap for using such language."

The real estate interests have battered at the five-cent fare because an increase in the present subway operating profit would mean a decrease in the taxes levied on their holdings. In 1941, for instance, LaGuardia put through a 1% city sales tax. As City revenues increased from this tax on the poor, the share of



Winter Eviction

The Smith family of Brooklyn was evicted in the middle of a cold wave so the landlord could make alterations in their cold water flat. The eviction law was made for landlords, not tenants. (Federated Picture)

taxes carried by the real estate interests decreased from 80.3% in 1941 to 67.9% in 1945-46.

Last year O'Dwyer, as one of his first acts in office, proposed doubling the sales tax. His proposal carried. In 1946-47 the tax share carried by real estate dropped to 60%.

In the many years of Wall Street's drive against the five-cent fare, this is the closest it has come to success. Since O'Dwyer took office the capitalist press has hammered away at "free" subway rides, trying to psychologize the public into the feeling that not even a "last ditch fight" can avoid an increase. O'Dwyer's demagogic has not served to break this drive, but only to help cover it up.

O'Dwyer is an agent of Wall Street as shown most clearly by his strike-breaking role in the tugboat strike last year and in the Western Union strike when he ordered out the greatest num-

ber of cops in any one strike in New York's history, to protect scabs and strikebreakers and club down pickets.

O'Dwyer's demagogic at the hearings on the subway fare was gratefully greeted by the Stalinists. The Feb. 14 Daily Worker boasted that the Stalinists were "one of the groups in the pro-O'Dwyer coalition" that put the strike-breaking mayor in office.

The Daily Worker painted O'Dwyer as a champion of the people in the struggle to save the five-cent fare.

But the truth is O'Dwyer leaves the door wide open for an increase in the future. He has even indicated he would support a referendum on the issue if the Republican State Legislature would take responsibility for calling it.

The five-cent fare can be saved, not by trusting a capitalist politician like O'Dwyer, but only through the eternal vigilance of New York's working people.

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Early in his career he began

to concentrate on foreign policy for the Republican machine. He helped to ghost-write the pronouncements in this field in Warren G. Harding's campaign speeches and is credited with thinking up the high-powered slogan: "With Harding at the helm, we can sleep nights."

During the early part of the Second World War, when the Republicans were still grinding the axe of isolationism, Vandenberg advanced a program most of which was written by Gerald L. K. Smith, according to the boast of that fascist demagogue.

## SPECTACULAR SWITCH

When Wall Street decided to have both Democrats and Republicans back the same foreign policy as part of the preparations for another world war, Vandenberg made a spectacular switch from isolationist opposition to "bi-partisan" support of Democratic foreign policy.

While generally known as the most authoritative mouthpiece of the Republicans on foreign policy, Vandenberg has not overlooked domestic issues. He voted against the passage of the Wagner Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and similar legislation.

Vandenberg labelled the sit-down strikes as "revolting."

Vigilante gangs won his approval as "modern Minute Men."

He bitterly attacked the steel workers during the Little Steel strike, calling on Roosevelt to follow the 1894 example of President Grover Cleveland who sent troops into Illinois to smash the Pullman strike.

In the last session of Congress Vandenberg continued to wield a legislative hatchet against the labor movement. He voted for the Case bill that would have cut the heart out of the Wagner Act, repealed the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction act, and opened the way for crippling court suits against the unions.

He voted for Truman's draft labor bill and he voted to remove price ceilings from homes.

Like other reactionary Congressmen, Vandenberg occasionally makes a liberal gesture to win favorable publicity. Thus he

that he had been the first publisher to sign a contract with the American Newspaper Guild and thereby "had put newspapermen in the strait-jacket of a sinister pressure group."

The Associated Press, anti-labor news monopoly, touchingly reported the scene: "All my aims have turned to dust," he Stern said in an emotion-choked voice.

"I have done more to harm the position of the working newspaperman than to benefit him."

With the last remarks all unions can agree.

Stern then dragged the red herring across his dispute with the Guild by wailing about the menace of "communism" and "labor bosses."

Stern was a liberal only because liberalism was a paying proposition at the time he recognized the Guild. When liberalism no longer paid, he bucked the Guild and concluded the deal which netted him \$4,500,000.

His anti-labor line gave the lie to the Record's boasted liberal policies and circulation went down. The Record's attacks against last year's General Electric and Westinghouse strikes, its defense of police brutality in those strikes, made it obvious to worker-readers that Stern's liberalism was a sham. Faced with a strike directed against his own newspapers, Stern dropped his liberal pose completely. He appeared in his true colors as a crusading labor-hater bent upon crushing the union.

The House hearings on the sale of Stern's newspapers are being used as part of the pressure for anti-labor laws. It is easy to see the cloven hoof of the big publishers in these hearings. They are ready to follow Stern's lead in war against the Guild.

Stern's testimony at the hearing yesterday reeked with the hypocrisy of a sinner returning to the fold. He bewailed the fact

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## Slanderous Attack On L. Trotsky Printed In Trygve Lie Biography

The first number of a new magazine, *United Nations World*, carries a brief biography of Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, that includes a scurrilous attack on the martyred Leon Trotsky.

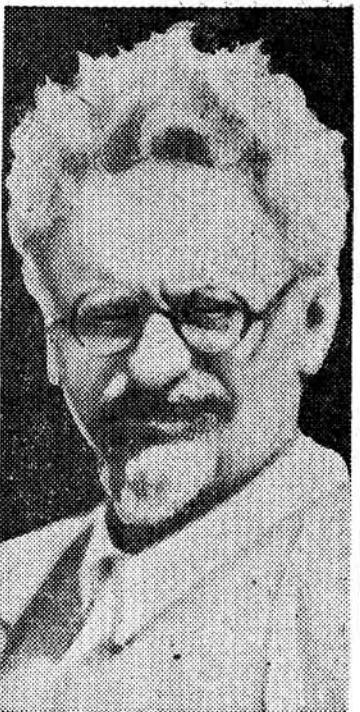
When the Norwegian Labor Party came to power in 1935, Norway granted Leon Trotsky the right of asylum. The Norwegian government was simply observing one of the democratic rights traditional since the downfall of feudalism. But the Trygve Lie biography claims Trotsky was granted asylum only "on the grounds that he was very ill and did not have long to live."

The biography continues with the declaration that Trotsky "promised not to engage in political activity while he lived in Norway . . . But to ask Trotsky to refrain from political activity for the world revolution was like asking fish to give up swimming. The Labor government learned that Trotsky was up to his old tricks, and Lie sent for him."

### FAILED TO DIE

Trygve Lie did not tell his biographer in what way Trotsky engaged in Norwegian politics. Lie couldn't report this, since Trotsky scrupulously refrained from intervening in Norwegian affairs.

Trotsky "was brought to the Ministry of Justice in great secrecy and surrounded by guards," continues the biography. Trygve Lie "politely warned Trotsky" explaining that the coming election was "crucial" for the Labor Party. "Trotsky replied arrogantly: 'I don't give a damn



LEON TROTSKY

about your Labor Party. In five years you will all be exiled.' Trotsky was later expelled from Norway . . . The Prime Minister felt that Trotsky had lied to the Labor ministry about his health. He had promised that he was dying and had failed to die."

The truth is somewhat different from Lie's version. When the first of the infamous Moscow frame-up trials was staged in August 1936, Stalin named Trotsky as one of the principal defendants, accusing him of the foulest crimes. But the frame-up was so weak and ill-contrived it was certain to topple at the first serious examination. If Trotsky were permitted to answer the accusations levelled at him, the frame-up would be exposed while the GPU victims were still in the dock.

KREMLIN HUSH-HUSH

Trygve Lie and the other Labor Party officials rushed to the assistance of the Kremlin. They arrested the exile and his wife Natalia and held them incomunicado for four months!

Minister of Justice Trygve Lie called on his prisoners and the

### Marxist Literature In German Wanted

A number of German-speaking workers have asked *The Militant* to help them obtain Marxist literature in the German language. Readers of this paper who have such literature to spare are requested to forward it to *The Militant*.

## Police Raid Offices Of India Stalinists

BOMBAY, Jan. 17 — Police in all parts of India executed simultaneous raids on offices of the Communist Party and residences of prominent members, arresting several of its leaders on Jan. 14.

The ostensible reason for this action is stated to be the publication six months ago in the Stalinist paper, *People's Age*, of an article dis-

### Correction

The introductory note to a resolution by the International Secretariat of the Fourth International on the *Electoral Policy of the PCI*, which was printed in the Jan. 11 issue of *The Militant*, contained an error.

This note correctly reported that at a meeting of the Central Committee of the PCI, 12 votes were cast for a Majority group resolution supporting the PCI's electoral policy, 12 were cast against by the Minority group, and one abstained. The note then added: "Such a vote under the French system goes to the old Majority."

We have since been informed that in a vote of this nature there is no "French system" which guarantees the vote to the previous majority. The Majority's resolution was actually defeated by this vote. But the Central Committee members whose tendency had been in a minority at the last PCI Congress, did not consider it possible under the circumstances to hold a new Congress in the immediate future; so they proposed that the Majority group should co-opt additional Majority alternates to the Committee.

The resolution was therefore not adopted; but the Majority established by the last Congress was maintained.

—The Editors.

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following exchange occurred, as reported by Trotsky in his book, *The Crimes of Stalin*, published in 1937:

"We committed a stupidity by granting you a visa! I was unceremoniously told by the Minister of Justice in the middle of December (1936).

"And, are you preparing to rectify this stupidity by means of a crime?" I replied, repaying frankness with frankness. "You are behaving towards me in the same way that Noske and Scheidemann behaved toward Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. You are paving the road for fascism. If the workers of Spain and France don't save you, you and your colleagues will be emigres in a few years like your predecessors, the German Social Democrats."

For a time it appeared that Trygve Lie and his associates would bend so far under Kremlin pressure as to hand their prisoners over to the GPU executioners. But when hope seemed lost, the Cardenas government of Mexico granted asylum to Trotsky. The adherence of Cardenas to democratic principles forced the GPU to wait another three and a half years before it succeeded in sinking a pickaxe into Trotsky's brain.

In remarkable contradiction to the events in Bremen—where the dissidents joined the Social Democratic Party—they demand in Cologne a return to the revolutionary tradition.

As the official reason for the resignations it was declared, moreover, that "the tactic of democratic camouflage is fought by all the real and genuine communists."

(Continued from Page 1)  
cut down on the size of the British army and navy, save a tremendous amount of fuel, add to the labor forces and thus aid production.

They know that the return of troops from any part of the British Empire would be an invitation to the native population to demand and obtain their independence. The Labor Ministers of His Majesty's Government, contrary to the wishes of the workers, rule out this alternative. They hope to resolve the present crisis as they have those in the past—by forcing still further hardships on the much overburdened British working class.

**MASSES OPPOSED**

Opposed to this policy, the British masses refuse to heed the panicky outcries of the Labor Ministers to curtail the use of gas and electricity. They realize that very little, at best, can be saved in this manner. Because of this, the public is accused of "cheating" by government spokesmen.

The workers are bitter. The government they elected carries out the same Tory policy as did Churchill. They voted for a socialist government, hoping it would nationalize industry and lead the way to socialism.

The government began by nationalizing the Bank of England and the coal industry, but left the management in the hands of the former owners. It did not call on the owners of the bankrupt coal mines to make sacrifices, but instead insisted on paying them sums far above the value of their property. Yet to-day, it demands that the workers carry the full load of the present crisis.

**MAKING DEMANDS**

Small wonder that the Labor Ministers are losing support and confidence among the workers who put them in power.

The workers, emboldened by the recent victorious dockers' strike, are answering the government's appeal for more sacrifices by raising their own demands for a 40-hour week.

The government's Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, stated that "if we don't succeed in overcoming this situation, the Labor Government will fall and there will be an end to any idea of socialism in our time."

Increasing numbers of workers reject this plea. They realize that it is precisely the failure of the Labor Government to take energetic socialist measures that has led to the crisis. This government uses its energies not to clear the path for socialism but in a futile attempt to repair the broken-down capitalist system.

This is indeed difficult to believe. But if Nehru's statement is true, it only bears out, in a more glaring manner than even the Trotskyists anticipated, the correctness of the Trotskyist analysis that the real role of the Indian Congress Ministers in the Central and Provincial Governments is to provide a facade behind which British imperialism can operate.

British labor now clearly faces the alternative of quickly changing its course and moving rapidly in the direction of a genuine socialist government or permitting capitalism to drag them and the whole country down to ever lower levels.

## 10,000 Workers Attend Rally Called By Ceylon Trotskyists

By Robert Gunawardena

COLOMBO, Ceylon, Jan. 27—Ten thousand workers gathered at Galle Face Green on Jan. 18 at the first mass rally of the Ceylon Trotskyists since the unification of the Ceylon Unit of the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India with the Lanka Sama Samaja Party.

his own carefully selected rural constituency.

The party announced an election fund of 2½ lakhs of rupees to which it asked the public to contribute generously.

The following resolutions were also passed at the meeting:

1. "This mass meeting of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party declares its complete solidarity with the heroic people of Viet Nam in their armed struggle against the hired hordes of French imperialism and calls on the working class of Ceylon to demonstrate this solidarity by refusing to load a single ship bound for Indo-China carrying arms, men or supplies to the French imperialists."

The purpose of the rally, besides being the first meeting to publicly announce the unification of the Trotskyist forces, was to announce the party's final election list and to inaugurate its election fund.

This was the opening of the second front—the parliamentary front—against the new slave constitution which the imperialists are attempting to force on the people of Ceylon through the agency of the native capitalists.

The party announced a list of 27 candidates for the parliamentary elections, contesting all seats in the city of Colombo and a fair number of seats in the up-country areas where the plantation proletariat is concentrated.

But most interest has been caused by the decision of the party to put forward one of its front-rank men, comrade Edmund Samarakkody, to fight the leader of the reactionary Ceylonese capitalists, D. S. Senanayaka (would-be Prime Minister) in cal prisoners in Ceylon."

### Demonstration In Athens



Supporters of the EAM in Athens demonstrate outside of the Acropolis Hotel where the United Nations Inquiry Commission is staying. Among the banners is one reading: "British troops must leave Greece." Although the Commission is holding hearings now, the Greek government's execution of its opponents continues right along.

## French Cabinet Shaken By New Wage Struggles

### CP Prints Scab Paper To Fight Union On Strike

Feb. 18 — The fight for wage increases to meet the rising cost of living plunged the new French Cabinet into a crisis last week as printing pressmen and editorial workers struck and closed down all French newspapers and Paris policemen, public utility workers and other government employees staged token strikes to back up their demands.

Still resisting pressure for wage increases sought by the Confederation of Labor (CGT), Premier Ramadier sought to rally support for the government by rushing plans for another "price decrease" similar to the fraudulent scheme put over by his predecessor, Leon Blum.

For several days now, actions in the factories, among the longshoremen, railwaymen and government employees are simmering, heading to a readjustment of wages to reach a "living minimum" defined by the CGT (General Confederation of Labor) at the ridiculously inadequate figure of 84,000 francs per year (\$323 at the real rate of exchange).

Strikes and work-stoppages

are breaking out here and there, although there are not yet any broad-scale movements or the signs of a clear tendency toward big actions. But this is only the first stage, and there is no reason to suppose that the treacherous mis-leaders will once more succeed in keeping control of the movement as a whole.

The printing pressmen, who have engaged in two militant strikes during the last year, walked out with a demand for a 25% wage raise, and as before, their strike was virtually 100% effective despite the opposition of the Stalinists who dominate the CGT.

**CP SCAB EDITION**

Communist Party Minister Ambroise Croizat attacked the pressmen in a Cabinet meeting, and L'Humanite, the CP paper, managed to get out a scab edition denouncing the strikers as Trotskyists. The Socialist Party leaders of the government joined in the attack on the pressmen by issuing a ruling through the Ministry of Information "barring any paper from publishing a report if it granted demands from management to reach a 25% wage increase."

Officers of the Union of Newsprint Employees denounced the Stalinists for strikebreaking and for attacking and driving out a group of pickets from the telephone switchboard room of L'Humanite.

While this demonstration was going on, Ramadier addressed the National Assembly and asked for support in resisting wage increases while his Cabinet goes through the farce of reducing prices. (This speech came shortly after Ramadier's new Commissioner of Food Supplies had opened the way for raising the price of meat.)

The subways were shut tight and no buses appeared on the streets. Policemen left their posts and traffic was hopelessly snarled.

The Communist Party members of the Assembly cheered

Ramadier's speech, even though their newspaper pays lip-service to the need for wage raises. It is plain that the Stalinists are ready to compromise with Ramadier at the expense of the wage fight, while at the same time they represent themselves before the workers as supporters of wage raises.

In the government, difficulties are breaking out on other questions as well—particularly around the powers of the Stalinist Minister of National Defense in regard to the Ministries of War, Navy and Air, which are held by the other parties, and around certain nationalizations to which the MRP and Radical ministers are opposed.

The Stalinists come out for the living minimum in words. Under the signature of Frachon, secretary of the CGT, L'Humanite maintains that the living minimum can be granted without any resulting price rise and without conflicting with the government's "struggle" to reduce prices.

In Le Populaire Blum, who is the power-behind-the-throne of Premier Ramadier, answers Frachon that all his economic arguments fail to stand up to the facts and that it is necessary first of all to produce a lowering of prices before even dreaming of raising wages.

The polemic between the Stalinist and Socialist parties, who together hold the majority in the government, remains purely academic; neither one wants to push on to an intervention by the masses to settle the differences.

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For the toiling masses, however, the pressing and urgent questions remain those of wages and food supply, which continues to be precarious during the severe cold wave.

Ramadier's speech, even though their newspaper pays lip-service to the need for wage raises.

It is plain that the Stalinists are ready to compromise with Ramadier at the expense of the wage fight, while at the same time they represent themselves before the workers as supporters of wage raises.

One thing appears quite certain—that the Stalinists have no intention of breaking with the Ramadier Cabinet at this time. They are interested in remaining in the Cabinet at this time above all so that they can have some influence from the inside on its decisions regarding the coming Moscow Foreign Ministers' conference on Germany.

### LEON TROTSKY'S

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### International Notes

General MacArthur, trying to secure a more authoritative Japanese puppet government than the Yoshida Cabinet, has ordered a new general election for the Diet (Parliament) next spring. (See full story in last week's *Militant*.) But according to Time magazine of Feb. 17, he eluded police who chased him into the Shwe Dagon Pagoda in Rangoon and managed to get away.

The Dutch imperialists are preparing for a new offensive in Indonesia, according to an interview by the N. Y. Times with the Dutch commander in that country, Lt. Gen. S. H. Spoor. Spoor insists that Dutch casualties under the so-called truce" now prevailing are worse than before the true "and cannot be tolerated much longer."

The interview was granted for the purpose of persuading American public opinion to permit Washington to grant supplies and equipment for the Dutch war against the Indonesians, since their present equipment will last only three more months.

Spoor also indicated that he was trying to get the Indonesian regime to join the Dutch "as an ally against terrorist elements," which is the imperialist name for the Indonesians fighting for genuine independence.

A number of Arab nationalist organizations are reported to be meeting in Cairo in preparation for a drive to win independence of the western part of North Africa from French and Spanish control.

After many weeks of negotiations Arab and Jewish representatives in London rejected the British government's proposal to partition Palestine under British domination. The British Cabinet then decided that it would refer the Palestine question to the United Nations, where it will attempt to get support for a plan which will keep the country as a base for the British Empire.

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"Abolition of private ownership in the means of production is the first prerequisite to planned economy, i.e., the introduction of reason into the sphere of human relations, first on a national and eventually on a world scale."

—Leon Trotsky

## In "Critical Condition"

"The world is in a very critical condition" politically, Secretary of State Marshall is reported to have told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee February 14.

Even without the inside channels of information tapped by the Secretary of State, anyone following the press must agree that Marshall was not guilty of exaggeration.

In the Philippines, a U.S. equipped army, commanded by former collaborators of Hirohito, is trying to stamp out rebellion against the hated landlord system.

In Japan, MacArthur is breaking strikes and trying to save Hirohito and Japanese capitalism.

In China, dictator Chiang Kai-shek, equipped with U.S. armaments, is doing his utmost to drown the rising mass movement in the blood of civil war.

In Korea, U.S. armed forces are struggling to keep the knots tight on the straitjacket fastened upon the people there.

In Indo-China, French troops largely supplied with U.S. arms, have been hurled in full scale war to repress the drive of the Annamites for independence.

In Indonesia, the Dutch, attempting to stifle the freedom movement by brute force, have applied for more armaments from U.S. supply dumps.

In Burma and India, hundreds of millions of colonial slaves are surging forward against the British overlords.

In the Arab world the elemental forces of revolt against imperialist rule are rising to new heights.

In Palestine, tens of thousands of British troops wage terror against the Jewish people.

All Europe seethes with unrest as the masses turn leftward seeking a road out of the ruins of war.

Great Britain, once mistress of the seven seas, is wracked with a profound economic crisis that will inevitably impel the workers further leftward. In Australia, a new strike wave impends.

Strikes have flared up in Africa, indicating the deep uneasiness of the masses throughout that continent.

In South America, governments have toppled in the past year and the sweep of the workers and peasants toward Communism has taken colossal proportions.

And right here in America, the present lull in the class struggle is only the quiet preceding a new outbreak of the storm.

Yes, the world is in very critical condition, politically. The masses have gone through two world slaughters under capitalism. They have no intention of going through a third one.

## Sliding Scale Pays Off

Conservative labor leaders, the Stalinists and other opponents of progressive union policies have deliberately misrepresented our program of the sliding scale of wages to meet rising living costs.

They have falsely claimed that the escalator wage clause prevents the workers from gaining higher real wages and holds the threat of outright wage cuts if prices fall rapidly.

Fortunately, the CIO Oil Workers International Union has given dollars-and-cents proof that these arguments against the sliding scale of wages are completely false. We have the actual example of how the sliding scale works in the case of the Sinclair Oil Co. contract.

First of all, the Sinclair contract signed last November provided an outright 18-cent an hour wage increase. This was the second such increase in a year. Thus the Sinclair workers, starting retroactively from October 1, enjoyed 18 cents an hour more, while most other workers received no additional basic wage increase since last year.

But that isn't all. The 7,000 Sinclair workers won an escalator clause. This provides for an automatic wage increase every time the government's cost-of-living index rises three points or more in three months.

Between Oct. 1, 1946, and Jan. 1, 1947, the index showed a 7.4-point rise. Several weeks ago, the Sinclair workers got another 7-cent an hour raise, retroactive to Jan. 1 and covering the period to March 1. So that's a total raise of 25 cents in three months.

On March 1, the cost-of-living index will be reviewed again. If further rises are record-

ed for the past three-month period, the Sinclair workers will get another corresponding wage increase — automatically.

If the index should fall three points, let us say, the Sinclair workers will still enjoy four cents more an hour over their basic 18-cent increase. But if the index should fall below the October 1, 1946 level, the basic wage, including the 18-cent increase, remains. Under all circumstances, the 18-cent basic wage increase stands as an outright gain in real wages.

Let the union leaders who oppose the escalator clause explain how it is that the Sinclair workers are now getting 25 cents an hour more, while the workers in most other unions haven't received even a nickel in any kind of wage increases.

## A Bubble Bursts

The UN General Assembly on Dec. 14 voted unanimously to reduce armaments. After this, you might have expected at least a temporary halt in the manufacture of atom bombs. Such an expectation, however, would be nothing but a pacifist dream.

The Militant pointed this out when Molotov first called for arms reduction last Oct. 29. "The slogan of disarmament," we said, "has always been raised by imperialist politicians to cover up their preparations for war. Adolf Hitler, for example, found the slogan of disarmament of great aid in building up German armaments in preparation for the Second World War."

We also emphasized that Molotov's proposal was not in the tradition of Lenin but that of the Social-Democrats of the post-World War I era, whose appeals to the bloodthirsty imperialists to disarm were branded by Lenin as "bourgeois pacifism, which actually . . . serves to distract the workers from the revolutionary struggle."

Lenin and Trotsky taught that disarmament in the sense of general abolition of arms is utterly utopian under capitalism. The warring imperialist cliques cannot give up armaments any more than they can give up profits. In the narrowing world of today, the imperialist rivals over markets, colonies, spheres of influence and plunder must inevitably lead to war.

The slogan of arms reduction is just as perfidious as the slogan of general disarmament. This "plausible" proposal plays into the hands of the imperialist power with the most advanced and most productive economic machine. A reduction of armaments would permit American militarism to clear the decks of obsolete equipment — and replace it with up to the minute death-dealing instruments when another war breaks out.

Now the disarmament question is again in the headlines. On Feb. 14 the Kremlin categorically rejected the Baruch plan on "control" of atomic energy and Andrei A. Gromyko, representing the Kremlin, declared: "Eight months have been lost."

This means that the two mightiest powers on earth have got nowhere since last June in the debate over what to do about the atomic bomb. It remains a monopoly of Wall Street and Wall Street continues to stockpile the bomb with feverish haste. Despite all the unanimity about disarmament, the preparations for World War III continue full blast.

It has thus taken only a few short months to confirm the analysis made by The Militant of the disarmament bubble blown in the UN by the representatives of Wall Street and the Kremlin.

## Stop The Lynchers!

Last week the blood of another victim of the Jim-Crow system dripped from the hands of the Southern white ruling class. South Carolina was added to the roll of states where a dozen Negroes, women as well as men, have been murdered by lynch gangs in the past twelve months.

In almost every case there have been admitted eye-witnesses of the lynch gangs in action. The jailer and turnkey stood at the very side of the unmasked men who seized and murdered Willie Earle in Pickens County, S.C. Once more, however, the murderers are described as "strangers".

So numerous and bestial have been the recent lynchings that Truman has been forced to make a show of putting FBI men on the lynch cases. These much-vaunted sleuths, who have no difficulty in hounding down "reds," haven't uncovered a single useful clue.

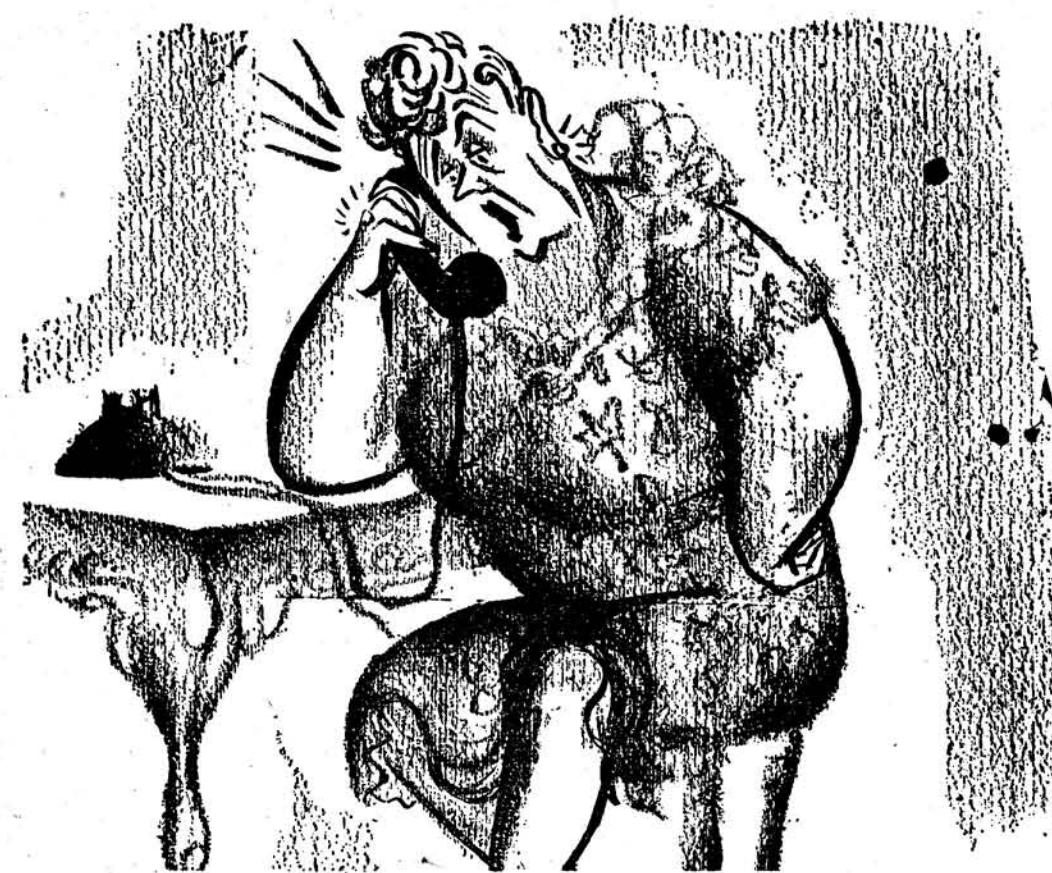
The FBI, which boasts it rounded up every Nazi spy in this country during the war, since last July has failed to make a single arrest in the mass lynching of two Negro couples in Georgia.

Louisiana lynchers of Negro veteran John C. Jones were identified and named last September by another intended victim, Albert Harris, Jr., who saw the atrocity, but escaped himself. The FBI has these names. But not a single conviction has been made.

It has been proved over and over again that the federal government, the government of Wall Street and the Southern "white supremacists", does not intend to halt lynchings. The government itself upholds the Jim-Crow system in the armed forces and in all its other agencies.

If the murderous terror against the Negro people is to be halted, action must come from the entire labor movement in alliance with the Negro organizations. A broad committee of representatives of the unions, Negro and veterans groups must be established to undertake its own vigorous and ruthless investigation of the lynchings.

A nation-wide drive must be launched for immediate passage of effective anti-lynching legislation. Every means of mass pressure must be brought to bear on the government to force the arrest and full punishment of known lynchers.



"Of course we're a hardship case. Don't you think it's been terribly hard on us not being able to raise rents during this housing shortage?"

## Workers' BOOKSHELF

**SOUTHERN EXPOSURE** by Stetson Kennedy, Doubleday & Co., 370 pp., 1946, \$3.

This documented book is valuable source material to anyone seeking the truth on conditions in the South. The author, whose grandfather fought for the Confederacy, is not only familiar with the South as a native, but has for many years done intensive research into all phases of its life.

A great portion of the book consists of a detailed analysis and exposure of American fascist groups which through force and terror help maintain the lily-white rule of the Southern Bourbons. The author visited several "native" fascist organizations to get first-hand information about the structure and functioning of the Ku Klux Klan and similar outfits.

Kennedy gives a mass of statistics on wages, housing, health and education in a section entitled "The Squallid South," which reveals the intense exploitation by the landowners, Southern and Northern industrialists. In every instance the shameful degradation is worse for the Negroes. He describes accurately how dividing the black and white workers is essential to the continued rule of the Southern capitalists.

A chapter called, "The 7.7 Democracy of the South," proves conclusively that the great majority of the Southern people, poor whites as well as Negroes, can expect nothing in the way of justice or democracy from either the Democratic or Republican politicians. The author gives damaging evidence of the methods by which Negroes are disfranchised, how lynch law supercedes federal laws in the Americas, the MP officer, and Lieutenant Livingston, the naval officer in charge of harbor facilities. It is the home of his Italian ancestors. He is going to restore the spirit of which it has been robbed by the fascists.

Joppolo does not, of course,

attempt to upset the existing capitalist social relations. He maintains the local fascist officials except for the mayor and works through the town dignitaries. But he eliminates graft, establishes relief, procures supplies, enforces sanitation and gives sympathetic consideration to complaints, grievances and suggestions. On the day of a party given in his honor by the village, however, he receives notice of his recall for having countermanded a general's arbitrary order which would have meant

starvation for Adano.

Joppolo's recall does not come as a surprise to the reader. In striving to do his best for the people whom the American army had supposedly liberated, he has to buck the brass hats. His fellow-officers regard him as an "eager beaver" who talks too much about democracy.

In the end he is penalized for accepting as genuine the democratic phrases of American imperialism.

Hersey tells his story well. Joppolo is an appealing human being in his intense desire to be liked by the townspeople, in his embarrassment and delight at being praised by them, in his loneliness for his wife and his growing love for a village girl. The people of Adano, their idiosyncrasies and mannerisms, are described with tender humor. The Americans, too, are described realistically and with a judgment which becomes less gentle as it portrays the aristocratic Lieutenant Livingston, and downright bitter as it strikes out at the bullying General Marvin, whose original is believed to have been the notorious General Patton.

The author, who accompanied American troops as a correspondent when they landed in Sicily, knows the brass hats and military red tape. But, like his hero, who often acts as his mouth-piece, he is naive. When an Italian soldier says to Joppolo, "We had no cause to fight . . . Do your men?" he replies, "I don't know, Nicolo . . . That's one thing that worries me about this war." The American soldier, like the Italian soldier, did not feel that he was fighting for a cause that was his own. He fought for the same reason that the Italian soldier did not fight — to get the war over with and go home.

—Paul Schapiro

**Congressmen At Work**

## The Score Up To Now

Anyone still suffering from the delusion that capitalist politicians become genuine representatives of the people when they start drawing a guaranteed annual salary from the public treasury, should take a look at the record of the 80th Congress in the month and a half since it convened.

Confronted with the worst housing crisis in the history of America, for instance, Congress has not lifted a finger to work out a program of government home-building to meet the needs of the working masses. These men on the public payroll have hacked away at rent controls and put a jack under rent ceilings. Their latest move is to pave the way for mass evictions. Their differences are only over the lengths they can go in behalf of the real estate interests without losing their scalps at the polls.

Faced with a looming depression and the consequent menace of mass unemployment in America, they have done nothing in the way of long-range planning to meet the threatened catastrophe. Instead they have engaged in a savage drive against the labor movement, throwing into the legislative hopper a mass of bills designed to cripple unionism in America. Having tossed all price controls into the waste basket last year, their objective this year is to keep wages nailed down to a fixed level while living costs soar and Big Business

crumbles to dust in their graves, yet Congress is preparing for another slaughter. Once again a war budget of astronomical size is up for rubber-stamp approval and along with it proposals to Prussianize the youth of America. And the only concern of these politicians is, how much can they get away with? Both Republicans and Democrats see eye to eye on the foreign policy. Wall Street is following in its blueprints for World War III. Washington bolsters hated reactionary dictatorships throughout the world and acts as quartermaster for the imperialist armies of France and Great Britain in shooting down colonial peoples seeking freedom.

Nowhere does Congress show with greater clarity whose interests it represents than in the field of atomic energy. A Workers' and Farmers' Government would develop this limitless source of power to free mankind from toll and drudgery and build a world society of undreamed abundance. But the only concern of the 80th Congress is to maintain Wall Street's monopoly on the colossal forces in the atom now available to humanity and to use this greatest of all scientific discoveries solely to manufacture atomic bombs.

In month and a half the 80th Congress has shown that it has no other interests at heart but those of Wall Street. Workers, who voted these men into office, should think this over.

The 66,000,000 killed in the Second World War have not yet

## Signs Of Saturation In Retail Market

By John G. Wright

Capitalist statisticians and analysts pay close attention to trends in retail sales, especially of big department stores. In periods of boom such sales show a generally upward trend. Conversely, among the symptoms of a shift in the economic cycle is the leveling off of retail sales, followed frequently by a decline.

The quantity of consumer goods sold began to decline in the retail field before last Christmas. But the steep hikes in prices have kept the dollar volume at last year's peaks and even above them.

While the stores sold less goods than before, they continued to ring up larger sums of money than ever before. And after all, that's what really counts in capitalist enterprises.

But in the latter part of January, a downward trend set in not only in the volume of goods sold, but also in the dollar volume. Retail merchants' cash registers began to ring less merrily in spite of much-advertised price cuts since last Christmas.

### PRICES STILL HIGH

However, because most price levels still remain above those of 1946, cash receipts likewise still compare favorably with previous figures. These "bargain" sales have gone on but the volume of goods sold has continued to dwindle. Thus the point has now been reached where the dollar volume compares less and less favorably with previous figures.

Last week's report of the Federal Reserve Bank takes grudging note of this new development. In its issue of February 11, the *Journal of Commerce*, an authoritative organ of Wall Street, acknowledges that "department store sales in New York City are now just about holding last year's dollar volume — in physical volume they have definitely dipped below 1946."

Taking into account the large price hikes, it is possible to measure this "definite dip" in physical volume. It is close to the percentage of price increases in 1946, that is, a slash in quantity of 25%, at a most conservative estimate.

Despite "lower" prices, despite the huge installment buying, and despite the widespread hunger among the masses for all sorts of consumer goods, they simply have not the funds with which to buy as much as they did last year. For this reason the retail field is beginning to stagnate; the domestic market is starting to show signs of saturation.

### HIT WHERE IT HURTS

Retailers were hit where it hurts most — in the cash register. The consensus of opinion among them today is less than optimistic. They are now watching developments nervously, fearful lest the decline become more marked and precipitous, as the purchasing power of the people drops lower and lower.

The *Journal of Commerce* concludes: "Retail trade executives say that the next few weeks should tell the story as far as the retail trade comparison with last year is concerned."

This is a shrewd observation, but it leaves unsaid just what an "unfavorable comparison" with 1946 will actually entail. New York department store sales, the largest in the country, epitomize the consumer goods turnover from coast to coast. It is by no means excluded that the dollar volume in sales may not drop below last year in the next few weeks. But this fluctuation would not alter the basic trend, which is downward.

When the people are able to buy constantly less, as is the case, they must finally reach a stage where their purchasing power reaches the vanishing point. We are now in the first phase of this process which is seen most clearly during depressions. One fancy name for

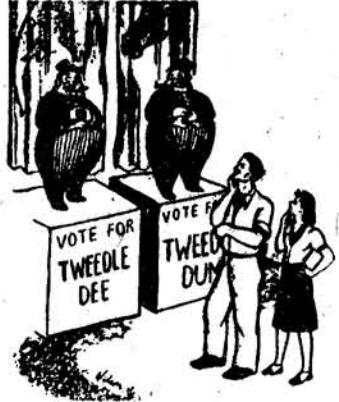
# WORKERS' FORUM

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.

## Likes "Militant's" Truth And Conciseness

Editor:  
My mother, who has been reading *The Militant* for two years, told me that she also reads *Life*, *Time*, *Reader's Digest* and the daily press; but in none of the latter publications has she found the truth and concise presentation that she has found in *The Militant*.

Mild Adams  
New York



## 3-Room Apartment On Lower East Side

Editor:  
A three-room apartment on the lower East Side in New York costs \$18 a month. That is cheap, but is the apartment worth that much?

You've got to be half Yogi to sit in the tub; it is about three or three-and-a-half feet long and is in the kitchen.

The toilet is enclosed in a little closet about three feet by three feet.

There is more plaster off the ceilings and walls in the apartment than there is on. The view from the windows is disgusting. I have never figured out which is the back or the front of the apartment.

From two windows there is a view of a rusty junk yard. From the other three you see the side of the next building.

The cracks in the floor are so large and frequent that the light from the lower apartment shows through when you turn out the lights at night.

Nothing is gained by complaining to the rent agent. He promises repairs but they are never made. But if rent is due on the eighteenth and the rent is not paid in seven days, he serves a dispossess notice. This means that even if you pay the rent four days after the notice you've got to pay the \$18 plus \$4 for the court cost of the dispossess notice.

Gladys Barker  
New York

## Answers P.M.'s Letter In Last Week's Forum

Editor:  
Yes, "P.M. of Vermont," there is democracy in Communism.

First of all, there is democracy in the Socialist Workers Party that stands on the program of genuine Communism. Our ranks take an active part in reaching all major decisions of the party. They are free to write, discuss and present any views they wish during the periods when the party prepares to make a decision on policy. In no other party will you find such independence of thought and freedom to advance a point of view as in the Socialist Workers Party.

It is this democracy in our party which makes possible our centralized control of authority in

## Rubber Worker Draws Lesson From Survey

Editor:

The United Rubber Workers recently took a cost of living survey. This survey points out the plight we are in, showing how the rising cost of living has wiped out the 18½ cents we got last year.

The survey also points out that six groups control the economic life of the country. They are the House of Morgan and its affiliates, the Rockefeller crowd, the du Ponts, the Mellons, the Cleveland crowd and the Ford interests.

What to do about this situation and how to solve it? The high point of this survey is their political "solution." Here is what they say: "The foregoing unfortunate situation can be attributed in large measure to the anti-labor attitude of some federal and state representatives. Their presence in these strategic positions can be charged to the indifference, negligence and thoughtlessness of American wage earners. It is high time that we began to protect our interests, or very shortly we will awaken to find that we have no interests left to protect."

First of all, a Workers' and Farmers' Government in America would break the Bourbon monopoly on the ballot boxes in the South. The poll tax laws and trick legal requirements would be struck off the books. Not only would the Negro people and poor whites be able to go to the polls without fear of being lynched, but they could organize, campaign and vote for a party of their choice.

The Workers' and Farmers' Government would likewise democratize the election laws in all the other states. The arbitrary and dictatorial requirements now existing in most states to bar minority parties from the ballot would be tossed into the ash can.

Far more important even than these democratic reforms would be the great leap forward that would then be possible for the productive system. Unlimited plenty is possible under a planned economy. This plenty means leisure time for the workers. And leisure time means better education, freedom to think about problems of concern to the nation and the world, and the time and means to do something about it.

It is thus clear that Communism provides an economic base that will make possible an expansion and flowering of democracy such as is difficult to conceive in the prison house of capitalism.

As for the oppression of government, that too will disappear in the new society. In the opening stages, the Workers' and Farmers' Government would break the monopoly grip of the colossally wealthy 60 families who rule America today. This would undoubtedly be felt by this ruling clique as "undemocratic"; but for the overwhelming majority of the people it would be the first breath of genuine democracy in America.

J. H. New York

A. D. New York

Capitalist Newspapers Silent On Real Crimes

Editor:

The indignation of the newspapers over "fixing" of sports shows how they try to shape the thinking of the American workers.

They do not aim their protest against the indignities heaped on mankind — the mass destruction of people by the atom bomb, starvation all over the world, people wandering without homes, malnutrition right here in America.

The capitalist propaganda machine strains to keep us from seeing and understanding such things. Yet these are the real crimes that should be ended.

Edith Landi  
New York

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

## The Socialist Workers Party

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sundays, 7 p.m. Public Speaking class.

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

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

BOSTON 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO—Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MADison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

Public Speaking Class: Every Thurs. 8 p.m.

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

FRIDAY night forum, 8 p.m.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone EXbrook 1926.

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

FRIDAY night forum, 8 p.m.

NEW YORK CITY HQ., 116 University Place. GR 5-8149.

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

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

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

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

Discussion on the SWP Program every Wed. 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. 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. Tel. Court 6060.

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.

AKRON—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open Mon., 7:30-9:15 p.m.

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

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PHILADELPHIA—For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

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

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

TOLEDO—108 Summit St., Toledo 4, O. Open daily, Phone Main 8919.

YOUNGSTOWN—35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

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

# New York Sets Pace For Rest Of Country In \$20,000 SWP National Fund Campaign

By William F. Warde

National Fund Campaign Director

New York took the center of the spotlight last week in the \$20,000 Emergency Fund Campaign for the Socialist Workers Party. This fast-moving local sent in \$687.60 from its various branches, more than half of the total for the week. This lifts New York to \$4,411.83, or 74% of its big \$6,000 quota.

Last week thirteen branches contributed the sum of \$1,253.85 which brings the campaign total up to \$11,445 or 57% of the \$20,000 goal.

Fund Director Duncan Conway writes concerning New York's achievements: "Central branch, which has maintained a consistently high pace, climaxed its splendid performance by going over the 100 per cent mark last week. This is the first branch in the city to do so."

"Saturday night, Feb. 15, Central arranged a colorful Mexican Fiesta which was attended by a considerable number of out-of-town visitors. The entire proceeds, which came to over \$100, were turned in to the party fund. Central's total now stands at \$1,187.42, or 108% of its \$1,100 quota. This is a remarkable sum for one branch to collect and Central must be commended for the seriousness with which its members met this campaign."

Other New York branches also deserve special mention. Bronx now has 99% — only \$2 short of its \$500 allotment. Harlem has an excellent record, standing third in the city scoreboard with 89%. It should go over the top very soon.

Militant readers and other friends of the Socialist Workers Party also did their part last week. H.A. of New York donated \$100 to the fund with these cheering words: "I expect to give more to the campaign before it is finished. While I cannot be as active in your great work for a Socialist United States as you members, I feel obliged to take on my share of your financial burden. Without success for your movement, I see no hope for humanity. Keep moving forward."

Four more friends from New York, E.K., I.K., S.K. and A.K., mailed a \$3 contribution with the following message: "All power to you in your fight for a better world, a workers world!"

M.M. of Minneapolis sends \$5. "If you like, you can add this to the Minneapolis contribution," M.M. says. "I hope the American workers have their eyes opened. With best wishes for your fund drive and the work for Socialism."

St. Paul encloses a check for \$47.38 which brings its payments to \$197, or 60% of its \$330 quota. "One railroad worker had been depositing money in a Christmas Club all year," writes P. Mertens. "He had \$60 coming and gave \$50 of this to the fund drive. Some other comrades, caught in the pinch of inflation, have pledged to raise certain amounts from their friends and contacts and some of this money has been collected in this way."

Pacemaker St. Louis marches far ahead of the nearest contender by sending in two more contributions last week. This banner branch is coming close to its promise of doubling its original \$50 quota.

"The Flint comrades are watching the Militant Fund Campaign column with keen interest," writes Genora Dollinger. "They are filled with confidence that, despite the wage slashes in the form of high costs of living, our Party will come through this campaign with flying colors. Where there's a will, there's a way."

Here's one way, Genora points out. "Again we stress, don't forget our sympathizers. One young office worker gladly contributed \$15 to our Scooty Hunter Memorial Fund drive."

## Youth Activities

AKRON.—Socialist Youth Club meets Sunday afternoon, 2 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing. 8 South Howard St. 2nd floor.

CHICAGO.—Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet *Socialism On Trial*. Games and refreshments. 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES.—Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educational after every meeting. Refreshments served.

NEW YORK.—For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3. Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., 116 University Pl., Dancing, refreshments served.

SATURDAY Nite House Parties: call GR 5-8149 for information. For information about Queens Youth Group, write M. Kevin O'Neil, University Pl., N. Y. 3.

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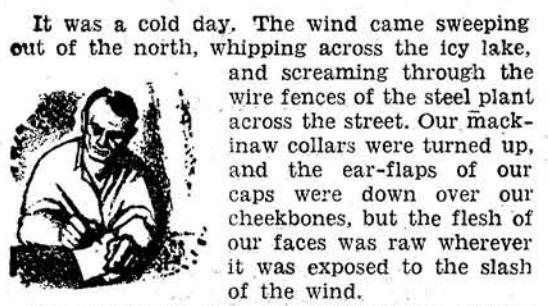
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## What Can A Man Do?

By Theodore Kovalesky



It was a cold day. The wind came sweeping out of the north, whipping across the icy lake, and screaming through the wire fences of the steel plant across the street. Our Mackinaw collars were turned up, and the ear-flaps of our caps were down over our cheekbones, but the flesh of our faces was raw wherever it was exposed to the slash of the wind.

We closed the door of Emil's Tavern behind us and started down the street, stumbling through the drifts. But before we had gone twenty feet, Steve stopped. "Poor little guy!" I heard him say, and his soft Polish drawl was filled with compassion.

I looked down. There at Steve's feet stood a quivering, gaunt little dog, rubbing close to Steve for the warmth of Steve's body and the clumsy affection of Steve's big, gloved hands. "Poor little guy, out in all this cold!" Steve muttered, patting the dog's back and neck. Under the peak of his cap I saw in his eyes the starved loneliness and affection of a solitary man for a little living creature.

"I wonder what my landlady would say if I take him home," Steve murmured, half to himself. But he never found out, because a little kid came running up shouting, "Hey, mister, that's my dog!" Steve, with a childish look of disappointment, started through the snowdrifts with me on our way home.

Maybe you don't think a little incident like that is important enough to write about, a big 40-year-old steelworker stopping in the cold to fondle a little dog. But here's the reason I'm telling you!

Steve is a guy that likes to fondle things. He loves cats and dogs and birds, because they're small and have life in their bodies. Most of all, he loves children for the same reasons. He

## The Negro Struggle

## Nothing Wrong They Can Fix

By William E. Bohannon

At the same time that Big Business was opening its drive in Congress to outlaw the closed shop last month, the *Afro-American* came out with an attack on the closed shop. Just like the Big Business propagandists, the editors of the *Afro* twist the facts to cover up the truth about who will benefit if the closed shop is made illegal. The only difference is that the *Afro* tries to make it appear as if the closed shop is responsible for Jim-Crow employment practices, while the Big Business spokesmen don't use such a pretext.

The editorial says in part: "There is no same person who will maintain that the closed shop helps colored people to get jobs as plumbers and electricians in the average town."

The argument of closed vs. open shop, therefore, has nothing to do with the question of employing colored people. We should certainly oppose the closed shop."

This makes it look as if the unions and the closed shop are alone or chiefly to blame for Jim-Crow employment policies. But that is far from the truth. Long before any union in this country had a closed shop, Negroes were barred from most decent trades and jobs. Can the *Afro* deny this? Of course it cannot. Who was responsible for barring Negroes in those days? It couldn't have been the unions because in most places there were no unions. The ones who were responsible were the employers, and they are the chief culprits today too. Besides, do open shop bosses treat us any better than closed shop bosses?

## "Feminine Delinquency"

By Grace Carlson

In a *Chicago Tribune* article on Jan. 8, Willard Edwards writes of "feminine delinquency." He bases his findings on a short visit made to the Federal Penitentiary for Women at Alderson, W. Va. After interviewing prison officials there and talking to a few prisoners, Edwards concluded that "feminine delinquency" is due to "a deficiency in parental discipline" and affection at a young and impressionable age.

I paid much longer "visits" to the federal prison at Alderson than Edwards did and I probably had much longer "interviews" with prison officials — and with prisoners. (For the benefit of the new readers of *The Militant*, I should say that I was one of the 18 prisoners in the Minneapolis Labor Case. We were sentenced to prison because of our anti-war position and served our 16-month terms in 1944-45.)

But I came to very different conclusions from the *Chicago Tribune* writer as to the basic cause of "feminine delinquency." Although individual factors — "deficiency in parental discipline," etc. — may play a role in a few cases, I found that the vast majority of women prisoners were driven into lives of "crime" by the poverty of their homes.

At Alderson I wrote an article for the April, 1944 issue of *The Eagle*, the magazine put out by the women prisoners. It was entitled, "To Safeguard the Mental Health of Prisoners" and I still believe that it had a better explanation for "feminine delinquency" than Edwards has. Here are a few excerpts from this article:

"The development of an objective attitude toward herself, her 'crime' and her relation to Society is essential for the individual who wants

## Notes From The News

Homer Loomis, Jr., führer of the anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish Columbians, Inc., was sentenced to 12 months in a Georgia public works camp last week after being found guilty of inciting to riot.

Negro veteran, Isaac Woodard is suing the Atlantic Greyhound Bus Co. for illegally ejecting him from a bus and turning him over to the South Carolina cop who gouged out his eyes last year.

The All-Chicago Labor Committee is planning a series of local meetings and plant demonstrations against the anti-labor bills in Congress.

wants to make them happy and to protect them. In the same way, a slow, kindly, tender, protective way, he loves Julia, too, but what can he do, he asks you. What can a man do? Because Julia has a blind brother, and Steve has an old mother. There are duties and obligations in this world, and what can a man do if they cut off the road to his happiness?

For 20 years Steve has loved Julia in his slow affectionate way. For 20 years he has tried to save money so they can marry. For 20 years he has yearned with poignant passion for the blue-eyed children she might bear him to hug and fondle and protect. But always there was Steve's old mother cooking kielbasa for him on the kitchen stove or rocking in her chair on the porch in the smoky sunlight of a steel town summer.

What can a man do when his girl must do part-time cleaning in people's houses and then rush home to care for her brother who left his eyesight in the open hearth pit one autumn day a quarter of a century ago when a lad tipped and spattered?

What can a man do? I don't know, exactly, when he's a poor workingman like Steve. All Steve does is take Julia to a show on his days off, or sit with her in a quiet neighborhood tavern drinking beer . . . not much. For Julia is a good, quiet girl, but enough to be sociable and pass the evening.

But meanwhile there are gray places in Steve's hair, and on Julia's face little lines begin to show. The untouched white bedsheet and table cloths grow old, unused in her "treasure" chest. The days when she might bear children are drawing to a close, but she and Steve are honorable people who do their duty.

And the little living things they love? Time passes, and I'm afraid there will be no children . . . only the hungry little street dogs to fondle and feed and talk to in soft, affectionate tones.

## THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1947

PAGE SIX

## School Crisis Imperils Free Public Education

Joint AFL, CIO Picket Line



When the Freedman Cutout Corporation in New York refused to negotiate with the AFL-Pulp Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers, the union was forced to go out on strike. Rallying to the support of their brother paper workers, Local 292, AFL-United Paper Workers, joined the picket line to show the boss that labor is united against him. (Federated Picture)

## N. Y. Anti-Labor Election Bills Attacked By Clarke

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 11 — An imposing array of trade union and political organizations blasted the reactionary election law bills now before the State Legislature at the public hearings held here today in the Senate chamber.

Speakers for the State and New York City CIO, the American Labor Party, Liberal Party, Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Socialist, Socialist Labor Party and others pointed out that the rigorous amendments to the election law introduced by Republican State Senator Williamson would have prevailing in federal and state legislatures.

These bills, Clarke continued, exhibit the trend of the ruling class to establish a monopoly in politics. Such a monopoly existed in its finished form under the Nazis in Germany and the Fas-

"If you enact the present bill," Clarke concluded, "you are closing the door to the possibility of the workers and farmers of this state — and they are its great majority — of legislating change, from the smallest reforms to the most fundamental social changes. And mind you, you are legislating now not only for New York state but for the whole nation because the laws that you make now apply not only to state elections but also to presidential elections."

"If you enact this bill and worse ones which must inevitably follow as day follows night, you are saying in effect that the people have no other road except the road of revolution. This is the inevitable consequence of such legislation as is embodied in the Williamson Bill, and the responsibility rests squarely upon the forces which find it necessary to protect their fabulous wealth and privileges by such legislation.

FOR PRINCE BILL

"Gentlemen, those who sow the wind of dictatorship must reap the whirlwind of revolution."

The Socialist Workers Party is supporting the Prince Bill which would liberalize the present election laws by striking out the provisions requiring minority parties to get 50 signatures in each of the 61 counties of the state in

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Thousands of labor campaign leaflets have been distributed in the three wards urging the election of Wesolowski, Chakulski and Salvatore. Posters have been placed in many stores and stickers are on display everywhere.

Incumbent Democratic Alderman Rostenkowski's machine in the 32nd Ward have been tearing down the labor candidate's posters, but the union men are replacing these posters as fast as they are torn down.

At the hearing of arguments for a new trial for Mr. Giles, all seats in the courtroom, and all possible standing room was filled by *Militant* readers and NAACP supporters.

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FOR PRINCE BILL

"Gentlemen, those who sow the wind of dictatorship must reap the whirlwind of revolution."

The Socialist Workers Party is supporting the Prince Bill which would liberalize the present election laws by striking out the provisions requiring minority parties to get 50 signatures in each of the 61 counties of the state in

"If you enact this bill and worse ones which must inevitably follow as day follows night, you are saying in effect that the people have no other road except the road of revolution. This is the inevitable consequence of such legislation as is embodied in the Williamson Bill, and the responsibility rests squarely upon the forces which find it necessary to protect their fabulous wealth and privileges by such legislation.

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