

Significance of the British Mine Strike

— See Pages 2 and 3 —

VOL. XI.—No. 37.

Democracy Is Key Issue At UE Parley

Minority Rights Menaced By Stalinist Bureaucrats

By C. Thomas

The sharp internal conflict within the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America will occupy the center of the stage at the union's annual convention to be held in Boston next week.

The opposition to the Stalinist leadership has been organized on a national scale in the UE Committee for Democratic Action under the leadership of Harry Block of Philadelphia and James Carey, Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO and former president of the UE. The Carey-Block group claims to represent over 25% of the membership. They publish a caucus paper, "The Real UE," with a national circulation. A number of locals are controlled by their supporters. They also claim a steady growth in numbers and influence since the last convention when the CIO-Block slate was defeated by a vote of 6 to 1.

STALINIST CAMPAIGN

Reflecting their fear of the growth of the opposition, the Stalinists have launched a campaign to eliminate the UE Committee for Democratic Action as an organized force. Last March, the Stalinist General Executive Board of the UE adopted a resolution condemning the CDA as "a dual movement," and calling "upon the Committee for Democratic Action to dissolve."

In the months preceding the coming convention, a flood of Stalinist-inspired resolutions have poured into national headquarters calling on the convention to take drastic action against "outside interference in the affairs of the union" by the CDA. Some of these resolutions have gone further and demanded that all "factions and groups" be dissolved.

Under the formula of a campaign against "outside interference," the Stalinists propose to stifle the activity of all opposition groupings in the union. According to the Stalinist demagogic there is no need for internal groupings in a "democratic" organization. Having complete control of the national apparatus the Stalinist prohibition of opposition groups would mean the banning of all groups but one—their own.

The resort to red-baiting by the CIO, together with the fact that it shelters the reactionary ACTU group (Association of Catholic Trade Unionists), has misled some militants into supporting the demagogic Stalinist resolutions against "outside interference." Because neither of the

country strong groups exist opposed to both the CDA and the Stalinists. In addition various tendencies exist within the main groups. This makes for a fluid situation within the national organization.

With the further sharpening of the class struggle as an aftermath of the anti-labor offensive of the employers, regroupments are bound to take place around the vital problems that will arise.

The attempt to ban internal groups through the subterfuge of a campaign against "outside interference," is, therefore, a blow aimed at the democratic right of the members to group together to advance a program in opposition to the official leadership. The open struggle between contending groups is the best guarantee of the preservation of internal union democracy.

THE MILITANT

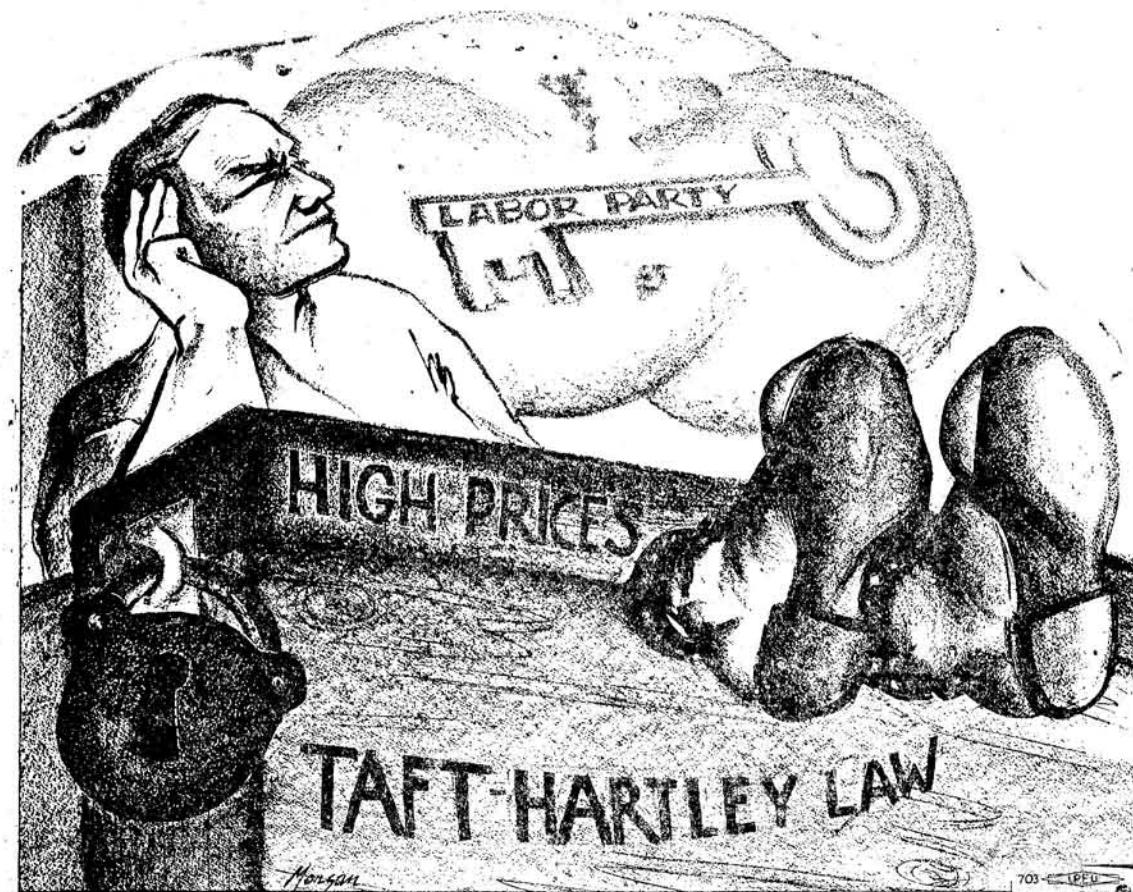
PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEEDS OF PEOPLE BY-PASSED IN PLAN FOR SPECIAL SESSION

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1947

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Key to the Situation



Organized Labor Target Of 'Red' Deportation Cases

Acting like a well-oiled machine and obviously upon orders from the highest federal agencies, the New York immigration authorities last week seized for deportation two union officials, suspected of affiliation with the Communist (Stalinist) Party. On

is John Santo, international organi-

zation director of the CIO Transport Workers Union; the other is Michael J. Obermeier, president of Local 6, Hotel and Club Employees Union, AFL.

The sole charge against Santo is membership in the Communist Party. Obermeier is charged in addition with having been affiliated with the Food Workers Industrial Union, a subsidiary of the Stalinist-sponsored Trade Union Unity League, created by the CP during its notorious "Third Period" when dual "Red unions" were the official policy. (The TUUL was dissolved in 1934, with the inception of Santo's "people's front" line.)

Neither Santo nor Obermeier are citizens, having been repeatedly denied their naturalization papers although Santo has served as a soldier in World War II, while Obermeier has lived in this country for 35 years.

Coldest calculation and systematic planning are apparent in the Santo-Obermeier case: from the timing of the detentions, through the deliberate involvement of both CIO and AFL unions, down to such minor items as the nationalities of defendants—Chermeier, a German by birth; Santo, a Rumanian citizen of Hungarian descent.

This sinister attempt to duplicate

the notorious Palmer "Red" Raids of the Twenties must arouse the vigilance of the entire labor movement.

While the attack is ostensibly directed against the CP—whose subversives to the Kremlin makes it easy for Wall Street's warmongers to exploit the current Russophobia—the real target is the organized labor movement, in the first instance the genuine union militants.

Their turn—under similar charges—will come swiftly upon the heel of any success that the reactionaries are able to score at the expense of the discredited Stalinists.

For this reason it is necessary to rally the largest forces not so much for the defense of the particular individuals in the case but, above all, to defend the elementary democratic rights under attack.

This is a clear-cut class issue. Whoever lines up with the red-baiters and deporters—no matter how plausible the demagogic arguments may sound—is in reality lining up with the bitterest enemies of the entire labor movement.

The CIO, an irreconcilable political

opponent of Stalinism and everything it stands for, is unequivocally opposed to these projected deportations as an ominous conspiracy against labor.

This does not mean to say the world famine is not a factor in the current speculation. It is a big one, indeed. The same "humanitarians" who are taking bread, milk and meat from the mouths of American families are banking precisely on projected "aid" to Europe to unload on the morrow at fantastic prices, their huge inventories of foods and manufactured goods.

Most shameful of all amid this speculative orgy is the cringing silence of the official labor leaders, who are doing exactly nothing while the billionaires continue to rob the American people as well as the starving poor throughout the world.

Plot to Bar SWP from Ballot Brought to Court in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6 — The Republican-dominated County Board of Elections yesterday rejected the nomination papers for Irene P. LeCompte, Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 7th Councilmanic

District, on the grounds of failing

to answer why they have rejected the nomination papers of the SWP and the WP. Hearing on this will come up Friday, Sept. 12 in the Common Pleas Court.

In order to combat the vicious legal obstacles of the Pennsylvania election laws, the Joint Defense Committee is prepared to carry to the highest state court the fight for the political rights of independent labor candidates to appear on the ballot.

The Defense Committee is pro-

ceeding to rally the support of all

labor and liberal groups in a fight

for elementary democratic rights.

A defense rally and social is pro-

jected for Saturday, Sept. 20, at

1303 W. Girard Avenue, where David

H. H. Felix, attorney for the joint defense committee, imme-

diately issued a writ of mandamus asking Judge McDevitt to

call the County Board of Elections

to answer why they have rejected

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Something New In the Mines

By J. R. Johnson

The relation of the miners in Great Britain to the British economy is one of the most astonishing features of production in the modern world. In the centuries-old struggle between capital and labor we have reached a pitch where the future of the economy hangs in whether a few thousand miners will or will not work. As the N.Y. Times said a few days ago, this is something new. It is.

The Times did not comment that new as this is, it is not something that is confined to Britain. Just for the sake of the record and to refresh a few defective memories I draw their attention to the following:

In 1943 the miners in the United States defied the U.S. government and the full war propaganda machine of the American capitalist class. The miners struck, and went back to work, and struck, and went back to work in a manner that showed their complete disregard for all that the government was saying about the necessities of producing for the national defense.

It is easy to under-estimate what this series of strikes displayed. Since that time the miners have continued to show that they have deep-seated grievances against the coal operators and a society which condemns them to the kind of life they live and the kind of work they do. I have written about this in my column before and shall most certainly do so again. Because what is taking place in Britain is under no circumstances to be associated with the bankrupt British economy. It is a certain stage of development of production on a world scale and a particular response that the workers are making to it.

We have a similar situation among the mine workers of the Ruhr. It might appear that among them the decisive factors of the low production are poverty, political demoralization, and all the bitter consequences of a catastrophic defeat. Before we rush to that conclusion however, let us make some comparisons between the British and American workers.

COMPARISON OF MINERS

The British economy is completely bankrupt. It lives by injection from the U.S. But the U.S. economy at the present moment cannot by any means be said to be bankrupt in the sense that we speak of the yawning abyss before Britain. So that it is not a question of perspectives of economic development.

The American coal mining industry is one of the most advanced in the world so far as mechanization is concerned. The British coal min-

Scientific socialism is the concrete expression of the long historical process, namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist lines. The organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crisis and wars.

—Leon Trotsky, 1940



ing industry is one of the most backward.

The American miners receive very high wages. But the British miners too, have been given wages and privileges during the recent period which set them far above their pre-war standards and also above most of the other workers in Great Britain.

The American coal miners are constantly being transferred from private ownership to government control and back again. The British mines are nationalized and administered by a government board.

The American miners have been persecuted by the government. The British miners have won from the government special favors.

Thus there are similarities and dissimilarities between the two groups of miners which make it impossible to unite them in any pattern except one. They are miners of 1947 and resent bitterly the circumstances and conditions of their labor. Not very long ago there were dispatches from Stalinist Russia in which the Stalinist bureaucracy spoke with bitterness about the attitude of the miners in Russia to their production schedules. The dramatic circumstances of the British crisis have brought into sharp focus the relation of the miners to British production. But it is nothing that is particularly British. It is world-wide phenomena characteristic not only of miners but of labor as a whole.

This is what is new. The British Labor Government is bankrupt before it. The British miner may or may not give way. That depends on too many circumstances for us to attempt a judgment here. But I believe that this attitude that they have taken is to be closely followed by American workers and revolutionaries. In it can be discerned an anticipation of a later stage of development of the coal miners of the U.S.

The most powerful impression that emerges from the accounts of the British miners over the last year is the impression of their im-

potence. They do not know what to do. The mines are nationalized. They have a Labor Government. They have demanded special wages and special conditions. They have got them. What next for them? It is obvious that they do not know.

They can only show their dissatisfaction by grim resistance to any encroachment on their privileges and a supreme disregard for any propaganda even from their own labor leaders.

But it is precisely the same feeling which has been widely noted in the American coal fields. With nothing like the experience of their British brothers, the American miners can only strike and strike and strike. Sometimes they actually confess their impotence.

The solution is such a transformation of society as even the British miners are not yet able to envision. It involves a method of production in which the complete responsibility for the mines must rest with the miners themselves. The actual production must be under their direct control. The government which administers must be a government of the workers, resting upon, dependent upon, controlled by the workers, a system in which the miners can feel that every effort and even privation are contributing to their own cause and the cause of the other workers like themselves. The British miners are saying as plainly as possible that the present Labor Government is not their government. And they are correct.

The experience of the French Revolution, and of the Russian Revolution in its heroic days, showed that once the masses of the people are convinced that the government does indeed represent them, there are no limits to the endurance and creative power of which they are capable. That stage still awaits not only the American but the British miners also. That is socialism.

And the sullen hostility of miners all over the world is one of the great indications of the bankruptcy of capitalist society.

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The Fable of the Fox and the Bureaucrat

By Albert Parker

Once there was a Fox who came from a famous family; one of his great-grandfathers had been immortalized in Aesop's fable about the Fox who jumped again and again for the grapes and finally walked away, saying: "They were probably sour grapes anyhow."

This modern Fox was walking down the road recently, feeling rather hungry, when he came upon a vine from which hung grapes so yellow and ripe and juicy that they made his mouth water.

He judged the distance carefully for he recalled what a fool his great-grandfather had made of himself and he saw that he could reach the grapes with ease. So he tensed his muscle and prepared to jump. At that moment a Man interrupted him and said:

"Stop, don't be so rash. Don't you know that those grapes are probably sour? Don't you realize that you aren't big enough to reach them no matter how much you try? Aren't you aware of the possibility that in

jumping for them you may break a leg?"

The Fox again looked at the grapes and again measured the distance he would have to jump. Then he leaped and got the grapes the very first time. As he trotted off, with juice dribbling down his chin, he said: "If I spent my time listening to the advice of cowards, I would have starved to death a long time ago."

No one in the whole wide world more closely resembles the man in this fable than the average union bureaucrat at the head of the CIO and AFL unions in this country. Covered from head to foot with a yellow streak, these miserable creatures have the nerve for only one thing—to mislead, misguide and restrain the workers by preaching sermons about the weakness of the powerful labor movement.

He warned labor "not to dissipate its strength at the polls by trying to defeat in one swoop all Congressmen who voted for the Taft-Hartley Labor Law." He declared it would be "too big a job" for labor to accomplish its stated goal of defeating all who supported the law. Instead, labor ought to "pick out a list of 100 Representatives and Senators

and to concentrate on them." In that case, "then something might be done."

And to drive his point home, Rieve, like Philip Murray and William Green and John L. Lewis, is opposed to the formation of a Labor Party. As is equally well known, Rieve, like the other top bureaucrats, answered the rank and file demand for a Labor Party after the Taft-Hartley Law was enacted by promising to drive from office every member of Congress who supported that law.

Such a program cannot amount to much if it results in the election of other anti-labor Congressmen; as it must if labor does not put up its own candidates and oppose both the Democrats and the Republicans. But even this promise now seems "too bold" to Rieve. For he tried to renege on it at the CIO convention.

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Who or what is going to stop them

—a few hundred thousand bloated capitalists, corrupt politicians, brass hats, and faint-hearted labor lieutenants of capitalism? Not if labor is conscious of its strength and of the need to use it politically as well as economically.

American labor has had enough of the Rieves and their counsels of pessimism, despair and defeatism. If such cravens had been listened to in

1776, the American colonists never

would have been able to win their

war for independence from Britain.

If such misleaders had been fol-

lowed in the 19th Century, the Negro

people would still be groaning un-

der the yoke of chattel slavery.

If we ourselves had not had more

guts in the 1930's than Rieve ad-

vised us to show now, the CIO it-

self could never have been built.

Like the fox in our fable, we must

turn our backs on the false advice

of the union bureaucrats, tense our

muscles and jump for the goal which

is easily within our grasp—a Labor

Party of our own, through which we

can begin the political job of

building a new and better world.

Cooking Up New Angles



At a meeting in Washington the top legal figures of the NLRB get together to cook up new angles in administering the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. Right now they are concentrating on maneuvering the unions into submitting "anti-communist" affidavits. Seated (l. to r.) are David Findling, Joseph C. Wells, Czar Robert Denham, Charles Brooks and Ellison Smith. (Federated Picture)

HOW TO BECOME A "FRIEND" OF LABOR

By Art Preis

Maybe I'm a little slow in the head, like my best friends say. But all these years it seems I've been going around with a cock-eyed notion about what a "friend of labor" is. Last week, thanks to the New York State CIO leaders in convention assembled, I began to see I had things turned on their head.

Now what would you say a "friend of labor" is? A militant union leader, an advocate of no taxes on the poor and bigger taxes on the rich, somebody who demands all war funds be used for low-cost government housing projects, an opponent of Wall Street's political monopoly who wants to build a labor party? If so, you're a comic. You ought to be making big money like Jack Benny.

You see, that's just what I've been saying—and not in joke either. So it's quite a shock for me to realize how wrong I've been. And that's on the authority of the whole top leadership of the State CIO.

THE CANDIDATE

It came about when they picked a candidate for me to vote for—Mayor O'Dwyer. They called him the "next governor" right from the state CIO convention platform.

Next, the CIO workers at Western Union went on strike. The Mayor put more cops around the Western Union picket lines than you'll see escorting a parade of the President down Fifth Avenue. Big, tough, scab-herding cops, thousands of them—the kind that get a thrill out of clubbing women and itch to break a picket's skull with a blackjack. Right there you could see he was making it hard for the

extra practice by terrorizing the Negro people in Harlem or running in pickets protesting Jim Crow, like the Palisades Park incident a couple of weeks ago.

Yesterday, I was passing a picket line of 12 women in front of a 14th Street department store, Hecht's. There were six big cops, armed to the teeth, "keeping order." Also a squad car standing by for "emergencies." It's these little touches that make you a "friend of labor."

Don't these 15,000 extra cops now and then nab a gangster? Well, I see by the papers that they've had 11 unsolved gang murders in a couple of months over in a small section of Brooklyn. But the police positively assure us they have a "lead." All they need is more time and fewer strikes to occupy their attention.

Our Mayor and "next governor" has many other qualifications. A month after he was in office he doubled the city sales tax. Every time I buy something for more than 15 cents, I pay two per cent more because of this "outstanding political figure." That doesn't go for stock transactions on Wall Street.

Now, that stink coming from the New York subways is more than their natural odor. It's the millions going yearly to the bankers and other big bondholders who "sold" the subways to the city for five times their worth and have been living off the interest on the city debt ever since. Our "friend of labor" is pushing for a subway fare boost. Another reason why he's supposed to get my vote.

That's just a few of the main qualifications for a "friend of labor," according to the model pointed out by the state CIO leaders. Frankly, I'm still not sold, but then, as I say, I'm inclined to be stubborn in my opinions. Maybe one of these days I'll be on a picket line and get a love-tap from one of O'Dwyer's cops. Maybe that will put the right slant into my head about this "friend of labor" business.

PLIGHT CONTINUES

The economic plight of Italy shows no promise of improvement under capitalism. This coming winter again offers the workers cold and hunger. The only perspective of the Italian capitalists and government leaders is another loan from the Truman administration. They hope that they will get enough to avert an overturn and that the Stalinist and Social Democratic leaders will meanwhile succeed by their policies in reducing the masses to a state of disillusionment and apathy. Then the neo-fascist movements, which have sprung up all over Italy and which have ample financial backing, will be able, they hope, to repeat Mussolini's "March on Rome."

The urgency of the situation, mirrored in the Pope's speech, is increased by the impending withdrawal of American troops from Italy. Truman will do this reluctantly under the terms of the recently ratified peace treaty. This will leave the Italian capitalists and the Vatican face to face with the peasant and working class—without foreign bayonets to protect them.

The masses who still follow the

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Laud Washington Envoys For Shift in Greek Regime

Loy W. Henderson, ace trouble-shooter of the State Department, has apparently succeeded in rearranging the Greek puppet government to suit Wall Street's political tastes.

On Sept. 7 King Paul of the House of Gluckberg swore in as Premier, Themistocles Sopoulis, 87-year-old quiling who still wears a few tattered rags of liberalism. This was the best that Henderson, U. S. Ambassador Lincoln MacVeagh and Dwight Griswold, head of the U. S. Aid Mission, could do in the way of making the unsavory Greek regime look presentable. The capitalist press declared it a "big day."

Sopoulis had previously declared that he "would never under any circumstances" serve in the same cabinet as the utterly discredited arch-reactionary Tsaldaris, boss of the previous cabinet. He insisted on a "free hand" in filling posts should he be named Premier.

Tsaldaris, on the other hand, had balked at serving under Sopoulis, although he yielded to Washington's demand to oust ex-bandit Napoleon Zervas, organizer of the sweeping "anti-red" purge that recently shocked American public opinion.

These puppets calculated that Wall Street would not pull out of Greece any way so why not shake down all the racket would stand? It was not revealed what promises or threats Henderson might have applied, but both these Greek political racketeers suddenly made concessions glaringly divergent from their previous tough statements.

Sopoulis accepted Tsaldaris as a cabinet member. He accepted him, moreover, as head of a powerful inner combination in the cabinet. And Sopoulis proved decidedly amenable to "suggestions" on candidates for cabinet posts.

Tsaldaris claimed that he felt "humiliated by pressure . . . from the United States." But like a true quiling he swallowed his humiliation with remarkable fortitude and knocked down to work for Wall Street under Sopoulis.

Throughout this farce, Wash-

See More Gold Where The Last Came From

The Turkish dictatorship is looking for more gold as a result of the \$100,000,000 U.S. loan which the Truman Administration obligingly handed them to build up a streamlined army. So they are busily whitewashing their regime to give it the clean-looking "liberal" front Wall Street prefers for quiling regimes.

The Turkish government, reports the press, "is getting ready to apply to the world bank for a \$400,000,000 loan."

Marshall's Advice On Shuffling Puppets

In his Sept. 10 column, Drew Pearson, the well-known Washington correspondent, reports a conversation between Secretary of State Marshall and Dwight Griswold, head of the U. S. Mission to Greece, that casts a vivid light upon the degree of State Department control over the Greek royalist government.

On being briefed for his trip, Griswold told Marshall he "would revamp the Greek Government quickly."

"Hadn't you better go a little slow?" Marshall cautioned. "We can't be dictators."

Griswold casually responded: "I dined with 10 prominent newspapermen. Every one agreed that my first move should be for a new government."

ton pretended it was not intervening in the internal affairs of Greece against the will and interests of the Greek people. The purpose of this pretense was to avoid political responsibility for the cleaned-up cabinet and to continue the Allied fairy tale about the royalist regime salvaged from the gutters of Europe being a sovereign government "democratically" chosen by the Greek people.

But apparently careerist throat-cutting between MacVeagh and Griswold fouled up the quiet behind-the-scenes rearrangement of puppets. It was necessary to fly a top drawer trouble-shooter to the scene. Henderson's spectacular flight thus exposed the whole game so thoroughly that it is difficult to see how even the most optimistic liars on the capitalist press expect to brazen this one out successfully.

POLITICAL REASONS

What were the political reasons for this shift in the puppet regime? Washington hoped to shake off the onus of keeping in office the most quiling like Zervas—particularly since these puppets failed in the task assigned them of crushing all political opposition in Greece.

In preparation for a better prepared and more peaceful drive against the insurgent Greek people, Washington thought it advisable to begin with a liberal gesture or two such as offering "amnesty" to the partisans and "reviewing" the tens of thousands of cases of people railroaded into concentration camps and prisons in the recent purge. They needed a "liberal" premier to make these gestures look plausible.

Consequently, the day after it was sworn in, the Sopoulis-Tsaldaris cabinet proclaimed a general amnesty for the partisans, provided they "lay down their arms." Few partisans are likely to be taken in by this move. In the previous "am-

nesty" the government no sooner disarmed as many of its opponents as possible than it redoubled the blood-letting. It is far easier and much less dangerous to liquidate an unarmed citizen than one able to defend his rights gun in hand.

The Sopoulis-Tsaldaris cabinet likewise announced that it would screen the survivors of the tens of thousands purged under Zervas and judge their cases in a spirit of broad-mindedness and justice and without political prejudice." How many will be released from prison under this noble-sounding pledge remains to be seen.

At the same time the Sopoulis-Tsaldaris cabinet announced its intention to "crush the rebellion, as well as those adhering to it or supporting it, in the most relentless way." This means that the proclamation of "amnesty" will shortly be followed by intensified civil war.

Meanwhile "under pressure and promises" from the State Department, the British Government has indicated that it will delay withdrawal of all British troops a little longer. Wall Street wants more time to prepare public opinion for the replacement of these troops by American GIs. Without Allied troops in Greece, the puppet government would be threatened with quick collapse.

But apparently careerist throat-cutting between MacVeagh and Griswold fouled up the quiet behind-the-scenes rearrangement of puppets. It was necessary to fly a top drawer trouble-shooter to the scene. Henderson's spectacular flight thus exposed the whole game so thoroughly that it is difficult to see how even the most optimistic liars on the capitalist press expect to brazen this one out successfully.

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Attlee Government Hit by Strike Of 60,000 Coal Mine Workers

The spotlight in Great Britain last week remained on 140 miners at Grimethorpe, a colliery surrounded by hills of slag in a bleak, grim valley of Yorkshire. These 140 miners were still holding out in a wildcat strike that began Aug. 11.

What gave this strike dynamic impact was the rank and file solidarity of miners in other pits. As many as 60,000 downed tools in sympathy.

The forces arrayed against the Grimethorpe strikers were enormous: the district officials of their own National Union of Mine Workers, the national officials of the union, the members of Parliament from the area, the Coal Board and the rest of the Government apparatus and the capitalist press.

Washington indicated its concern, and such powerful mouthpieces of Wall Street as the N. Y. Times angrily declared that the fate of the British Government, the problem of the Ruhr, the nature of Europe's economic crisis and the Marshall Plan were all tangled up by this wildcat strike.

But the 140 strikers remained firm. Their heroism can be judged by the fact that they have stuck for a month although denied strike benefits. The union bureaucrats, including the Stalinists, hoped to starve them into submission.

The strike began when the bureaucrats heading the union agreed to a Coal Board decision to increase

the daily "stint" of the Grimethorpe miners from 21 feet of coal face to 3 feet. These miners had already had their "stint" increased to the maximum. So they walked out.

One of them patiently explained to N. Y. Times correspondent Herbert L. Matthews: "It is like a camel crossing the desert with a load of straw which is all he can carry. The driver puts another straw on and he loses the camel, load and everything. If he only had fed that straw to the camel he would have been all right."

TURNED DOWN OFFER

The Attlee Government used everything but armed force attempting to break the strike. Emmanuel Shinwell, Minister of Fuel and Power, proposed an investigation committee to check up on the complaint about the unfairness of the order for increased production. But the 140 saw no need for an investigation. They turned down the offer.

Will Lawther, President of the union, told the 140 to go back to work and in return the increased production order would be "discussed." The Grimethorpe miners replied by painting on a wall in large white letters: "Hang Will Lawther."

The most violent attempt to break the strike came from Arthur Horner, well known Stalinist who is secretary of the National Union of Mine Workers. He called the valiant 140 strikers "traitors to the nation," according to the Sept. 9 Daily Worker.

Horner was backed by Harry Pollitt, General Secretary of the Communist (Stalinist) Party. At a mass meeting in Hyde Park Sept. 7, Pollitt insisted that the 140 get back on the job and dig the 23 feet of coal demanded of them.

MILITANT ANSWER

The Yorkshire miners answered by sending flying squads to spread the sympathy walkout still further.

The Attlee Government and the union bureaucrats called a meeting of the Yorkshire miners with the objective of getting a vote to return to work. Out of 2,600 in the mine area, only 700 showed up. They listened and argued for three hours and then the majority voted to stay out.

The widespread sympathy among

British Stalinists Lead Strikebreaking Pack

The Sept. 9 Daily Worker gleefully admits that "Communist trade union leaders are to be found alongside Tory denunciation" of the striking British coal miners as "traitors to the nation."

The Daily Worker admission, it should be added, is not quite accurate. The Stalinists are not "alongside," they are in the forefront of the pack of watchdogs for capitalism baying at the heroic British coal miners.

Arthur Horner, Stalinist secretary of the National Union of Mine Workers, in particular has made herculean efforts to smash the strike. He threatened the rank and file of the union that unless they get back to work at once and produce as much in 5 days as they formerly did in 5½ days, they will "jeopardize" their newly-won 5-day

This Stalinist trade union bureaucrat, frightened at the possibility the British miners might brush aside all those trying to hold them back and proceed down the road toward a socialist society, cried: "If there is another coal crisis such as last winter's, it can bring down the Government. Lack of coal can bring down any Government in this country. It is not even the fate of the Government which is involved. It is the fate of the country."

It was the fate of Horner to get the answer he deserved from the miners—flying squadrons to spread the strike.

The miners for the 140 at Grimethorpe is of great political significance. It shows how dissatisfied the miners are with the failure of the Attlee government to end the capitalist system and build socialism.

Instead of carrying out the mandate of the people to organize a socialist society, the Attlee Government has done everything it could to shore up capitalism. All they have given the workers is a bureaucracy intent on carrying out the will of the British capitalist class.

But the miners want the people to derive the benefits from Britain's coal resources. That is why they are so firm in their refusal to do 5½ days work in 5 days while the capitalist system still remains. Said a Grimethorpe miner, "We dislike being managed by a hordes of bureaucrats."

New Note in Kremlin Propaganda Designed to Frighten Wall Street

By Joseph Hansen

For the past month the Kremlin has scolded a note in its propaganda not heard for a decade or more. The Moscow bureaucracy is recalling the Bolshevik revolution of November 1917.

This long disused note was struck on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Sixth Bolshevik Congress which convened Aug. 8, 1917. Pravda reprinted an article "American Billions" written by Stalin in August 1917 for the newspaper Proletari.

That article, printed when Lenin and Trotsky headed the Bolshevik Party, was aimed at American imperialism and the support it was then giving the Kerensky regime.

"They used to say in Russia," the Stalin article declares, "that the light of socialism comes from the West. And that was true. From there in the West we learned about revolution and socialism."

In the 1905 revolution, however, "the West helped the Czarist reactionary regime," and again in 1917 "American capital furnishes billions to the coalition of Kerensky-Milyukov-Tseretelli, so that having finally cowed the Russian revolution it may defeat the growing revolution in the West."

Pravda utilizes the article to draw a parallel between Wall Street's role in 1917 with its role in 1947, pointing to the American tanks, planes and guns used against the people of Indonesia, China and Greece. "Imperialist states still lavishly finance the type of regimes which culminated in the October Revolution."

Pravda then repeats the Stalin conception about Stalin delivering the "principal report" — allegedly against Trotsky—at the Sixth Bolshevik Congress, calling for overthrow of the bourgeois coalition and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat. "When the Trotskyites and other reactionaries raised the stock objection that there could be no socialist revolution in Russia save in conjunction with a similar revolution in western Europe," declares Pravda, "Stalin replied that 'the possibility is not excluded that Russia will be the country that will lay the road to socialism'"

This, of course, is a lie. Stalin, so far as his activities prior to August 1917 are known at all, stood among those opposing Lenin's and Trotsky's views on the possibility of socialist revolution in Russia. But aside from that, mere references nowadays to "socialist revolution" is a novel departure for the Moscow bureaucrats whose hands are stained with the blood of countless revolutionary socialists.

To this must be added Stalin's Sept. 8, 1947, speech on the occasion of "Moscow's 800th birthday." Stalin took as his main theme "capitalist slavery" versus the "new Soviet social-economic order," and denounced "agents of imperialism" who are "endeavoring to provoke a new war."

The press likewise reports that the celebration in the USSR of the 30th anniversary of the November 1917 revolution is being prepared on a motif that in "tone, content and approach" is "highly reminiscent of the great Bolshevik surge toward world revolution in 1917."

The main inspiration for this shift

in the Kremlin's line of propaganda is obviously fear of Wall Street.

Stalin is answering Wall Street's pressure by hinting that he is capable of committing "terrible" deeds. Stalin is trying to frighten the Wall Street monopolists into deal with the specter of socialist revolution.

To reach this conclusion it is sufficient to note the coincidence of Stalin's references to "socialist revolution" and the days of 1917 with Wall Street's time table. The celebrations of the November revolution will occur approximately at the time chosen for a special session of Congress to appropriate funds for the Marshall Plan.

November is likewise the month tentatively scheduled for drawing up the peace treaties that will officially end World War II. These treaties are an integral part of the preparations for the projected Third World War.

How far the Kremlin will carry this radical-sounding propaganda remains to be seen. Its main aim, however, is clearly to increase Moscow's bargaining power with Wall Street.

After wasting two weeks in bureaucratic maneuvers, they finally called the general strike on Aug. 28. The Workers Trade Union of Lima (USTL) raised only one strike demand—solidarity with the unionists in three factories whose leaders had been victimized by the employers. They insisted that the strike was not political and could not have any other social demands. They went into the strike with the intention of selling it out, for them it was all a political maneuver.

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The government indicated its stubborn decision to break the strike, declared the strike illegal and called out the army.

REPEATED SLANDERS

The Stalinists and their prodigal son Ravines played the role of strikebreakers. The parties and trade union groups controlled by these traitors condemned the strike, repeating the slanders circulated by the reactionaries and calling on the workers in the neighboring port of the USTL.

This seriously weakened the strike, but the textile workers and many workers in the neighboring port of Callao went out anyway. For four days the workers demonstrated a magnificent spirit of militancy. But when the government announced its suspension of civil liberties, the Aprista leaders at once reduced the strike demands to a proposed settlement already rejected by the unions. They went into the strike with the intention of selling it out, for them it was all a political maneuver.

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THE MILITANT

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"Fascism in the United States will be directed against Jews and the Negroes, but against the Negroes particularly, and in a most terrible manner."

Leon Trotsky

Democracy in the Unions

Internal union democracy will be one of the main issues before the annual convention of CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers which convenes next week in Boston. The debate centers around the right of members to group together in opposition to the official leadership. Maintenance of this right is fundamental to the democratic functioning of the union.

The Stalinist faction, controlling the UE, has been conducting a campaign to ban all opposition groups. Ostensibly this campaign is aimed against the UE Committee for Democratic Action. This grouping, organized on a national scale, publishes its own faction paper and claims to represent over 25% of the membership.

Because it thus functions as an organized group, the CDA has been stigmatized as a "dual organization" and has been ordered to dissolve by the Stalinist-controlled General Executive Board. The CDA has defied this ukase and this controversy will be aired at the Boston convention.

The "dual organization" charge against the CDA is a patent fraud. Every bureaucrat tends to identify himself with the union. In the minds of union bureaucrats any opposition to the official leadership is an attack upon the union itself. According to their logic, an opposition group becomes a "dual organization."

Another bit of crooked argumentation indulged in by union bureaucrats is that formation of groups is unnecessary in a "democratic union." Upon coming into control of a union apparatus—which is itself an organized group that supports the administration—the bureaucrat is readily inclined to outlaw all other groups.

The same is true with respect to the official union paper. The UE NEWS, for instance, is being used to attack the opposition and to defend the administration, while, in its columns, the opposition is denied the right to present its viewpoint. Under these circumstances, by no means peculiar to the UE alone, the "official" paper functions as the reigning faction's mouthpiece.

We hold no brief for the CDA. Its leadership is reactionary, its red-baiting method plays into the hands of labor's enemies. This makes them a vulnerable target for the Stalinist campaign. But while we disagree sharply with the policies of such groups as the CDA and while we condemn their methods and lack of a constructive program, we nevertheless firmly defend their right as union members to function as an organized caucus.

To trade union militants, internal democracy is no abstract principle. It is an issue upon which hinges the future of the American working class. It is through the clash of ideas, expressed in the struggle between organized groupings inside the unions, that the genuine militants will emerge as the authentic leaders of the trade union movement.

Free James Hickman!

The following letter to The Militant from the Hickman Defense Committee in Chicago is in reality addressed to all of our readers who are participating in the struggle against the housing shortage, Jim Crow and capitalist injustice:

James Hickman is in a fight for his life. Perhaps you have not even heard of the case of James Hickman, for he is not a "prominent man." He is a Negro steelworker who brought his family from Mississippi to Chicago several years ago. He had heard that the north was a land of promise. But all he found was misery, injustice, persecution and finally . . . the greatest agony that any human being can suffer.

"His four youngest children were burned alive . . . victims of inhuman housing conditions, of doubly insufferable conditions in the Negro ghetto, and of an unscrupulous landlord who sought to profit from their misfortune. Stunned by this terrible tragedy, burning with hatred, he shot the man whom he justifiably held responsible for the death of his dear ones.

Now the state (of Illinois) proposes in the name of justice, to add another chapter to this series of tragedies by depriving James Hickman of his life or his liberty. This would accomplish nothing but add more suffering to this

unfortunate family.

"The real solution to this and millions of other tragedies, big and small, is to eliminate the SOCIAL CRIMES which bring them about—the lack of adequate housing, and the racial restrictions which compel the Negro people to live under conditions of congestion which are a constant danger to life and health. The fight to free James Hickman can in some measure dramatize these conditions and bring public pressure to bear on the authorities to alleviate them.

"James Hickman is without influence or financial means. It is the clear obligation of fair and liberal minded people to come to his assistance. By so doing, we will serve two aims: we will help this man and his family and in the process we can to some degree help the millions of underprivileged. The defense committee has retained three prominent attorneys—Leon Despres, M. J. Myer, and W. H. Temple.

"We are writing to you in the belief that you will be anxious to assist to the fullest of your ability. You will realize immediately that financial assistance is of paramount importance. We feel justified in asking all people of liberal reputation for substantial contributions. Please send your donation to the Hickman Defense Committee at the above address (4619 South Parkway, Chicago 15, Illinois). We must also stress that time is of the essence, as the trial date is September 29.

"You can also help by sending protests to the state's attorney and letters to the press."

Let 'Exodus' Victims Come Here

Hitler is gone. But Hitlerism, this time with an Oxford accent and in British uniforms, continues from where the Nazis left off. We refer to the case of 4,300 refugee Jews who were forcibly removed, outside Palestine, from EXODUS-1947 and transported back to Germany in three British prison-ships.

Last week they were unloaded at Hamburg in a scene that caused a German station-official standing nearby to mutter with revulsion, "This is where we came in."

Out of sight of reporters, down in the holds of OCEAN VIGOUR, the first ship to unload, baton-wielding troops charged the passengers, including old men and orphans and widows whose husbands and fathers and families had perished in Nazi gas chambers. Emulating the Hitlerites, a loud speaker blared dance tunes to drown out the cries and sobs of the victims.

The assault mounted in fury by the time the RUNNYMEDE, last of the British ships was unloaded, when high pressure fire hoses were turned on the captives, rubber truncheons and clubs were wielded as scores of bleeding, battered Jews were dragged out of the holds. All of them were then dumped into sealed trains and shipped off to "displaced persons" concentration camps.

The British rulers are not alone in bearing responsibility for these hideous crimes. While Bevin's storm-troopers carry out their bestial orders, President Truman and all of Wall Street's servants in Congress turn their eyes the other way. At regular intervals Truman issues "humanitarian" statements and sheds crocodile tears—just for the record's sake. But neither he nor Congress do anything to alleviate the sufferings of these helpless refugees.

All doors remain closed to them. The entire American labor movement should raise its mighty voice to demand that at least America's doors be opened to these persecuted, tortured Jews and all other "displaced persons."

A Brass Hat for President?

Among the most vigorously promoted candidates for President is that of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Army Chief of Staff and president-elect of Columbia University.

A Gallup poll has already been conducted on his chances in the elections. This suffices to show that an important group among the ruling class has chosen him as the man they want in the White House.

In his radio broadcast last week Walter Winchell said that behind the Eisenhower presidential boom is "the big secret money backer . . . Mr. Tom Watson, the top man at International Business Machines."

According to columnist Drew Pearson, the Eisenhower bandwagon is now rolling along merrily, with "Joe Pew, head of the Sun Oil Co. and Republican boss in Pennsylvania (being) the latest to get aboard."

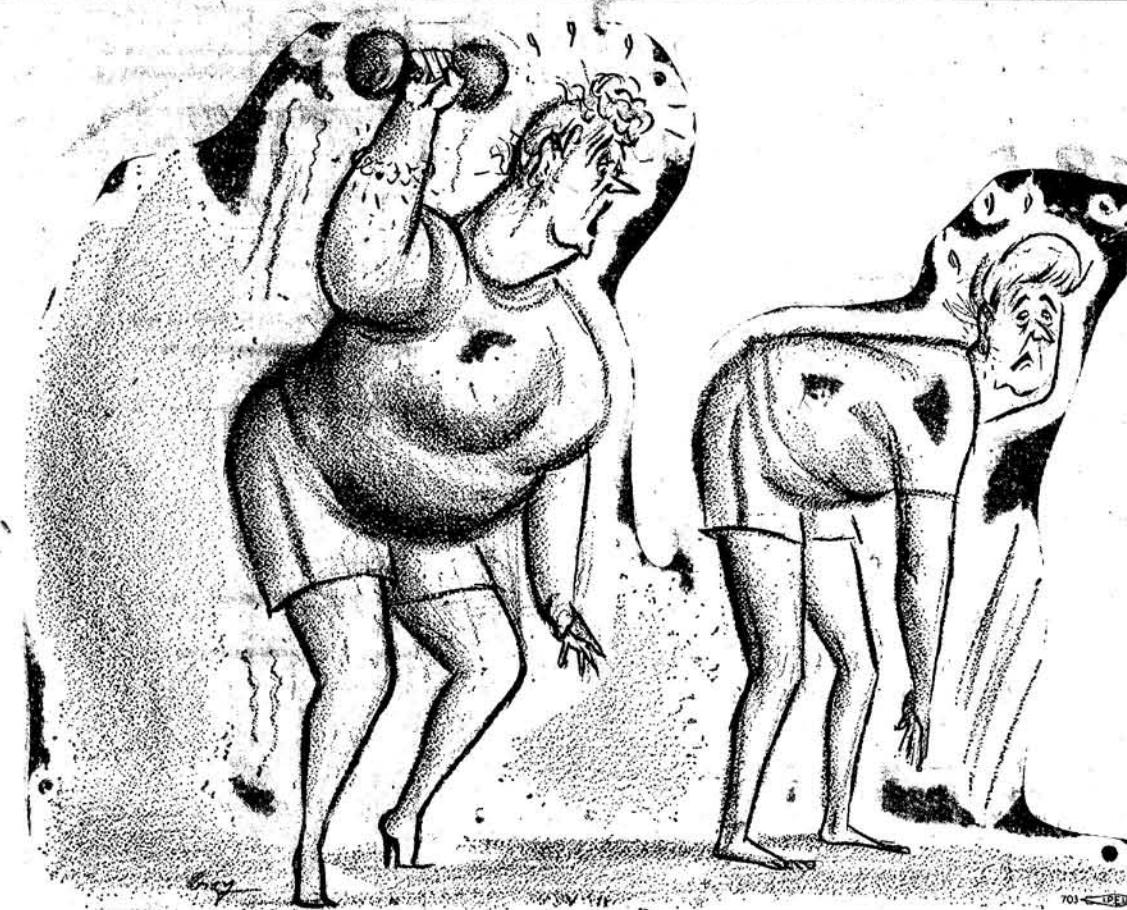
This "Eisenhower-for-President" ballyhoo illustrates strikingly how systematically and deliberately the capitalists proceed when it comes to handpicking figureheads for such key political posts as the White House.

They stint neither money nor effort. They leave nothing to chance, prepare carefully and well in advance, manufacturing prestige for those who will best serve their class interests. They are truly class conscious, as they show, among other things, by their conduct long before the presidential elections.

Contrast this with the passivity, if not stupor, of the official labor leaders. Furthest from their minds is any thought of selecting a presidential candidate from labor's own ranks who would truly serve labor's interests. What are they doing to safeguard the workers' vital stakes in the key of all key fields—politics?

They twiddle their thumbs on the sidelines while plutocrats like Tom Watson and Joe Pew set a vast machinery in motion in order to palm off a member of the Big Brass as the "people's choice."

The mass of the workers cannot afford such foolhardy negligence. Isn't it about time for them to begin thinking as seriously as do the heads of big corporations about such important problems as choosing their own presidential candidate to head labor's own ticket in 1948.



"My husband says the unions are getting so big, they'll have to be trimmed down to size."

Workers' BOOKSHELF

STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY

by Russell Hill, Harper & Bros., 1947, 260 pp., \$3.

No sooner had Germany been defeated than the conflicts among the Allied conquerors suppressed during the war, broke out in full force. Their struggle for power, the author makes clear, is world-wide in scope, but Germany became its "European focal point" because of its "geographical situation, its resources, its industrial potential, its large population."

The division of Germany and the conflicts of interest among the occupying powers have created a protracted and deteriorating situation.

The author indicates the most brutal of the conquerors: "America suffered far less at the hands of Germany than did Britain. Yet there were many more voices in America raised in support of the most fanatical plans for wrecking the German economy."

The book deals mainly with the disastrous effects upon prostrate Germany.

Hill is correspondent for the N. Y. Herald Tribune and has been lauded for his accurate reporting from Germany where he is stationed. In his book he describes many of the crimes committed by the U. S. authorities against the long-suffering German people.

He condemns all the victorious nations which looted the country and points out: "Just to keep the record straight, it must be added that Americans are in no position to be righteous about looting: the millions of dollars worth of goods looted by Americans and sent home with the cooperation of the Army authorities, not only from Germany but from liberated countries, places us on the same moral level as the Germans in this respect."

He shows the effects upon the people of the cities bombed to rubble; of the increasing starvation which

lighted millions of homes and forced women to sell themselves for food. The unrelenting hunger creates an atmosphere of depression and futility from which even well-fed occupying forces cannot escape.

And it has profoundly influenced occupation policies and relations among the Allies. Food is politics in Germany."

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goal: the withdrawal of the American and all other foreign troops from German soil.

—Evelyn Atwood

MEDICAL CARE AND THE FLIGHT OF THE NEGRO

by W. Montague Cobb, 1947, NAACP, 20 W. 40th St., New York 18, 40 pp., 10c.

This new NAACP pamphlet by a noted Negro physician is filled with information showing the evil effects of segregation on Negro medical care and is an uncompromising attack on segregated medical training and hospitals.

To summarize just a few of the facts Dr. Cobb supplies about the health status of the Negro and the position of the Negro physician: Negro life expectancy has shown a constant lag of about 10 years behind the white. The Negro mortality rate is 71% higher than the white. While the national average is one doctor to every 750 in the population, the proportion of Negro physicians to Negro population is one to 3,377. Only 145 Negro doctors are graduated yearly, about 3% of the total, most of them from the two Negro medical schools and a few from northern colleges.

Dr. Cobb emphasizes the need for a fight to "remove the entrenched and discriminatory practices in education, professional training and hospital customs." As for segregation, it is "ethically and constitutionally wrong. Anthropologically it is without basis. Practically it is a failure. In no field is this more dramatically obvious than in health."

The facts in this pamphlet should become more widely known. They are ammunition in the struggle to end the Jim Crow system.

—Albert Parker

Will Export Sag Puncture the Boom?

By John G. Wright

Evidence that the sag in American foreign trade is not episodic but deep-going, is already at hand. Last week the Department of Commerce reported a decline in foreign trade for the second consecutive month.

Exports, which had fallen in June by 180 million dollars below May peaks, slid off an additional 90 million in July, for an overall dip of more than a quarter of a billion in the brief space of sixty days.

The drop in the volume of exports is actually larger than indicated by the dollar shrinkage, because prices in June and July were higher than in May.

The down-plunge of foreign trade has been steady, rapid and sizable, denoting beyond reasonable doubt that a definitive trend has set in, even though the available data thus far covers only a two month interval (a period which, as a rule, may be considered much too brief for establishing definitive trends).

The likelihood of a reversal is so slim that future severe declines are to date accepted as a matter of fact by such conservative capitalist institutions as the National City Bank.

While seeking to counteract "pessimistic interpretations" of what is involved in the construction of foreign outlets, these bankers found themselves compelled nonetheless to make the following gloomy comments in their monthly review of current economic conditions for September:

"Exports provide employment and purchasing power indirectly as well as directly. They take potential surpluses off domestic markets, and they have a stimulating influence on business sentiment through the support they give to prices and domestic trade. Some industries and some branches of agriculture depend

upon them to a far greater degree than is suggested by overall average figures. A shrinkage of markets in these lines would affect not only their current operations, but plans for capital expenditures."

ALREADY SEVERE

As of July, this shrinkage has already proved severe. Among industries hardest hit thus far are textiles. N. Y. Times, Sept. 6, estimates that "rayon goods exports for the balance of the year will show a drop of approximately 50%," while cotton goods "are expected to fall off by 20%."

Textiles confront this bleak prospect in the face of many months of cutthroat production. The disappearance of outlets abroad must unquestionably result in further production cutbacks, after the seasonal spurts expand themselves. This will tend to drag down the rest of the soft goods or non-durable sector, where production has been sliding off since January.

The weekly U. S. News, Aug. 29, is alarmed that cutbacks have been "most severe" for rubber products, textiles, leather goods and paperboard."

In durable goods the drop up till now has not been as marked. But it has made itself felt here, too, as the same source notes, "heaviest in machinery, in stone, clay and glass products, and metal products other than iron and steel."

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CUTBACKS TO EXTEND

Workers' Forum

Political Action Labor Day Keynote

The Oakland labor movement came out in full force on Labor Day to demonstrate closed ranks against the Taft-Hartley Law and all union-busting tactics. 100,000 marchers and spectators united in showing the strength and spirit of the working people to combat attacks against their organizations. The AFL, IAM and CIO unions paraded by the thousands with slogans of "Unity" and with floats blasting the Slave Labor Law.

In San Francisco, where the labor movement has not yet achieved the same unity in action as in the East Bay, the CIO held a silent parade of 40,000 in protest against the Taft-Hartley Law. The AFL held a meeting of 5,000 at night.

In this area, as all over the country, the keynote of Labor Day was the need for labor to enter into politics to fight the attempts of the bosses to break the labor movement. The Socialist Workers Party supplied the positive answer to this need by calling for the immediate building of a Labor Party based on the trade unions.

P. O.
Oakland, Calif.

I Wept Over Bilbo

Talking about Bilbo, don't you think Hilaire Belloc's *Epitaph on the Politician* is appropriate? This is the full text:

Here, richly, with ridiculous play.
The Politician's corpse was laid away.

While all of his acquaintance sneered and slanged, I wept: for I had longed to see him hanged.

Reader,
Harlem, N. Y.

Likes Articles on Women's Problems

I think that the Sept. 1 issue of *The Militant* is excellent. The article on Orphan Annie, Why Some Mothers Can't Stay Home, and We the People were excellent, and I think that we should include this type of article more often. They will appeal to new *Militant* readers more than the political articles.

"Why Some Mothers Can't Stay Home" really hit a responsive chord with me. Most of the women in the factory where I work have children. Their husbands work days and they work nights in order to have someone home with the kids. In addition, most of them do all their own laundry, and of course, all the cooking and cleaning. Many of them get home from work at 2 a. m. and get up at 7. One girl can't find a place to live, and has her baby boarded out for 20 a week, while she and her husband pay \$12 for a room to sleep in, and eat all their meals out. One is in very poor health but must work to support not only herself but her three children.

One woman with eight children whose husband is dead worked for a short time, but because she had no one to take care of her kids had to quit. Now she is living on relief ... the large sum of \$22 a week.

Of course, we recognize these problems, but many issues of *The Militant* say nothing about them. I would like to see a series of articles like the ones in this week's issue.

Joy Connors
Chicago, Ill.

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 want your name printed.

CONTROLS

Bankers, lawyers, clergymen influence workers' minds. With movies, radio and press and controls of other kinds. "Purgatory Hanson." "Pie up in the sky." "The workers shall be happy, very happy when they die."

The mind is like the stomach, it works with what is in it; if workers get security. They must unite to win it. Not with "friends of labor," the tax and profit kinds; with deception and confusion. They control the workers' minds.

Republicans and Democrats Unite themselves as one, monopolies from Wall Street Manage Washington. Labor Governments must grow. To remove capitalism. And produce for use not profit in world-wide Socialism.

Jarvis Dusenberry,
Rochester, N. Y.

Rising Prices Break Up Homes

Editor:

The press and the church give us lectures about the sanctity of the family and the need to preserve it against the dangers of "collectivism" and so on. But the greatest disrupter of family life is this so-called free enterprise system.

We try to feed our children and keep a roof over their heads and a dress on their bodies. It becomes harder and harder to do that every day. Not a single day passes without some price going up, and this week I had the experience of shopping for meat in the morning and then visiting the same shop in the afternoon and finding new (and of course higher) prices for the same meat.

But what kind of life is that where all you can do is eat and sleep out of your income? Isn't it plain that inadequate wages and ever-higher prices are bound to break up more families than anything else conceivable?

I am not a sociologist, but I am sure that if some one checked up on it he would find that the curve of divorces, desertions and ruined families goes up in direct proportion to rising prices and hard times.

Mother of Three
Cleveland, O.

A Request: For Old Songs and Poems

Many old songs and poems once widely popular among the labor and radical movement in this country have been almost forgotten, or virtually lost. They are an important part of the rich revolutionary traditions of the American working class, and should be restored. Readers of *The Militant* who can send in verses of these songs, old song books and the like, are urged to do so. Please mark such communications: Attention John G. Wright.

Offers to Submit Short Movie Reviews

Editor:

The Workers' Forum of Aug. 18 published a letter from a girl of seventeen who would like *The Militant* to print more movie reviews. This very thing has been on my mind lately, as I have been wondering if *The Militant* would be interested in accepting short movie reviews written by myself.

Pictures would be criticized not only from a dramatic standpoint but also with an eye to the relationship these pictures have to our economic environments. I think it might be very interesting to your readers to have some understanding of what these movies are really about, and not to have to rely wholly upon studio publicity to form an opinion of what they should spend their hard-earned money for.

L. B.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Editorial Note: *The Militant* welcomes reviews of movies from our readers just as we welcome articles reporting on labor struggles, short book reviews, etc.

Opposes Attempt To Abolish Parks

Editor:

This past summer, we were able to take our children on a camping trip to the National Forests in the west. For the benefit of easterners who have never seen anything like these parks, I should like to explain that for a \$3 permit, good for one year, we were able to enter Yellowstone Park and Jackson Hole National Forest in Wyoming. The public camps each have a stone fireplace, a table and benches and sometimes a cupboard. Each site is marked off by trees, so that a family has a sort of outdoor room to itself. Near at hand are water pumps and lavatories.

These parks with good fishing, wild animal life, geologic wonders, caves to be explored and hundreds of miles of forests and lakes, are a children's paradise. Many workers especially those who live in the west, take their families on such a vacation.

I often thought to myself that these parks could not be improved on even under socialism—except that more families would be able to get to them.

Today I read in the papers about the bills that are being engineered through Congress to allow the big cattlemen, lumber interests and oil companies to muscle into these national parks. All the national parks comprise only 65/100 of one per cent of the land and water area of the U. S. If the congressmen have their way, the Jackson Hole National Park will be completely abolished. In other parks, the forests will be cut down. What is the justification for this? The hypocritical lumber barons claim they need the forests for veterans' housing!

Someday the people won't take the union to give up contract provisions covering seniority, job classifications and vacations. These along with maintenance of a workable grievance procedure and a 13-cent hourly increase have kept the men on the bricks and the yards shut tight. Todd Corporation and other lesser concerns have signed contracts with the union, but Bethlehem and the others seem determined to seriously weaken or break the union.

With the industry in a state of decline and with union membership

C. W.
New York

If You Like
THE MILITANT
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To A Friend

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

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.

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

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

CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Phone Dearborn 4767. Library, book-store.

CLEVELAND—Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peet'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., 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

LYNN, Mass.—44 Central Square, Room 11. Discussion every Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

SAN PEDRO—Militant publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

PHILADELPHIA—1302-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor, Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

YOUNGSTOWN—35½ South Ave., Room 11. Discussion every Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5th St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Phone Main 7781 Library, bookstore.

SUNNY FORUMS, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open 1 and 3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday forums, 2nd and 4th month, 8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FORUM, 8:30 p.m.

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

HARLEM—103 W. 110 St. Room 23, MO. 2-1866.

EVERY THURSDAY OPEN DISCUSSION, 8 p.m.

BRONX—1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TT 2-0101.

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

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

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

TOLEDO—113 St. Clair St., 2nd floor. Open daily.

YOUNGSTOWN—35½ South Ave., Room 11. Discussion every Tuesdays 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

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The Lucky Guy

By Theodore Kovalesky

I want to tell you about a very lucky guy, in fact, one of the luckiest guys in the whole world. He's not a millionaire, and he's not a A&O star getting paid to make love to Hedy LaMarr all week long and going home to his private swimming pool and bar weekends. For that matter, he's not rich at all; he's quite poor.

And he's not one of those queer people who live out in a valley somewhere and go barefoot and worship the sunrise and say they're happy with just a crust of bread and a drink of spring water. I guess there aren't many people like that left, but there are quite a lot of fellows like the one I want to tell you about . . . and there are more of them coming along every day.

This guy isn't lucky because he's rich, as I said, or because he doesn't have to work, or because the dice always come up seven for him, or because he can tell ahead of time what horse is going to come in first at Preakness or Saratoga. No, it's nothing like that. He has to work just as hard as any other workingman, and he owns just as little. Nobody hands him any dimes, and he can roll snake eyes just as soon as you or me.

So what is it that makes him so lucky? Well, he's got something that most people don't have yet. He has truth. He has the answers to the biggest questions in the world. He has a road to travel on, and he knows that road. He has a life to live upon the earth, and he knows it is not just another life, an ordinary life lost in the millions of footprints on the ground and the millions of breaths breathed into the air. His life will mark the world. The world will never be the same because of it.

He's a lucky guy because he doesn't have to close his eyes to life and mutter, "Oh, well, what the hell!" He's lucky because he doesn't have to keep break-

The Negro Struggle

Southern and European DPs

By Albert Parker

In a recent column George F. McCray, ANP writer on labor affairs for several Negro papers, puts his finger on an important threat to Negro employment. But his attempt to find an answer to that threat is short-sighted, weak and reactionary.

In general, McCray declares, employment prospects for Negroes would be good because essential goods are still short here and because the U.S. is supporting the economic systems of many other countries.

However, "the Negro population in the South, long under terrific social pressure, is now being menaced by the steady mechanization of southern agriculture. Negro cotton pickers and choppers are being driven off the plantations by the gigantic pickers, planters, weavers, and cultivators."

As a result "the displaced Negro workers must migrate. Irredent Negro workers are migrating northward and westward and nobody in the South is complaining . . . Will the North and the West be able to absorb a substantial migration of Negroes from the South? The answer is yes, if necessary! It will be necessary, as it has been necessary in the past, only when other sources of labor cannot be found.

This is one reason why Negro workers and Negro leaders should fight vigorously all efforts to permit more migrants from Europe to enter the United States. The question of permitting 400,000 additional migrants to enter the country is now being investigated by a Senate sub-committee . . .

"Every new migrant will compete directly or indirectly with displaced Negroes who certainly should have preference over displaced persons from Europe.

Six Who Chose Death

By Mary Wood

Melvin C. Roberts, 27 years old, has kept a promise. Two years ago when he and seven buddies were freed from a prisoner of war camp, they vowed to endure no more suffering and misery. If they could not find happiness in the post-war world, they decided, they would all commit suicide.

On Aug. 9, 1947, the second anniversary of their liberation, young Melvin Roberts took stock of his personal troubles and assessed the whole future. The Canadian government, which had sent him to the hell-hole of Hong Kong, had turned its back on the veterans after the job was done; it had refused to pay him for his time in camp.

He was bitter about that — but far more bitter about the whole mad waste of World War II. He listened to all the speeches of the imperialist warmongers, he read the news of preparations for the coming slaughter. Rather than be dragged into another bloody war to swell the riches of the millionaires, Roberts chose to die.

The story of the death-pact was told at the inquest. A few months ago, Roberts had tried to visit one of his buddies, only to find that the soldier had already kept the vow. On Aug. 9, 1946, just one year after their release, Roberts' friend had decided that there was nothing to live for and quietly tossed in his losing hand.

Then Roberts had sought out the others. Four more of them had fulfilled the desperate pact. Now six of the eight young Canadian and American sol-

ing his heart every time some capitalist politician foos the workers with fine words and then turns on them viciously. He knows what he must expect of the capitalist class, and he knows what he can expect of his own class. He doesn't get surprised or "betrayed."

He's a very lucky guy, because when he stands in front of the bathroom mirror shaving, he can look his reflection right in the eye and say, "If there are kids hungry anywhere in the world, it's not because you're not doing your best to prevent it. You're doing all you can to change this world from a battlefield for atomic bombs to a place with sunshine and green grass for healthy, growing kids to play in. You're working and fighting to put an end to poverty and insecurity, to wars and depressions, and to all the lies that the capitalists teach."

Oh, it's not all beer and skittles. He has sacrifices to make for the things he believes in, but he's still lucky, because the reason he makes them is that he wants to make them . . . and when he does, he feels himself repaid a thousand times.

He works in a mine or a mill or a shop. He runs an engine or ships out on the high seas or looks out at the long roads from the cab of a trailer truck. Wherever he works, he's in the union or helping to organize it, and he's the best union man there.

But the real, basic reason why he's lucky is that he's a member of the Socialist Workers Party. He's found the organization that teaches him how he can best fight for a decent world. He doesn't have to stumble around in the dark anymore. He knows where's he's going. He knows what he wants; he's fighting for it. And he's not fighting alone either. His wife is probably in the party too.

What's the name of this lucky guy? Well, it could be any one of a lot of names, Irish names, Polish, Italian, English, or Jewish names. It could be my name. What about you? Could it be yours?

THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1947.

Facts and Figures Prove How Meat Profiteers Gouge People

By Norma Christensen

ST. PAUL, Sept. 7—Illuminating pictures of how the workers are being robbed of the gains for which they fought on the picket lines in 1946 appeared in yesterday's St. Paul Pioneer Press, and are reprinted here.

In the 1946 strike wave the workers forced the bosses to grant an average increase in wages of 18 1/2%. Take the meat packing industry, for example, and see what the robber barons who control the meat trust have done to dispose of the 16 1/2 cents hourly increase for which the packinghouse workers went on strike early last year.

These facts show clearly that real wage gains can be protected and secured in one way; that is, by a rise in the wage scale in proportion to the rise in the cost of living index. Only by including a sliding scale of wages in their contracts can the unions hope to counteract this inflationary scheme of robbing the workers of every hard-won gain.

Hand in hand with the struggle for a sliding scale of wages must go a political fight against the price-gougers, and their puppets in the halls of Congress who have helped to place the main burden of inflation on the workers and working farmers. That means an independent Labor Party, and a Labor State in '48.

Robert Williams Blasts Conspiracy Against PR

NEW YORK, Sept. 11—"The attempt to abolish Proportional Representation voting for City Councilmen by referendum in the November elections is part of a plan inaugurated by Tammany Hall to introduce reaction piecemeal into New York City," Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for the State Senate, declared in a statement today.

"The fountainhead of this plan is the so-called friend of labor, Mayor O'Dwyer.

"O'Dwyer's machines deliberately separated the issue of PR from that of the fare increase. They know that placing the fare question on the referendum this fall simultaneously with PR would ensure a large turnout of voters who in all likelihood would both defeat the proposal to raise the fares and uphold the PR system.

"O'Dwyer himself has maintained a discreet silence on the question of PR. But that should fool no one. This is the same deceitful pattern he followed on the fare question, with only slight variations. First loud-mouthed opposition. Then studied neutrality. And finally, when the working class public is

"This is just another example of the bankruptcy of the policy of supporting capitalist 'friends of labor.' And it comes on the heels of one of the worst strike-breaking records of a New York City administration in a long time.

"It is extremely important that the working class and Negro public rally to the polls this November to save PR. Loss of PR will immeasurably increase the difficulty for trade unionists, for the Negro community and for minority groups to send their representatives to the City Council.

"Loss of PR will immeasurably strengthen the influence of the corrupt Wall Street-bossed Tammany and Republican machines over the affairs of the city. To save PR is to strike a blow at reaction."

Great Majority Now Favor Unions

A Gallup poll on the question of approval or disapproval of labor unions shows a rising sentiment since 1941 in favor of unions. Today 64% approve, 25% disapprove. On the question should workers have the right to strike, 62% voted yes, 28% no.

Labor's Independent Campaign Off to Good Start in Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, Sept. 6—Over 1,000 workers and members of their families have signed endorsement and backing sheets for John Ausnehmer, labor candidate for council in the Fourth Ward here in Youngstown. About 700 of these signatures were obtained at the huge Local 1330 picnic held on August 31. The Ausnehmer

campaign was launched at the picnic, one of the largest in the history of Youngstown.

In addition to the wide circulation of endorsement sheets among the workers of the ward and of the whole city, the Ausnehmer supporters are concentrating on bringing the campaign to other Steelworker locals in this area. Republic Steel Local 2216 has already unanimously endorsed Ausnehmer's campaign.

The following statement by Ausnehmer appeared in the last issue of *Ohio Works Organizer*, Local 1330's paper:

"I want to take this opportunity

"Pulling together we'll win again."

Notes from the News

FREEDOM FROM FEAR — When the famous Ohio River boat, the Island Queen, exploded and burned last week the ground trembled and persons in nearby buildings were knocked off their feet. People rushed into downtown Pittsburgh streets crying, Atom Bomb! Atom Bomb!

HE'S A CIVILIAN — "At least no one beat me with a hose," was Robert Ruark's reply to reporters. He had been questioned by a General investigating his charges against the brass hat of Lt. General Lee, U.S. Commander of the Mediterranean Theatre.

VETS' COMPENSATION — Official statistics answer the slanders of those who claim vets don't want to work but prefer to live off their 52 weeks of unemployment compensation. Only one-half of World War II vets have drawn any compensation, and less than

8 out of every hundred have drawn the 52 weeks they are entitled to. *

TRIGGER-HAPPY COP — A rookie cop in New York ordered Lloyd Jones, a Negro music student, to get off a park bench and then shot him in the stomach. Witnesses claim the shooting was unprovoked and deliberate. The police story that Jones tried to seize the gun has been changed to "the gun went off accidentally." Jones, who was near death, has been released from the hospital and is being tried for disorderly conduct.

MOURNFUL HOPE — The Socialist Party's Call is unhappy because Dubinsky is donating funds to the Socialist Party of Italian Workers and not to the American SP. "It is hoped," they mournfully declare, "the ILGWU will one day support American Socialistism also."

Administration as a step towards changing the entire state administration so that this state will be run in the interests of the people. He stressed the need of independent political action to accomplish this goal.

As a guest speaker, Manny Terbovich of Chicago, former District Director of the CIO Steel Workers and International Representative of the United Mine Workers, praised the Detroit Branch of the SWP for running a candidate against Big Business opposition. He condemned the official leadership of the Detroit labor movement for the spectacle they have presented in recent months of kowtowing and kneeling before the candidates of Big Business.

He sharply attacked the talk of Jeffries, a man whom the CIO in past campaigns has spent \$250,000 to defeat, one who has time and again demonstrated his anti-labor character.

In contrast, he showed the power in an independent policy by adding up the overwhelming vote a labor candidate would receive.

The affair wound up with a fine collection exceeding \$300 in donations and pledges, which will be used for the purchase of radio time, rental of sound trucks and for other campaign.

to announce publicly the opening of my election campaign. I am running for councilman from the Fourth Ward and am running independent of the Republican and Democratic parties.

"I considered this step very seriously. I consulted with my union, and was assured full support if I ran. If my union would not have assured me support, I would not have filed for office.

"I pledge myself to you to work in close collaboration with the union movement, and fight for our needs.

"The union movement is the best friend of all of us workers. Labor should have direct representation in the legislative halls. I believe this election contest to be the fight of all the workers on the West Side, and urge that we all act accordingly now.

"Pulling together we'll win again."