

THE FIGHT IN THE UN

See Page 3

VOL. XI.—No. 39.

What a Workers and Farmers Government Would Do About Prices

An Editorial

What would a government genuinely representative of the workers and dirt farmers—a Workers and Farmers Government put into power by an independent working class party—do to ensure low prices and plenty?

Such a government would attack high prices and scarcity at their source—monopoly price-fixing, limitation of production, extortions, profits.

1. It would institute rigid price regulation and equitable rationing of scarce commodities, controlled and enforced by the consumers themselves through mass committees of the unions, consumers and farmers organizations.

2. It would crack down on all speculators and hoarders: impose severe penalties on those who withhold food and other essentials to gamble on scarcity and high prices. The mass consumers committees would ferret out violators of laws against speculation and hoarding and confiscate all hidden food and other supplies.

3. Books and records of all corporations would be opened for inspection by the workers to uncover evidence of profiteering, price-fixing, curtailment of production, mismanagement and fraudulent practices, etc.

4. All basic industries, starting with the food processing industries, would be taken over and nationalized by the government—that is, expropriated. Private ownership and profit would be eliminated. The nationalized industries would be operated under the control of the workers themselves.

5. National planned production, based on the needs of the people, would replace the present wasteful and chaotic system of production for personal gain. All new processes and inventions for expanding production would be utilized. Freed from the private monopoly stranglehold, production would constantly increase.

Cost of production for the small farmers would be sharply reduced through cheap credit, cancellation of mortgages, low-priced fertilizer, seed, machinery and manufactured goods, cheap freight rates, etc. Profiteering middle-men and speculators would be eliminated through cooperative marketing and distribution. Big corporation farms, however, would be expropriated and operated under control of the farm workers.

7. Minimum wages sufficient to maintain high standards of decency, comfort and health would be established by law. Real wages would be protected by a cost-of-living bonus system to compensate for any rise in living costs.

8. The monstrous war budget and war waste would be eliminated. Diversion of labor and resources for the destructive purposes of imperialist war would be ended. All government funds would be utilized for peaceful and beneficial social purposes. Necessary taxes would be levied strictly on the ability-to-pay principle.

We know the present government of, by and for Big Business will not take any of these necessary measures to halt price inflation and safeguard living standards. It is a class government of the rich owners, whom the Democratic and Republican parties serve.

These are measures that only a government of the workers and farmers themselves will put into effect and thereby ensure plenty and security.

RUBBER UNIONISTS TO SPURN NLRB

By Joseph Andrews

BOSTON, Sept. 20—Five hundred delegates to the 12th annual convention of the CIO United Rubber Workers this week decisively repudiated President L. S. Buckmaster's proposal that the union qualify to use the NLRB under the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

Thus, the first convention of an important CIO union since the passage of the law, Goodrich Local 5, moved to strike out the phrase "abide by the law and our way of life."

Speaking on the amendment, Geller said, "I do not know whether the resolutions committee meant to limit or qualify democratic rights or to restrict the enjoyment of liberty to those who abide by the law and our way of life."

In his keynote speech opening the convention, Buckmaster pleaded with the delegates to reverse the stand taken by the International Executive Board to boycott the NLRB. He wanted the URWA to go on record, prior to the CIO convention which will take place next month in Boston, to make use of and live with the Taft-Hartley Act.

The proposal aroused great opposition in the convention. Conscious of this, Buckmaster maneuvered to stall the report of the resolutions committee, which he controlled, so that this key point would come up very late in the convention, when many delegates would have left and full discussion would be impossible.

But the issue was catapulted onto the floor by a discussion over a proposed amendment to a resolution dealing with the democratic rights of all minority groups. The resolutions committee recommended a resolution which advocated complete equality for all groups regardless of race, creed, religion or political affiliation "who abide by the law and our way of life."

AMENDMENT PROPOSED

The amendment, proposed by Delegate Jules Geller of Akron

THE MILITANT

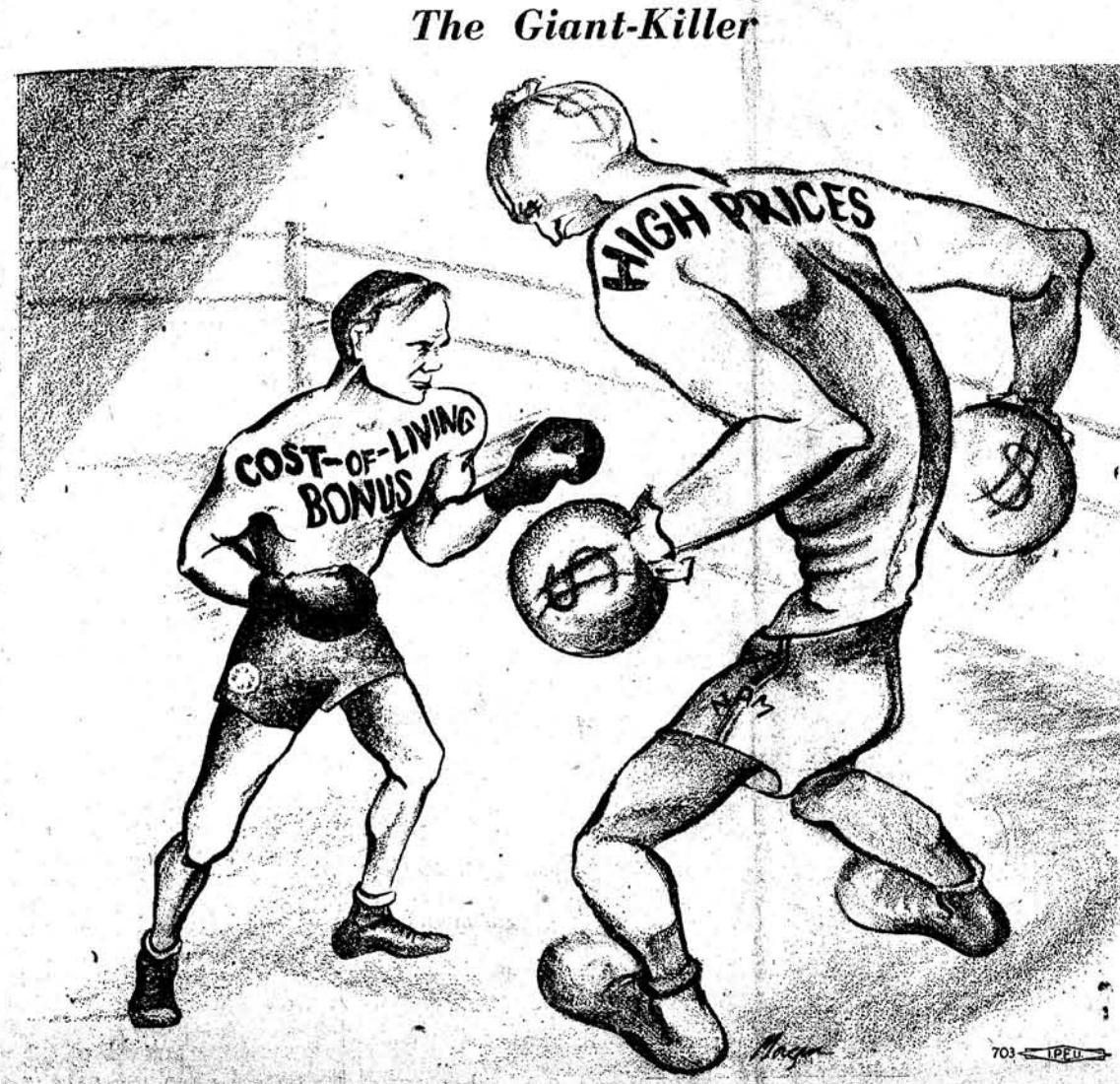
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PRICE: FIVE CENTS

COST-OF-LIVING BONUS DEMAND IS ANSWER TO RISING PRICES



Profits, Not Wage Costs, Boost Prices

Federal Reserve Study Backs Labor's Charges

Capitalist newspapers this week almost completely suppressed the most sensational and important news about high prices that has come from Washington in months.

This was the report in the latest Federal Reserve Board bulletin, issued Sept. 23, confirming the charges of organized labor that high prices are the result of profiteering and not of increased production costs, particularly higher wages.

The Federal Reserve report reveals that the profits of manufacturing and mercantile concerns have gone up faster than their costs. It gives the lie direct to the corporation propaganda that present high prices are a result of higher wages and other production costs.

A study of 2,600 leading companies, states the Federal Reserve bulletin, discloses that profit margins "increased significantly" for most corporations in 1946, the very year when labor won its highest wage boosts.

"During 1946 most businesses experienced not only a larger dollar volume of operations but also a greater volume of profits for each dollar of business transacted," the Federal Reserve Board reports.

"In other words," it added, "the unit price increases in the products of most manufacturing and trade concerns were not matched by proportionate increases in their total unit costs." Prices—and profits—rose more than costs.

17 BILLIONS IN 1947

Corporate profits this year are running at a rate of about \$17 billion annually compared to \$12 billion last year. Prices are 25% higher. Wages have gone up less than 10%.

The steel industry offers an outstanding example of how the monopolies have used the pretext of higher costs, especially wages, to boost prices sky-high and rake in millions.

Harvey W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, last week charged that the steel industry lifted its prices 8.6 cents on the dollar to offset a coal miners' raise that "increased the cost of steel production by only eight-tenths of a cent on the dollar."

The price increase for steel was thus ten times as great as the increased production cost. There's where your money goes.

NLBR Opens Offensive To Enforce Slave Law

The new National Labor Relations Board, set up under the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law, last week bared its teeth in earnest against organized labor.

It began action to enforce the Taft-Hartley Act in two cases that foreshadow a whole series of blows against the unions.

The board issued complaints on the appeal of employers, against two AFL locals—International Typographical Union Local 12 in Baltimore and United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 74 in Chattanooga.

The Baltimore union was charged with refusing to bargain with a group of 22 employers because it failed to negotiate a contract and imply posted the ITU's standard conditions under which the ITU members will work.

This policy was adopted by the recent ITU convention in an attempt to circumvent the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act which bar closed shop contracts such as have protected printing trades workers for decades.

According to the interpretation of the Taft-Hartley Act by "Labor

"Denham, NLRB General Counsel, an employer can compel a union to sign a contract, refusal to do so constituting failure to bargain in "good faith." Thus, the Act may be used to force unions to sign non-closed shop contracts.

In the Chattanooga case, the union is charged with refusing to work on a building where the floor, wall and coverings were being installed by non-union employees of an open shop specialty store.

This NLRB charge has been filed before a Federal District Court, which has already ordered the union to show cause why an injunction should not be issued against it for conducting a "secondary boycott."

Both cases illustrate how the Taft-Hartley Act and the agency established under it will be used to break down union security and to force workers to work under open shop conditions.

They also demonstrate the difficulty facing the unions in attempting to evade various provisions of the act either through special contract clauses or elimination of contracts.

Further enforcement of the Taft-Hartley Act will demonstrate that it is so full of anti-union provisions no union can hope to legally evade

them. Moreover, through the NLRB and courts the machinery exists to really put teeth into the Act. Labor cannot nibble away at the Act, but must conduct a struggle on the economic and political field to smash it in entirety.

The Justice Department's "war" on price-fixing aroused no more concern among the giant corporations than a mosquito's buzzing among a herd of crocodiles.

When Attorney General Clark filed suit against the ball-bearing trust, charging them with conspiracy to fix prices, they did not even bother to contest the suit. It was cheaper to pay the \$5,000 chicken-feed fine than detail a corporation attorney to argue about their lawfulness.

Among the companies who flipped the \$5,000 maximum penalty over to the government were General Motors Corp., SKF Industries, Martin-Rockwell Corp., Fafnir Bearing Co., Federal Bearings Co., and Noma-Hoffman Bearings Corp.

The price increase for steel was thus ten times as great as the increased production cost. There's where your money goes.

Ohio PAC Groups Run Independent Candidates

Labor political developments of major significance are shaping up in Ohio. CIO Political Action Committee (PAC) groups in three key cities, Dayton, Youngstown and Cleveland, are running their own independent labor candidates in local elections against both Democrats and Republicans.

Similar campaigns have been conducted during the past months in Oakland, Chicago and other union centers.

The newest swing toward independent labor candidates is in Cleveland, where CIO Political Action Committee clubs in two working class wards are sponsoring prominent unionists for City Council. The 22nd Ward PAC group is campaigning for Robert Slivert, of the International Association of Machinists, and the 32nd Ward PAC is backing John DeVito, President of CIO United Auto Workers Local 45 at Fisher Body.

These PAC campaigns in Ohio

got the highest vote ever received in any similar primary.

Youngstown steelworkers are campaigning to elect their own candidate to City Council, John Auschner, a leading member of CIO United Steel Workers Local 1330 at Carnegie - Illinois' big Ohio Works. He is running in the Fourth Ward, previously a Democratic stronghold.

The Local 1330 Political Action Committee has launched vigorous campaign that is arousing widespread enthusiasm for Auschner as an avowed independent labor candidate.

The newest swing toward independent labor candidates is in Cleveland, where CIO Political Action Committee clubs in two working class wards are sponsoring prominent unionists for City Council.

Such a party, in fact, will revitalize PAC and inspire a tremendous response from the workers and their allies among oppressed racial minorities, the lower middle class and poor farmers. The latest attempt of PAC to sell a candidate

straws in the wind. They reflect the growing desire among workers everywhere to break away from the old bankrupt policy of supporting capitalist candidates of the Big Business parties, Democratic and Republican. They point the way toward a great march forward on the political field by American labor.

Here is the answer to the political dilemma of the American workers who are caught between the two boss parties. They do not have to create completely new machinery for genuine independent labor political action.

They already have a developed organization in PAC, which can quickly be converted all over the country into a highly effective apparatus for running and electing labor's own candidates on labor's own program.

Such a party, in fact, will revitalize PAC and inspire a tremendous response from the workers and their allies among oppressed racial minorities, the lower middle class and poor farmers. The latest attempt of PAC to sell a candidate

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Whereas:

The Taft-Hartley Bill has succeeded in destroying many of labor's gains of the past 150 years, while we are informed that both the Democrats and Republicans intend to submit legislation in the 81st Congress far more drastic than the Taft-Hartley Bill, and

Whereas: This all out offensive against the labor movement gives warning that while labor is tremendous power economically it is politically helpless before the combined attack of the two-party system of Big Business, and

Whereas: The political weakness of labor stems from its failure to establish a new party based on labor and its failure to run candidates for office from the ranks of the union movement, and

Whereas: It is most apparent that in the state of Michigan, where the UAW-CIO has the bulk of its membership, close to half a million workers, a labor party can be established, and

Whereas: The UAW-CIO is the largest, most militant and progres-

Labor Must Begin Drive To Protect Real Wages

By Art Preis

A major union drive on the wage front has become imperative. Only such action can prevent the dizzy rise in prices from slashing living standards to hunger levels.

Substantial wage boosts, protected by cost-of-living bonuses, providing automatic increases for every further rise in living costs, are the only immediate and realistic defense against the intolerable high cost of living.

Since 1943 union leaders have pleaded repeatedly for a "roll-back" of prices—yet prices shoot higher every time. The only temporary protection the workers have gained is through their struggles for higher wages.

Now it is apparent that flat wage increases alone do not meet the threat of constantly rising prices. Every wage increase has soon been wiped out by further price increases.

There would have been a different story to tell, however, if during the past struggle for higher wages the workers had also fought for a cost-of-living bonus (sometimes called the sliding scale of wages or the escalator wage clause).

From June, 1946, to Sept. 22, 1947, the cost of living has soared not less than 35%. Under a cost-of-living bonus system, workers today would be getting 35% more wages in relation to prices. And every further price rise would bring a corresponding wage increase.

Under such a cost-of-living bonus clause, the Sinclair Oil Workers affiliated with the CIO Oil Workers International Union, secured a total of 28 cents an hour in wage increases between Oct. 1946 and June 1947. Other CIO unions received gains of from 8 to 15 cents in the same period.

The cost-of-living bonus adjusted to living costs does not supplant the basic wage scale, but supplements it. It protects the real wages during a period of price inflation.

But there is no sign that prices will soon reverse their present trend. The corporations are on their wildest spree in history. Neither Democrats nor Republicans offer the slightest prospect of relief from high prices.

With the profiteers and speculators sending prices on an unrestrained rampage, labor has no choice but to launch a militant drive for basic wage increases protected by a cost-of-living bonus clause.

Murray or Lewis for President in 1948, Auto Local Urges

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 22—Chevrolet Local 659 of the UAW-CIO at its last membership meeting voted enthusiastically for resolution advocating the establishment of a national Labor Party so that the workers "may run a labor leader such as Philip Murray or John L. Lewis for President in 1948."

The text of the resolution, which will be presented to the coming national convention of the UAW in November, reads as follows:

Whereas: The Taft-Hartley Bill has succeeded in destroying many of labor's gains of the past 150 years, while we are informed that both the Democrats and Republicans intend to submit legislation in the 81st Congress far more drastic than the Taft-Hartley Bill, and

Whereas: This all out offensive against the labor movement gives warning that while labor is tremendous power economically it is politically helpless before the combined attack of the two-party system of Big Business, and

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Whereas: The UAW-CIO is the largest, most militant and progres-

Lewis—His Strength and His Weakness

By Art Preis

The recent AFL Executive Council meeting revealed again the worst and the best among the top American trade union leaders. During a sharp dispute over compliance with the Taft-Hartley Act in the matter of filing affidavits of non-communist affiliation, John L. Lewis once more showed how far he stands above the run-of-the-mill union leaders.

All the other leading AFL officials were ready to capitulate and sign affidavits. The United Mine Workers President took a firm principled stand against submitting in the slightest degree to the infamous Slave Labor Act. He thereby temporarily blocked an AFL surrender on the disputed issue. But it is expected to provide the major debate before the coming AFL convention in San Francisco.

Lewis berated his colleagues as cowards and weaklings. He correctly contended that organized labor cannot both submit to the Slave Labor Law and fight it. Each such act of submission, he pointed out,



would undermine and weaken labor in a "war of attrition" that would eventually render the unions altogether helpless. He proposed instead a vigorous and unrelenting struggle against the Taft-Hartley Act in all its parts and as a whole.

Militant union men and women, regardless of affiliation, will applaud Lewis' stand. As against the vacillating and cringing attitude of other union leaders, they will uphold the bold and aggressive position voiced by Lewis. Lewis fights, he has guts; and that's the least the American workers should expect from those who head their unions.

But that is only the beginning of the matter. Lewis said a great deal at the AFL Executive Council meeting—but he did not say enough; or rather, he stopped short of the most important thing of all. He said American labor must fight—but he did not say HOW it must fight. He offered nothing specific by way of a program. For on the arena of political action—where the issue of the Taft-Hartley Act will be finally and conclusively decided—Lewis differs in no fundamental respect from the very union leaders he so justifiably castigated.

Let us imagine Lewis speaking before the AFL delegates at the San Francisco convention. He scathingly rips to pieces the timorous arguments of Green, Tobin and the other snivelling counsellors of retreat. With his well-known powers of oratory, Lewis arouses the delegates to fighting enthusiasm for a show-down struggle against the Taft-Hartley Act. And then?

But that is all. Lewis takes them no further. Drive out the Representatives and Senators who voted for the anti-labor law, Lewis has told them. But how is this to be done? Lewis has no answer, other than

the shop-worn, shoddy political policy traditionally peddled by the old-line union leaders: Vote in some other capitalist politicians of Wall Street's Republic or Democratic parties.

This lack of real political understanding and perspective on the part of Lewis underlines all the more sharply the basic weakness of the union leadership as a whole.

It was Lewis who led the break with AFL craft-union movement in 1935 and organized the mighty industrial union movement of the CIO. It was Lewis who repeatedly defied the powers of the capitalist state during the war, while the other top labor officials were in retreat, and led the miners to magnificent victories. It was Lewis who again dared to confront the government in a 13-month struggle that ended last July with the miners' greatest wage gains. And today Lewis defies the entire leadership of the AFL in his principled stand on the NLRB and the anti-Communist affidavits.

But there is another side to Lewis. He is pitifully lacking in a broad comprehension of political realities. He continues to trade in the small coin of political deals with the enemies of labor. He is chained to narrow and antiquated conceptions of the struggle between capital and labor.

Lewis as early as 1937, during the Little Steel Strike, could dare to challenge the demagogic of Roosevelt and expose the fraudulence of the Democratic Party as a "friend of labor." But the same Lewis could support the openly pro-Big Business Republican Party in 1940 and 1944.

Now, after the Republican-dominated Congress has passed the Taft-Hartley Act, what has Lewis

to propose? What will he tell the AFL delegates?

Surely, he cannot in good conscience tell them to vote Republican in 1948. Vote for the party of the Taft-Hartley Act—that would be a monstrous betrayal!

Can he tell them to vote the Democratic ticket—the party he correctly denounced years ago? Can he tell them to back the party of Truman who tried to break the mine strike last year, called for a draft-strikers law, incited an injunction against the miners, led the whole howling pack of reaction against the UMW?

Yet Lewis offers no other course. Like the other union leaders, he points no way out of the political dilemma of American labor. Like them, he narrowly shuns and opposes the formation of labor's own party. He too stands as an obstacle in the way of the next great forward leap of the American labor movement.

This fundamental weakness overshadows Lewis' outstanding positive qualities as a union leader. Because the question of political action is so decisive today, this weakness nullifies the merits by which he shines in contrast to other union leaders.

The shortcomings of a man like Lewis demand what a thorough overhauling of the American trade union leadership requires. The new leaders will have the elementary qualities of courage and aggressiveness. But they will far surpass Lewis because they will have no ties to the capitalist system and its political machines. They will have a deeper understanding of the fundamental problems of the workers, a keener appraisal of the class forces that dominate our time, and a far-reaching, effective working-class program of social and political action.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

Cleveland workers will have the opportunity of voting for their own candidates for city council from the 22nd and 32nd Wards. Two prominent unionists, with long and honorable records as militant fighters for labor, have entered the elections as avowed independent labor candidates.

Robert A. Sivert, member of the International Association of Machinists and a staunch union man for 30 years, is challenging the Democrats and Republicans in the 22nd Ward.

He is endorsed by the Ward 22 Joint Labor PAC. He is campaigning on a program calling for municipal rent control and no evictions, more municipal recreation facilities and playgrounds, opposition to injunctions and police in strikes, resistance to the Taft-Hartley Act, etc.

Labor's candidate in the 32nd Ward is John DeVito, president of UAW Fisher Body Local 45. He has led several of the greatest strike struggles in the city's history. He served in the Navy during the war. His official campaign program lists his sponsors, including the Cuyahoga County PAC-CIO, the District UAW Council and eight UAW locals, the Ward 32 PAC, CIO steel, electrical and other locals, as well as the local International Association of Machinists (Independent) and Association of Cleveland Trainmen (Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen).

Although the possibilities of achievement by this one labor councilman will be limited, "the possibilities springing from his election are unlimited," Merlin Luce.

He recalls how a few hundred men at Concord Bridge in 1775 kindled the flame of the American Revolution and how John Brown with forty men at Harper's Ferry in 1859 lighted a spark that two years later flared into the great Civil War to end Negro slavery. In the early '30s a relative handful of industrial workers defied company spies, tear gas and death on the picket line to inspire the growth of the great CIO.

"A labor victory in Youngstown's Fourth Ward will echo through the whole state of Ohio," writes Merlin. "The industrial workers can prove this year that they are reaching political maturity and that from now on labor is going to shape with its own hands the distribution of wealth and the nature of society in which we and our children are going to live."

Lower Wages Sought By Senator (Eat Less) Taft

By Arthur Burch



In his campaign to obtain the Republican presidential nomination Sen. Robert A. Taft last week outlined to his wealthy cronies of the San Francisco Commonwealth Club a six-point program on high prices. It is a frank class program directed against labor and calculated to aid big business whom Taft faithfully represents.

According to the N. Y. Times he proposes "to discourage all wage increases; to seek a stabilization of prices and wages in the hope that an increase in supply and some decrease in the abnormal demand will bring prices down; to reduce governmental expenses and taxes; to restrict exports; to educate business to reduce some of their profits by cutting prices; to undertake a campaign to encourage voluntary curtailment in consumption of products like meat."

Together with his wealthy sponsors, Taft is worried about the rising cost of living. Here is why: He knows it is only a question of time before the reduced purchasing power of the masses must force a sharp drop in production heralding the next depression and huge unemployment.

Taft's program is calculated to hold off this evil day as long as possible for he fears the inevitable strivings of the people toward the goal of socialism. To use his own words, they "might try some system

which did not have to reach its goal through periods of heavy unemployment—an obvious admission of the benefits of socialism.

KEY POINT

The key point in Taft's program is the freezing of wages. He continues the fiction that wage increases are responsible for price increases, despite convincing proof to the contrary. During the war when wages were frozen, prices began their upward spiral, with black market operations and deterioration of goods partially camouflaging the real rise in prices. When wage increases were obtained in steel and auto, the CIO correctly pointed out that the steel and auto barons could continue making sizable profits without price increases but Big Business figured it could further mullet the public and blame it on the mealy wage rises.

The recent boost in the price of steel was a signal to all other monopolists to dip in to the consumer's dollar as much as the traffic would bear. Taft now wants to shift the responsibility for the inflationary wave onto labor.

Taft tries to blame Truman for the previous wage increases although he is fully aware that the workers had to fight every inch of the way to gain even the small wage concessions. In these labor struggles against General Motors, the steel monopolists, shipbuilders, etc., Truman either kept hands off or aided the profiteers. He was responsible for breaking the railroad strike and did everything in his power to checkmate the miners. But Taft is still not satisfied. He thinks Big Business might have avoided even the small wage boosts of last spring if the Taft Bill had not been vetoed by Truman.

Taft says that prices can be stabilized if the workers are forced to

reduce their purchases. This can be done either through a wage reduction or freezing wages while prices continue to skyrocket. Then no government controls will be necessary. Under capitalism the worker's limited pocketbook is the best "regulator" of purchasing power. The wealthy will keep on glutting themselves while the workers will be forced into "voluntary" rationing.

AGAINST PRICE CONTROL

Taft, like Truman and the other capitalist politicians, is against government price control not because it is an effective instrument against Big Business but rather because it further exposes the class nature of the Washington government as the tool of monopolists. Moreover, the industrialists know how to flout government control by curtailing production and utilizing the black market but they balk even at the slightest restrictions on their arena for profit-gouging.

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"Freedom Train" Document



Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation freeing the slaves is put into an air-tight sealed plastic case for the nation-wide tour of the "Freedom Train." When the "Freedom Train" ceremonies began in Philadelphia, two conscientious objectors were arrested for distributing anti-conscription leaflets.

Federated Pictures

Rubber Union Spurns Submission to NLRB

(Continued from Page 1)

Taft's last point, a campaign to induce the people to "eat less," is already being carried out under Truman. The inadequacy of existing wage scales accomplishes this purpose far better than any campaign.

NO WEASEL WORDS

Although Taft tries to saddle the blame for inflation on the Democratic administration, there is no fundamental difference between his program and Truman's. Taft is a little franker than the rest. He speaks openly and unashamedly on behalf of Big Business. He does not cover up with weasel words in the tradition of Roosevelt and Wallace. As a spokesman for the monopolists he is loyal to his trust, and speaks boldly in their defense.

If only the official labor leaders were half as bold and loyal to the class they represent as Taft is to his! In that event they would confront Taft's anti-labor program with their own class program and enter one of their own number in the presidential race. Millions of workers are hoping for an opportunity to vote for their own interests against the monopolists—and not for a Truman, a Dewey, a Wallace, or some other watchdog of Big Business.

Taft says that prices can be stabilized if the workers are forced to

it has long been known that Buckmaster would like to get rid of Eagle and his clique, under the impulsion of the top CIO officers' drive to get rid of Stalinist influence wherever they can.

STALINISTS DEFEATED

Eagle and his group had hoped to push through the amendment providing for his election, since he felt he had necessary vote to get elected. But the two-thirds majority to pass an amendment could not be mustered by the Stalinists, and the allies they had gathered together.

It was a rather comical fact that those who in the past had fought for the election of the Organizational Director, in an effort to get rid of Eagle, opposed the election at this convention, while the Stalinists, who had been against this in the past, put up a great hue and cry about "democracy" in an effort to prevent this measure across. Most of the non-Stalinist progressive forces in the convention voted for the amendment, but Buckmaster gathered together enough of a vote to prevent a two-thirds majority.

There was no opposition on the convention floor to the election of the present officers. Caucus combinations had mentioned running George R. Bass against Buckmaster, but although all informed delegates felt it would be a very close race, it was reported that Bass felt it was too soon for a decisive test.

The International Executive Board was considerably changed. It was cleaned of all pro-Buckmaster men, and now consists of a loose alliance between a few Stalinists and a group of non-Stalinist militants who reacted strongly against Buckmaster's conservative stand. It remains to be seen whether the Stalinists emerged stronger from this convention.

A long and rather vague discussion took place on the question of amending the constitution to provide for the election of the Organizational Director, who is now an appointed official. The present director, Harry Eagle, has long been the center of controversy in the union. Considered to be a Stalinist, his power rests on a machine of International Organizers. For years he aided the International officials against the militant opposition of the Akron locals.

This year he appealed to the Akron locals for support against Buckmaster, whose policies will lead inevitably to the dumping of Eagle. The independence of the delegates from domination of International officials was marked, and reminiscent of the militant spirit so characteristic of the UAW.

L.A. Unionists Arrested for Picketing Taft

By Al Lynn

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 17—Chanting "We Want Union Men in Congress," more than 1000 working men and women backed Senator Taft, co-author of the infamous Slave Labor Law, last night. The demonstrators, members of CIO, AFL, and Railway Brotherhood unions, and solidly backed by members of the Socialist Workers Party, came out in response to the call of the CIO which is organizing picket lines against Taft wherever he appears in California.

The slogan was begun by members of the SWP, and was immediately and enthusiastically taken up by the entire line including rank and file Communist Party members. The leaders of that party failed miserably in their attempts to prevent this slogan from catching on because it so obviously represented the answer to the Taft-Hartley Bill.

Taft rolled up to the doorway in a sleek, plush black limousine to speak to an audience of businessmen. Stepping outside the car he was immediately surrounded by a guard consisting of a half dozen goons, and a double row of uniformed police. After a moment's pause to survey the threatening crowd he quickly scurried through the entrance, barely escaping the wrath of the angry workers who forcefully surged up against the police line, jeering and booing.

Policemen arrested six of the pickets for "masquerading" without a license. They had committed the heinous crime of looking like Taft and carrying banners reading "I may look like Taft but I'm no stooge for the N. A. M." They were held on bail of \$500 each. The police also restrained the UAW from operating its sound truck except for the purpose of disbanding the picket line.

Taft's California tour will undoubtedly have the effect of bringing vividly to the attention of the labor movement the need for independent political action on the part of labor.

Early in the convention the delegates showed their state of mind by summarily rejecting a proposal of the Laws Committee to increase President Buckmaster's salary from \$6,500 a year to \$7,000. Later it was reported that Buckmaster privately complained about being denied a 15 cent an hour increase.

In addition, a proposal to increase dues from \$1.50 to \$2 a month was roundly defeated. The convention passed an amendment allowing local unions to increase their dues with all of the increase going to the local union. This was designed to provide relief to small locals which cannot get by on the \$1.50.

The International Executive Board was considerably changed. It was cleaned of all pro-Buckmaster men, and now consists of a loose alliance between a few Stalinists and a group of non-Stalinist militants who reacted strongly against Buckmaster's conservative stand. It remains to be seen whether the Stalinists emerged stronger from this convention.

A long and rather vague discussion took place on the question of amending the constitution to provide for the election of the Organizational Director, who is now an appointed official. The present director, Harry Eagle, has long been the center of controversy in the union. Considered to be a Stalinist, his power rests on a machine of International Organizers. For years he aided the International officials against the militant opposition of the Akron locals.

This year he appealed to the Akron locals for support against Buckmaster, whose policies will lead inevitably to the dumping of Eagle. The independence of the delegates from domination of International officials was marked, and reminiscent of the militant spirit so characteristic of the UAW.

Our Program:

1. Defend labor's standard of living! A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living! Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging! Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!
2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans! For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment! Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control! Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking! No restrictions on the right to strike and picket! No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. Build an independent labor party!
5. Tax the rich, not the poor! Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes! No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
6. An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!
7. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities! End Jim Crow! End anti-Semitism!
8. For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!
9. A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war. Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace! Against capitalist conscription! Abolish the officer caste system! Full democratic rights in the armed forces! Trade Union wages for the armed forces! Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands! For the complete independence of the colonial peoples! Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

Join the

One Hundred Years of The Communist Manifesto

By J. R. Johnson

We are approaching the one hundredth anniversary of the Communist Manifesto, the greatest document of the people that mankind has ever produced. As the actual date of the anniversary approaches, all shadings in the socialist movement will have their say on the contemporary or historical significance of the Manifesto. Social-Democrats, Stalinists, all those who parade as Marxists and in reality betray the proletariat at every step, will make the most of the ceremonial occasion to pretend that they are the inheritors of Marxism.

They will do their best, but the Manifesto remains, and must always remain, the property only of that revolutionary party which sees in it a living document for the thinking and guidance of revolutionary workers.

Here I can point out only a few of the various aspects of the Manifesto which will be occupying our attention in this period of the anniversary. For nearly a century, it has been the Bible whose study, appreciation and application marked the initiation of an individual into the revolutionary crusade to build a new society. But it is not only revolutionary workers and intellectuals who have studied it.

No student, in whatever culture or clime, in universities from one end of the world to another, could feel that he had become a part of the educated elite of civilization until he had at least read the Manifesto and put it aside as past history. If he graduated from intellectual preoccupation into bourgeois politics or responsibilities, he was always haunted by the fear that one day the Manifesto might indeed be removed from the historical archives and become in actuality the theoretical foundation for a new organization of society. Enemies as well as friends studied and re-studied the Manifesto.

Hence the Manifesto belongs to modern civilization and modern culture. Nothing, not even the burning of books, could ever remove it from such a place.

Men could reject the road which Marx mapped out for human society in the Manifesto. But no one could ever deny that he mapped a road, and that every step of it could be checked against the actual development of society.

Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto on the eve of the revolutions which swept Europe in 1848. This has seemed to many a happy accident of history. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality it was only because of the immediacy of revolution and the recogni-

Second Anniversary Of Viet Nam Govt. Hailed by SWP

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 — In a message of greetings to tonight's meeting celebrating the second anniversary of the Viet Nam Republic, James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, declared:

"As one of the first organizations in this country to support the heroic fight for freedom of the Indo-Chinese people, the Socialist Workers Party salutes this second anniversary of the independence of the Viet Nam Republic. The brutal attempts of French imperialism to reconquer Indo-China must be repulsed and will be defeated.

"Long live the complete independence of the Viet Nam people from all oppression! Long live the Viet Nam Republic!"

Marx ends the first section of the

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to revolution, based on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars.

—Leon Trotsky, 1940

Manifesto on the following note: The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the laborers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination due to association. The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.

It is this uniting in action of the revolutionary combination of socialized labor with the need to create new social ties pervading all layers of society which will both usher in and distinguish the new socialist society. The Soviets, the workers' councils, have shown us one form of human association which unites men from the factory to the governmental power.

The old society is rotting. Its economics, its politics, its morals are blighted by a crisis which for thirty years has grown in intensity. The revolutionary worker who on a spare evening sits and re-reads the Manifesto, is once more astonished at the gurus which could so powerfully anticipate the crisis of contemporary society and so confidently point the road out.

Is this which has distinguished most of the great Marxists and is this which made of each of them the legitimate heir to Marx. Marx, and the great Marxist, could open up theoretical avenues because they knew always that the proletariat would open up hitherto unexplored reserves of human energy and resourcefulness in the revolution itself.

One theme underlines the whole development of the Manifesto—on the one hand, the growing incapacity of the bourgeoisie, as compared with its past accomplishments, to represent the interests of the whole of humanity; on the other hand, the ever-expanding union of the workers which would make them not only into a force to overthrow bourgeoisie society but also reveal their destiny as the creators of a new freely associated humanity.

According to Marx, it was the constant revolutionizing of production, the uninterrupted disturbance of all social relations, the everlasting uncertainty and agitation of bourgeois society which would force man to face the fundamental question of his relation with his kind."

Today, bourgeois society is disintegrating before our very eyes. All nations face one another with suspicion and fear. Political opponents try to lead their followers into mutual hostility and hate. Nothing so distinguishes the strident shrieks and hopes of the bourgeoisie as their breeding of antagonisms, on the one hand, and their pleas for international and class collaboration on the other.

On the other hand, nothing goes so deeply to the roots of the hopes and aspirations of the broad masses as the desire for intimacy with their kind, with human beings like themselves all over the world. There is an irresistible urge to establish new social ties, new bonds between people, from which each can draw new strength and confidence. Wendell Willkie used the phrase "One World" and common men everywhere responded.

This yearning for new human relations, pervading the great masses of the people in Europe, America and Asia, is in itself a social force.

It exists not merely in the actual organized movements. These movements themselves take on a new color when men desire to join something or somebody and thereby achieve some continuity of development in the uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, some perspective in the everlasting uncertainty and agitation of the modern world.

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Wall Street Drive for New War Touches Off Bitter Fight in UN

By Joseph Hansen

Tension between Washington and Moscow reached a new high last week as Andrei Vyshinsky attempted a counter-offensive against an attack launched by Secretary of State Marshall in the United Nations.

Marshall aimed at two ob-

Vyshinsky also pointed accusingly to the British troops still remaining in Egypt and Greece and the American troops still in China. He tried to cover up the Soviet troops still remaining in the countries of Eastern Europe with a feeble formula about "guarding of communications with ex-enemy states."

ATOMIC CONTROL ISSUE

On the issue of atomic control Vyshinsky charged Washington with trying to maintain a monopoly and resisting "any attempts to dismantle the existing stock of atomic bombs and outlaw their further production."

At the same time USA systematically increases the production of such bombs."

It is the US and Great Britain, he said who are "unwilling to disarm" and who "put brakes on the realization of disarmament."

Seeking to convert his defense of the Kremlin's policies into an offensive, Vyshinsky cited the billions of dollars in war profits piled up by American corporations. "War is not so hateful after all to those groups who skillfully utilize the hardships of wartime for the purpose of enrichment," he said.

Marshall declared that "the control of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction has perhaps the highest priority if we are to remove the specter of a war of annihilation."

He added that Washington "also recognizes the importance of regulating conventional armaments."

In both instances, however, he foisted responsibility for the current armaments race on the Soviet Union.

Similarly in the case of Korea, Marshall blamed Moscow for the continued failure to grant this unhappy land its independence.

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"The historical task of our epoch consists in replacing the uncontrolled play of the market by reasonable planning, in disciplining the forces of production, compelling them to work together in harmony and obediently serve the needs of mankind."

Leon Trotsky

When Thieves Fall Out

The efforts of Marshall and Vyshinsky to take each other's scalps in the United Nations reminds us of the old adage about truth getting a break when thieves fall out.

During the war Wall Street and the Kremlin toasted each other as "peace-loving" powers, champions of "four freedoms," benefactors of the common man and saviors of civilization.

Fruit of this ever-loving friendship was the United Nations which they magnanimously presented to the world as their contribution toward enduring peace. They christened it "mankind's only hope."

Today Wall Street's hope is to conquer the world. Cutting the throat of a former ally is a mere bagatelle to a ruling class drunk with power. To prepare the public mind for such a definitive conclusion to the back-slapping wartime friendship, Wall Street is now focusing the spotlight on a number of criminal faults in its former bosom partner.

The Wall Street wolves freely voice their horror at the Kremlin's lies, cynicism, disregard of human rights, contempt for civil liberties, brutality, bloodiness, premeditated murder of political opponents, oppression of minorities, etc.

Moscow in turn, alarmed over the intentions of its former "peace-loving" associate, is putting the finger on some of Wall Street's crimes. Such as the colossal profits harvested from the battlefields of World War II, the troops maintained in Greece and China, interference in Europe's internal affairs, stockpiling of atomic bombs, brazen preparations for World War III, etc.

This mutual pointing of fingers is all to the good. It helps expose the real character of the arch-reactionary architects of the U. N.

However, these criminals are still united on one point. Both of them still picture their thieves' debating society, the UN, as the only hope for peace.

Just whom do these bandits still expect to fool? With Wall Street's mailed fist closing on Moscow's throat and the Kremlin screaming bloody murder, what's left of the gilt-edged claims about the UN guaranteeing peace?

It should be clear today even to those who placed the most persistent hopes in this second edition of the League of Nations that it was doomed from the beginning to suffer the same miserable fate as its predecessor. Now how about laying the UN away beside the League of Nations in a nice, quiet crypt in a mausoleum?

Tilting Wall Street's Bottle

When the Kremlin removed Earl Browder from public view two years ago, the American Communist (Stalinist) Party took a temperance oath and vowed never again to wake up in the gutter with a splitting hangover from hitting Wall Street's political bottle.

Like repentant drunkards they beat their chests in public about the evils packed in the bottle bearing Wall Street's label. They swore they were going to stick to the straight and narrow — the path leading to socialism; and they thought up serious differences with the Democratic Party to serve as texts for solemn sermons in the Sunday Worker.

Lately they have even spoken about a "Third" Party — cautiously to be sure — but loudly enough for rank-and-file Stalinists to get the impression that what they really mean is a genuine independent Labor Party with union candidates on the ballot in opposition to both Democrats and Republicans.

The Stalinist leaders became especially vociferous about Wall Street's foreign policy, which is tightening a world-wide vise on the Soviet Union. They denounce the iniquities of the Truman Doctrine. As for the Marshall Plan, they rolled their eyes heavenward in holy horror.

But if you think these case-hardened hypocrites and professional liars really meant all they said about laying off the Wall Street bottle, you don't know Dennis, Foster or their top boss in the Kremlin. They only washed and spruced up for appearance's sake. A capitalist politician need only give them the nod, and — you know where you can find them, arm in arm, trying out their voices for harmony.

The latest instance of Stalinist malingering happened in San Francisco. There, as is well known, the Stalinists dominate the CIO Council exercising decisive voice over political decisions.

Last week this Stalinist-dominated Council enthusiastically endorsed Rep. Frank R. Havenner for Mayor. Who is Havenner?

1. He is a Democrat. A member of the same reactionary Wall Street party as Rankin, Connally, Marshall and Truman.

2. Havenner is a hand-raiser for Wall Street's war-mongering policy of bolstering reaction everywhere in accordance with its blueprint for world conquest. Havenner cast his vote in Congress last May in favor of the anti-Communist Greek-Turkish aid bill to implement the Truman Doctrine.

The moral of it all is don't believe the Stalinists. They swear they're teetotalers, but when temptation's finger beckons, they can't keep their mouths off that Wall Street bottle.

Join the SWP

On the front page of this issue of The Militant is an editorial explaining how a Workers and Farmers Government would end the price squeeze.

Obviously the measures outlined will never be taken by Wall Street's government, since such measures conflict with the economic interests of the big corporations.

It is likewise obvious that neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party will ever undertake the measures required to end the price squeeze. Both of these parties are maintained by the big corporations solely to fight for their interests on the political field.

Consequently labor has no recourse but to start down the road of independent political action with the aim of putting in power a Workers and Farmers Government.

How can labor succeed in this aim?

We can succeed only by combining all our individual efforts, uniting our forces, and pushing in organized fashion toward the common goal.

This means that if you agree on the desirability of the measures suggested in the front page editorial to beat the price squeeze, your place is in the Socialist Workers Party.

By becoming a member of the Socialist Workers Party you enter the main highway to a Marxist political education. You find your own effectiveness in the fight against the ills of decaying capitalist society immeasurably increased. Your voice gains weight and authority in the trade unions and wherever workers are faced with the need to make political decisions.

At the same time you contribute in the most effective way possible in building up the fighting power of the American working class in politics by actively participating in the Socialist Workers Party and widening its influence.

We urge you to fill out the coupon on page 2 for further information and mail it in to the Socialist Workers Party at 116 University Place, New York 3. Or if there is a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in your area, get in touch with the branch organizer.

Another Wallace Novelty

Here's the latest novelty from the Henry Wallace political jewelry store:

"Reactionary capitalism would enforce high prices by means of scarcity and monopoly. They would take high prices out of us to pile up profits against the inevitable depression which they themselves make inevitable. Progressive capitalism believes in lower prices, high production and wages, giving the consumer a break and a high standard of living for all."

Exactly what Wallace meant in this New Jersey speech last week we cannot say, with any authority. When Wallace says "reactionary" capitalists "would" enforce high prices, he seems to mean they "wish" to, but haven't done so yet. In that case, which capitalists are responsible for the present very high prices — the "progressive" capitalists?

No, Wallace doesn't mean that; according to him, the "progressive" capitalists "believe" in lower prices, giving the consumer a break and so on. But since no capitalists known to anyone in the U. S. today are doing anything to lower prices or aid the consumer, perhaps this is Wallace's subtle way of saying there really are no "progressive" capitalists?

No, that can't be either, because in this same speech Wallace urged his audience not to "proclaim economic warfare" on all businessmen, for many of them believe as he does in "progressive" capitalism.

Let's leave Wallace and try to put the matter straight so far as capitalism and progress are concerned. Capitalism was progressive when it first took shape in feudal society. It was progressive when it developed the productive forces to a higher level than was possible under feudalism. It was progressive when it took the path of revolution and smashed the feudal forces that barred the road to its development.

That stage in the evolution of capitalism ended long ago. Today it is reactionary to the core. Today it can only limp from one devastating war to the next. Today it can offer the masses only inflation, high prices, depression, unemployment, hunger, misery and slaughter. Today it bars the road to further development of the productive forces. Today it is playing a role toward socialism, the society of the future, such as feudalism once played toward rising capitalism.

Consequently, when Wallace declares that he believes in "progressive" capitalism, he might just as well say he believes in "progressive" feudalism, or going back still further, "progressive" slavery. It makes as much sense.



"Don't those Russians know they can't talk that way in our United Nations?"

Workers BOOKSHELF

HISTORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, from Colonial Times to the Founding of the American Federation of Labor, by Philip S. Foner. International Publishers, 1947, 576 pp., \$3.75.

One of the indispensable conditions for building a revolutionary socialist party in this country is a thorough study of American working class history, illuminated by a Marxist understanding of American society. This book is an important step toward that goal, in that it attempts to tell the story with emphasis on the interests and life of the workers. It falls short of that goal, in that its Marxism is twisted and corrupted by Stalinism — especially in its uncritical acceptance of alliances between labor and other classes as uniformly "progressive," regardless of where the leadership of the alliance lies.

We can learn much from our history of value to the movement today, but only if our study hews closely to the class line. For example, going back to the American Revolution, we can see now, and can prove by patient research (much of which Foner has done), that the revolution probably would never have taken place if it had not been for the study, uncompromising militancy of the artisans and poorer workmen of the coastal towns.

The Sons of Liberty, and the Committees of Correspondence which they organized, in a network that covered the colonies, were made up chiefly of the most exploited workers of the towns, who formed an alliance that was equivalent at times to an independent government with the small debt-ridden farmers of the countryside and the frontier. The revolutionary movement at this time was not only anti-British, but showed many signs of developing into a social revolution against the native exploiters, too.

Gradually, the merchants, lawyers, bankers, great landowners, and Southern plantation aristocracy took over the organs of power created by the workers and farmers, and before the revolution was even officially ended, class struggles within the American lines had broken out with a ferocity that continued through the entire period of the Constitution, and

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That stage in the evolution of capitalism ended long ago. Today it is reactionary to the core. Today it can only limp from one devastating war to the next. Today it can offer the masses only inflation, high prices, depression, unemployment, hunger, misery and slaughter. Today it bars the road to further development of the productive forces. Today it is playing a role toward socialism, the society of the future, such as feudalism once played toward rising capitalism.

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What was LaGuardia's true record? He was too clever to be the ordinary stuffed-shirt, openly pro-capitalist politician. He sensed the disgust of the people with the two old parties and pretended to be independent.

His independence, though, was limited to maneuvering between these parties. First working with the Republicans then with the New Deal Democrats.

He also saw that the days of the mailed fist toward labor were over for a while and that reforms would have to be granted. Instead of fighting these reforms he was cunning enough to endorse them and claim credit for them. Here lies the basis of his reputation as a "friend of labor."

But the record doesn't end there

abated only after the turn of the century.

One example of this is the mutiny of the Pennsylvania troops against the failure of the Continental Congress, dominated by wealthy interests, even to provide food and clothes, let alone the promised pay. Later, Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts was only the largest of many similar revolts against the counter-revolutionary policies of the conservatives.

We can learn many lessons from this record, not the least of which is the great power wielded by a few thousand scattered craftsmen in an agricultural country, when they boldly struck out for their own demands.

Even more important is the story of the Civil War, and of the Reconstruction era. The Republican Party, immediately after its formation, faced the revolutionary task of overthrowing the power of the Southern plantation-owners, and with that, chattel slavery. The workers of the Northern cities broke away in great numbers from their traditional loyalty to the Democratic Party, to support the new party.

It was the most class-conscious section of the workers who entered into the new movement, including the infant socialist movement. Again the workers and poor farmers proved to be the backbone of the fight against the slave-owners. And in this fight, a mighty ally was the Negro people themselves, who contributed in whatever way they could to the Northern cause, 200,000 of them serving in the Army.

But the Republican Party was concerned only with winning power for the interest of Northern capital. The few concessions (like the Homestead law) passed during the war, were brushed aside in the fever to enjoy unrestricted exploitation of the continent's wealth. Both labor and Negroes were abandoned.

The just demands of the liberated Negroes for civil rights, for education, and above all for land, were for the most part ignored. Within ten years of Appomattox, labor's standards had been so reduced as to drive the workingmen to the verge of insurrection. The triumphant coalition of 1860 was destroyed, and the betrayed workers and farmers again turned to the hard task of building their own organs of struggle against the brutal exploitation of capital.

Foner carries the story only to the 1880s, and another volume will

continue the narrative. The first volume is detailed and thorough, except that the most significant facts often must be dug out of a mass of irrelevant material. It is apparent at times that the reason for this is that Foner himself doesn't understand what is important and what is not.

He mentions the mutiny of the Pennsylvania line referred to above only in connection with their refusal to desert to the British. He sees this action as a praiseworthy refusal to break the all-class coalition against the foreign enemy, whereas it demonstrates clearly the will of these workers and farmers to fight both the foreign and native enemy, to defend their own interests rather than to make a temporary deal.

The story of labor's early struggles to build the unions and a political party of its own is an inspiring one, filled with magnificent proof of the courage, devotion and militancy of the American workers. Anyone who still harbors the petty bourgeois illusion, so vigorously inculcated by the schools and the bourgeois historians, that the American workers are uniformly "backward" and "conservative," needs a solid course in the truths of history.

For generations, any attempt on the part of workers to combine to increase wages or improve conditions was legally a conspiracy, punishable by fine or imprisonment. Not until 1842 was a ruling secured in the Supreme Court of Massachusetts that a union was not of itself a conspiracy against the public welfare. Yet thousands of workers defied the courts again and again, demanding the rights which were properly theirs.

In spite of its faults, this book provides a more detailed and more readable account of the life and struggles of American workers than anything which has yet appeared. For that reason alone it is to be recommended to every worker. There is evidence here of the breadth of research which has been given to compiling a complete story, including wide use of original sources. It is a pity that the industry of the author was not matched by his understanding of Marxism, so that we might at last have a workers' history of our country which would be a mighty weapon in the struggle for socialism.

—John Hudson

The Truth About the LaGuardia Record

By George Lavan

"A statesman is a dead politician." That somewhat bit of American political cynicism holds true for this epoch of capitalist politicians.

Reams of eulogies printed throughout the nation following the death of Fiorello LaGuardia bear this out. Sad to relate, this glorification of one of America's shrewdest political actors is not confined to the kept press of Big Business but is also found in the newspapers of the labor movement.

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But the record doesn't end there

organized by the Socialist Workers Party in 1939.

This true record of the "Little Flower" could continue for pages. That is not necessary, however. All that is needed is to puncture the hot air balloon the Stalinists and others are helping to inflate.

LaGuardia chasing the fire engines, or reading the funny papers over the radio may have succeeded in fooling voters tired of stuffy political bores. It may have convinced some he was a common man's man, or a sidewalk candidate. But even this self-dramatization and posturing was carefully calculated. When he was engaged in putting over some especially raw deal he stepped up his public antics to divert attention from the important work he was doing.

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Workers' Forum

This Veteran Held Out Longer

Editor: Unlike Albert Parker, I did not rush down to the bank on Sept. 2, the first day on which I could cash my hard-earned terminal leave bond. Instead, I decided to hold on to that \$125 as long as possible.

Well, I've had it. In the first week after my wife and I figured out that rising food prices had eaten into our budget so badly that we had spent \$8 more than we had earned.

Yesterday was the second week's end since Sept. 2, and when we checked again, we found that the extra cost of food had given us an \$11 deficit for the week.

At that rate, we wouldn't be able to pay the rent at the end of the month. There was no alternative—I went to the bank and cashed it this morning. At the present rate it will be all gone in two or three months. In fact, it is going at a much faster rate than it took me to earn it.

Veteran,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dutch Friend Seeks Correspondent

Editor: I am a member of the Dutch Trotskyist movement in Amsterdam and read regularly your very interesting and informative paper. I wonder if one of your young comrades, boy or girl, would be interested in corresponding with me, so that we could exchange opinions and information about our respective countries.

The article of J. R. Johnson about the Negro soldiers in the U. S. Army (Aug. 11, *Militant*), telling of the consciousness of these Negroes to fight their oppressors, we were very pleased with. Indeed, the most oppressed give the best revolutionary material, as we saw in the case of A. Leon in Belgium during the war.

Is there any possibility of our friends in America publishing his book — A. Leon's "Materialist Conception of the Jewish Question"?

M. P.
Amsterdam,
Netherlands

ED. NOTE: The *Militant* will gladly forward M.P.'s address to any reader who would like to correspond with him.

Pioneer Publishers is now engaged in raising funds from sympathizers for the publication of Leon's Marxist analysis of the Jewish question.

"Daily Mirror" Tip Arouses Reader's Ire

Editor: They say fish is good brain food. If so, I ought to be in the running with Einstein. We've been on a fish diet ever since the meat trust got the idea they were selling the golden calf.

At first we just dropped out of the steak class. We stayed with the stew eaters until the competition got too stiff. Then we moved into the odds and ends level. Finally we were in the hamburger class — you know, the bright pink ground-up fat and sinews the butcher kind of holds away from his nose. It fries down to steam and residue and it's all you can do to swallow it thinking how long are you going to be a damn fool standing in line to pay out money for scraps you wouldn't feed the dog.

Then we moved into the fish

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.

eating strata of the population. Fish. Fish. Fish. We've been eating fish so steady I can't tell the days in the week from Friday any more.

When we first shifted over, it was salmon and halibut. Then the fish stores caught the price-raising fever. Our purchasing power stood still as the price escalator moved up until we found our pocketbook fit the cod and filet of sole notch.

That was bad enough; but *tempus fugit*, as I read in a book, and next thing you know we were trying flounders, porgies and some fish I don't know the name of but they look like minnows.

You'd think we'd hit bottom. But no. Once you run into a dollar shortage it's hard to recover without a pipe line to the U. S. Public Treasury. Last week we were trying out tuna, First Avenue style. "30 cents worth," you tell the fishmonger and he swings his machete and whacks you out a piece from a big chunk of bloody-looking blubber.

We aren't down to octopus yet, but I won't be surprised one of these days to find myself trying to keep the stew pot lid on one of the slimy monsters.

The pay-off was the other evening. The wife brought in the *Daily Mirror* while I was still picking scales off my shirt front after supper. It calms me after I've gone through another fish dinner to catch up on the news — what's happening to Li'l Abner and will Happy Easter be rescued in time by Steve Canyon from the blonde who wears her evening gown backward and is there anything new on the buyer resistance front.

There on page two is some flash news: "SAVE WITH FISH." With choice beef wholesaling at \$1.75 a pound and choice fish retailing for as little as \$1.17 a pound, it makes sense to have two fish days a week. So says Prudence Penny, writing today in the *Mirror*'s food budget series. You will find her recipes and tips on page 24.

I don't care if beef is \$1.75 or \$3 a pound any more than I give a damn if the national debt is \$260,000,000,000 or \$300,000,000,000. But "SAVE WITH FISH." They call that news! TWO fish days a week! Us nearer to seven! Where has the *Mirror* been?

I say take those recipes and tips and shove them down Prudence Penny's throat.

Indignant
New York, N. Y.

Isn't It Time For A Change Here Too?

Editor: Now that the United States Government has intervened and changed the Greek government and the Turkish government and is going to make proposals leading toward the changing of the Chinese government as well, isn't it about time that the American people did something to change the United States government which like the others mentioned does not seem able to solve the most pressing problems facing its citizens?

READ
Fourth International

A. F. C.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

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 Saturday 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 Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.).

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

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

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

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

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

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5th St. Open 12 to 4:30 p.m.; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays.

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

SUNDAY FORUMS, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open every Monday, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

SEATTLE—1919½ Second Ave. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p.m. Sat. Phone SE 0453. Library, bookstore.

WEDNESDAYS, 8 p.m. Basic Training Class.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. Forums, Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW YORK CITY—116 University Place, 5-8149.

PARADE—1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

BROOKLYN—635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 8-7433.

CHESAPEAKE—130 W. 110 St. Room 23, MO. 2-1866.

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

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Militant Fund Drive Begun by Branches

By Rose Karsner

THE MILITANT FUND campaign terminates with the Dec. 15 issue of this paper, leaving exactly ten weeks in which to fulfill the quotas. If you will divide what you owe on your pledge by ten you will arrive at a weekly figure to shoot at. In this manner our can achieve 100% comfortably in time for the Dec. 15 issue. The Local New York Director follows this procedure and finds that it works.

The first complete Score Board will begin to appear in the October 13 *Militant*. In the meantime all branches are urged to rush their collections so we can be gin with very few zeroes from the start.

All copy for this column must be in the hands of the editors by Tuesday of each week. That means your letters must be in our office not later than Monday in order to make any given current issue. Bear in mind, especially for your last payment on the quota, which will have to reach us not later than Monday, Dec. 12.

Total received to Tuesday, Sept. 23-\$737, as follows:

(Tentative Quotas)	
City	Quota
Akron	\$300
Allentown-Bethlehem	75
Boston	275
Buffalo	600
Chicago	1,500
Cleveland	250
Connecticut	200
Detroit	600
Flint	200
Los Angeles	1,500
Lynn	125
Massillon-Canton	50
Milwaukee	200
Newark	500
New York City	4,500
Oakland	2,550
Pittsburgh	150
Reading	150
Rochester	25
St. Louis	50
San Diego	100
San Francisco	1,250
Seattle	300
Tacoma	25
Toledo	200
West Virginia	25
Youngstown	600
General	450
(members-at-large, etc.)	

BUFFALO—T. Martin: "Enclosed is

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Total received to Tuesday, Sept. 23-\$737, as follows:

Youngstown	\$200
Newark	157
New York	121
Buffalo	100
Chicago	80
St. Louis	25
Philadelphia	24
Cleveland	12
Seattle	2
Eureka, member-at-large	5
Tacoma	300
West Virginia	25
Youngstown	600
General	

FROM THE BRANCHES

LYNN—Mary Paul: "We feel confident that we will meet our full quota before the closing of the drive."

CLEVELAND—Almeda Kingsley: "We started our campaign off Saturday evening with an open house for friends who attended a convention here. The enclosed check represents the proceeds."

BUFFALO—T. Martin: "Enclosed is

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The Furnaces and the Men

By Theodore Kovalesky

When the alarm clock jangles in the darkness of early morning I hate to be a worker. When I have to go to work on the night shift with the rest of the town getting ready to sleep it seems terrible. When there's a coke mess on the furnace on a hot afternoon I begin to wonder how much longer I'll be able to take it.

But all in all, in spite of the high prices and low wages, in spite of the sweaty hardships and fiery dangers of the job, in spite of the shift work, there's something about blast furnaces...

When we finish up a day's (or night's) work and drop into Emil's place for a beer before going home, we talk about a lot of different things, but sometime before we walk out of the door one of us will start talking about one of the furnaces. Usually what he will have to say is bad, for instance, "I hate that damn Number Seven! Never know when something is going to burn out and blow up. They pushed it too hard in the war, and it's never gonna be any good any more." Or: "A man's crazy to stay at a damn job like this!"

But there's always interest in furnace talk. Symptomatic are cited. Number Three's been rolling and heaving all day. Number Two's iron's had so much silicon for the past week and a half that you tear up the runners when you try to clean them. Then the gang begins to diagnose. The reason why Seven burns so many tuyeres is that they use a different kind of ore in her. They used that kind down in Sparrows Point in Bethlehem, and it did the same thing there. No, thinks somebody else, it's just that they use too much wind on the furnace, it's too much blast; that's why the tuyeres burn out.

You always hear talk like this in Emil's place. Sometimes it mounts into arguments, not too heated ones, of course. I've seen Jimmy leer into Slim's face and say, "Man, you've never learned anything about a blast furnace in all the years you been working on them." And Slim was quick to defend his grasp on furnace lore and deride Jimmy's ideas.

The average furnace man is, I think, a furnace man at heart in a way. I know the gang will howl

The Negro Struggle

Your Verdict On James Hickman

By William E. Bohannan

Where are your sympathies in the James Hickman case — with the State of Illinois which wants to convict and execute him on the charge of murdering his landlord, or with Hickman and those members of his family who managed to survive the terrible fire that burned the four Hickman children to death last winter?

To answer that question, you must know the facts. Not only the fact about Hickman shooting his landlord; nobody denies that fact, but there is more to it than that. You must also know why he shot him, you must also know about the conditions under which Hickman and his family lived, you must also understand the whole background of the case. Otherwise you are not qualified to judge his action at all, or to take sides in the coming trial.

First, you must take into consideration the housing shortage. If not for this housing shortage, Mr. and Mrs. Hickman and their seven children would never have been forced to move into a tiny attic room, without lights, heat or water, in a firetrap tenement house. Who was responsible for the housing shortage — Hickman? No, it was the capitalist system and the greedy real estate interests who conspire to prevent a large low-cost housing program so that they can jack up the rents in existing buildings.

Next, you must remember that Chicago, like most other American cities, is ruled by restrictive covenants, which permit landlords to get together and agree that Negroes like James Hickman shall not be permitted to rent or buy a home anywhere except in the Negro Ghetto. Hickman had a job, and if not

Li'l Abner Gagged

By George Lavan

Of all the comic strips Li'l Abner, drawn by Al Capp, is one of the top favorites. This is deserved since most funnies aren't very funny. The great majority are social soap operas or amazing stories. But Li'l Abner is funny. It is noteworthy for its original characters like Lonesome Polecat, Fearless Fosdick, Hairless Joe and many more.

Now the steel trust stooges who own the Pittsburgh Press have decided that their readers should not be corrupted by Li'l Abner. The installments of this comic have simply been left out of the paper for a whole week.

To justify this action, the paper ran an editorial stating that the current episodes of Li'l Abner were "objectionable" because they burlesqued a Senator. It seems that Senator Phogbound of Dogpatch is corrupt, ignorant and moronic. The editors of the Pittsburgh Press don't think our national legislators should be portrayed that way, even in a comic strip. Well, let's look at the record.

There are many cases of proven bribe-taking by our Washington "solons." You don't have to go back to the Teapot Dome scandal, just look at recent times. Huey Long's shakedowns and corruption were hardly concealed by him. Champion race-hater and ignoramus Senator Bilbo admitted taking juicy "gifts" in connection with war contracts. Representative May, head of the House Committee on Military Affairs during the war, has been convicted for his patriotic efforts. And just to show that this isn't a characteristic peculiar to Southern Senators, think of the questions that Senator Brewster of Maine has yet to answer.

Notes from the News

SAME DIFFERENCE? — J. D. Watson escaped from the North Carolina State Prison in May 1946. Then he joined the Army. Last week he turned up at the prison gate and asked for readmittance because he couldn't stand the Army.

JIM CROW BALLOTS — Governor M. E. Thompson has approved arrangements for Jim Crow voting in the Georgia primaries. Segregation will be complete; different buildings will be used for white and Negro voters; use of partitions in the same building is outlawed.

LACK OF INCENTIVE — Recruitment into the armed forces has slumped notably since withdrawal

of special benefits under the GI Bill of Rights. In August recruiting for the Army was 33% below requirements and for the Navy 22% below.

STRANGE CAMP — Such union leaders as William Green and A. F. Whitney are in the same camp as a lot of labor-hating Southern Democrats in pushing Gael Sullivan for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee.

LAND OF FREE? — Deputies are keeping thousands of agricultural workers from crossing the state line out of Texas. In adjoining states cotton pickers get \$3 per 100 pounds — in Texas they get between \$1.50 and \$2.

FOOD PRICES — Recruitment into the armed forces has slumped notably since withdrawal

THE MILITANT

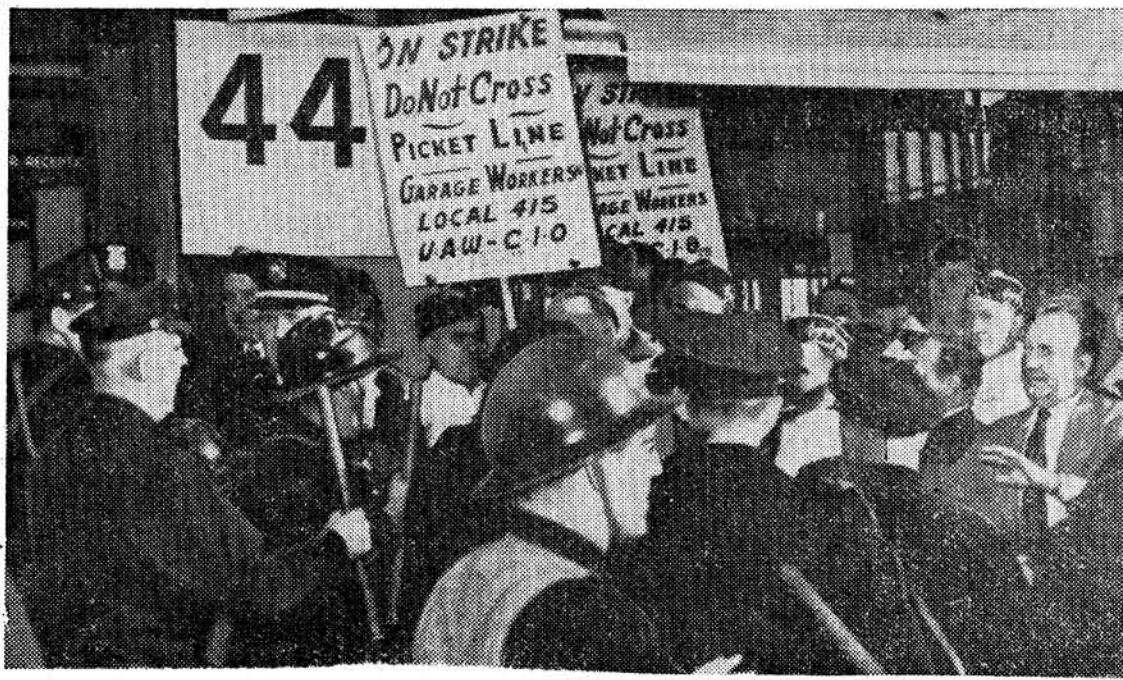
PAGE SIX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1947

Flint UAW Locals Set Up Own Grocery Store to Fight HCL

Detroit Cops Help Scabs



Mayor Jeffries' police force in Detroit has unleashed a campaign of brutality against striking garage workers and their union, UAW-CIO Local 415. Pickets in the month-old strike have been arrested and court orders issued against the union. Above the cops are shown with clubs ready for action as they try to push a path through pickets at the Jerry McCarthy garage.

All ranks of the UAW are protesting the scab-protecting activities of the police. A city-wide meeting of local union leaders has pledged full support; so has the UAW International Executive Board. Detroit unionists are asking what Jeffries' cops will be like after the coming election if they are so vicious during his campaign for Mayor.

Federated Pictures

Trainor Opens Boston Campaign On October 4

Rally To Be Held for School Board Candidate

BOSTON, Sept. 24 — The drive to elect Lawrence P. Trainor to the Boston School Committee will be formally opened at the bang-up Social and Dance on the evening of Oct. 4, the Socialist Workers Committee announced today. Trainor, veteran of the socialist and trade union movement, will give a brief address during which he will point out the necessity for labor to elect its own representatives to public office.

All workers are invited to attend this Social and Dance at 30 Stuart St.; particularly the readers of *The Militant*. Here, besides having an enjoyable evening of relaxation, they will be able to meet Trainor and other *Militant* readers.

PLAN SOUND TRUCK

The Committee's campaign plans are already being carried out. Election literature is now in the printshop, radio time is being contracted for and a sound truck has been hired for the closing days of the campaign. The number of people reached in the campaign will naturally depend upon the meager resources of the Committee, which is made up of working people. All friends of labor are urged to contribute whatever they can possibly spare.

With regards to campaign expenditures, Trainor issued the following statement:

"Isn't it a bit strange that the professional political parasites that dominate Boston's political life will spend up to \$20,000 - \$25,000 in campaigning for an office that pays no salary? Surely, no one is stupid enough to accuse these people of ever being self-sacrificing for the general public. No one ever heard of them contributing a red penny to striking and persecuted workers. The righteous cause of labor is alien to them except at election time."

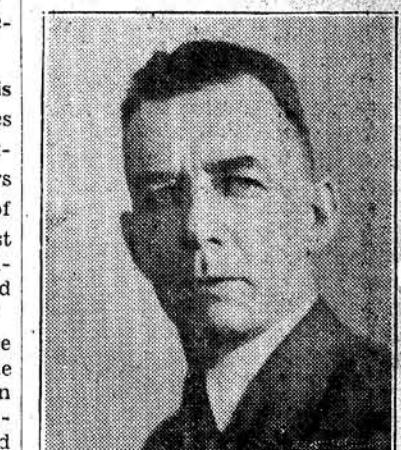
"They are not wealthy individuals. Their trade is politics where they live by the rule 'Get yours and the devil take the hindmost.' And playing with Boston's \$18,000 school budget is not to be sneezed at."

"Labor must put a stop to this game of lying and deception and plunder. The only way to do this is to elect labor's own members to public office where they will be responsible to labor."

"In this campaign I ask labor to make a beginning towards that goal by electing me to the School Committee. There I will speak in the name of labor — and labor alone."

SWP Labor Secretary Hits Deportation Drive As Anti-Union Assault

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 23 — —A vigorous denunciation of government persecutions of foreign-born trade unionists was made here today by Vincent R. Dunne, National Labor



VINCENT R. DUNNE

SWP Wins Right To Use Name on New York Ballot

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 — The Board of Elections today upheld the right of Robert Williams, candidate for State Senator in the 23rd Senate District, to appear on the ballot in November under the designation of Socialist Workers Party. The decision was made in response to objections raised by Norman Thomas' Socialist Party.

This was the second time that official agencies in New York State had decided in favor of the Socialist Workers Party's right to use its name on the ballot in opposition to complaints by the SP. In the 1946 Gubernatorial contest, the SP brought legal action before the State Supreme Court which heard the challenge and decided in favor of the Socialist Workers Party. The decision at that time was based on the fact that the electorate and not the court must decide which party had the right to call itself "Socialist."

Food Prices at All-Time High

