

## THE TITO AFFAIR AND STALINISM

(See Page 2)

Workers of the World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

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# BANKERS' SPOKESMAN PREDICTS 'BUST'

## Dobbs Brands Beck 'Traitor' For Scaberry

By Farrell Dobbs

SWP Candidate for President

When a union official helps a corporation fight a striking union, he is no less a traitor than the copperheads who sabotaged the Union Army to help the slave owners during the Civil War.

Such a traitor in labor's ranks is Dave Beck, West Coast AFL Teamsters Czar. Beck has stabbed in the back the striking Machinists Union at the Boeing Aircraft Company in Seattle. He has sent trucks through the machinists' picket lines, signed up Boeing scabs in the Teamsters



FARRELL DOBBS

Union, sent his attorneys into government hearings to parrot the corporation's arguments—in short, Beck has done everything he could to break the machinists' strike.

So scandalous is Beck's conduct that the Washington State AFL has condemned his tactics. An opposition movement is developing inside the Seattle Teamsters Union in protest against the indignities and injuries inflicted upon the membership by this strikebreaking dictator.

### THE MAD DOG

Small wonder that Beck has become the heir-apparent to the throne of Teamsters President Daniel J. Tobin, who has been aptly called "The Mad Dog of the Labor Movement." Beck has learned well in the Tobin school.

Tobin is notorious for his strikebreaking; smashing of democracy in local unions; driving workers who oppose him off their jobs; and organizing gangster attacks in jurisdictional raids on other unions.

The Brewery Workers Union can tell a hair-raising story of men beaten with blackjack, workers' homes destroyed by firebombs and dynamite, as Tobin plied his union-raiding activities. Beck was a star performer in that Tobin show.

In St. Louis, the rank and file of a Teamsters Local Union sent a committee to protest to Tobin because the union contract was

## Malayans Revolt For Independence From British Rule

The flames of national uprisings continue to spread in the Far East and shake to their foundations the empires of the Western imperialists. To the growing list of Asiatic peoples fighting for their independence is now added Malaya.

Malaya forms the long Indo-Chinese peninsula which runs down from the mainland of Southeast Asia. For upwards of a century, its natives have been ruled and exploited by British imperialism through a system of indirect rule of native sultans, the Malay equivalent of the Indian Rajahs. The country is a key sector of the British Empire as it is the world headquarters of the rubber and tin industries and forms the hinterland to Singapore, "The Gibraltar of the Far East."

### REVOLT RISING

At the end of the Second World War, Britain tried to ward off the growing nationalist movement by establishing a phony consultative body under the "Union of Malaya." But the natives, suffering from food shortages and a raging inflation, and influenced by the rising tides of revolution throughout the Far East, have now risen in revolt, determined to drive the imperialists out of the country.

The British have replied in the same manner that Hitler employed against recalcitrant nationalities in Europe. Regulations have been issued giving the government unlimited powers. Newspapers are suppressed, individuals arrested and held indefinitely without trial and "suspect persons" in danger areas are shot on sight. Strikes are banned. Malcolm MacDonald, British Governor-General of Malaya, representative of the British labor government and son of the late Ramsey MacDonald, has been denouncing the insurgents, in language reminiscent of Goebels, as "Communist bandits."

### BITTER STRUGGLE

But British savagery and repression will not save their empire. Major General Charles Boucher, Commander of the British forces in Malaya, estimated that it would take at least 15 months to wipe out the guerrillas. When it is recalled that despite the pouring-in of huge numbers of troops and armaments, the French and Dutch have been unable to suppress the uprisings of neighboring Indo-China and Indonesia, and are losing the wars, it is obvious that the British are in for a long struggle with every chance of defeat.



The Same Old Baggage



## Boss Parties Offer Only Depression To Halt Inflation

The pre-election debate is raging: Who is responsible for the inflation?

Truman says if the Republicans had only passed his "anti-inflation" program of mild government controls, prices would be "rolled back." Taft, the Republican mouthpiece, answers that prices shot up under far more stringent controls than Truman proposes, and if we'd just get rid of Democratic tinkering with the "natural laws of economics," prices would "level off" by themselves.

Taft's "natural laws" have been in full force since the end of the war. These are the "laws" enforced by the "private government" of monopolies that fix prices, regulate production and allocate raw materials on the basis of what's best for their profits. Under these "laws," prices today are the highest since the founding of the Republic and going up.

### TRUMAN'S PROGRAM

Truman's program sounds better, but is just as fraudulent. His chief proposal is for "stand-by authority to impose selective controls"—piecemeal price control. Truman's "theoretician" on prices, former OPA director Paul Porter, likened Truman's program to that of Canada. But in the Democratic Digest for July, Porter admitted that "stand-by controls at this time would not bring the American cost of living in line with Canada's relatively low prices. The lid has been off too long."

Indeed, it appears to have been "off too long" for Canada. The Aug. 10 N.Y. Times reports: "Steady increases in the price of food are mainly responsible for the new record high of 156.9 in the Canadian June cost of living index." Potatoes, eggs and meat rose 41.5 points in 12 months. That's what Truman's program looks like in practice.

### BOOM — BUST

Republicans and Democrats have a common "solution" for inflation. It is nothing but the classic capitalist "boom-bust." Let prices zoom until the consumers are priced out of the market. Then comes a glut of production, factory shutdowns and depression.

Marriner Eccles, former head of the Federal Reserve Board, declared flatly before the Senate Banking Committee three weeks ago: "We certainly are going to have a bust, but as to just when it will be, I can't predict." Asked "what would you say?" if he were given full power to set up protective measures against a bust, Eccles replied: "I would say it was too late."

### PRICE LOCKOUT

It is too late for decayed capitalism to "solve" inflation except by depression. That is what makes sheer demagoguery out of the Stalinist and Wallaceite yapping about "buyers' strikes." If you can't exist at present high prices, this action is futile," she declared.

And I think that Militant readers will also be interested to know that we are getting in a few licks at Norman Thomas, who still poses as a "Socialist." Here are a couple of additional paragraphs from the same interview:

"Thomas was boasting in a magazine article that the Democrats and Republicans have stolen his platform," Mrs. Carlson declared. "But there isn't any danger of them stealing our platform."

### TOUR DATES

The following are the coming dates of Dr. Carlson's tour:

Aug. 15-21 Michigan

Aug. 22-23 en route

Aug. 24-26 Cleveland

(For Dobbs' opening tour dates, see Page 4.)

## Taft-Hartley Act Incites Inter-Union Warfare

By Art Preis

One of the deadliest booby-traps in the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law is now spreading havoc among the trade unions. This is the "yellow dog" affidavit, a device cleverly designed to split the unions along "communist" and "anti-communist" lines. It has touched off virtual civil war within the labor movement at a time when all organized labor is under the heaviest assault in decades.

Employers and government, acting in collusion, are employing the refusal of unions to sign "yellow dog" oaths as the chief legal pretext to break strikes and deny collective bargaining rights to previously recognized unions. The union-busters are effectively using this weapon because of the connivance of many unscrupulous union officials who are working hand-in-glove with anti-labor employers to raid established unions and even scab in strikes.

These scavengers—some of whom have shown exceptional ingenuity in organizing workers within their own jurisdiction and in defending the interests of their own members—swarm down like vultures on unions made vulnerable by their refusal to submit to the Taft-Hartley Act.

A flagrant example of how employers, government and scav-

enging union raiders combine to try to destroy an established union is shown in the case of Oppenheim, Collins & Co., a large Manhattan department store, which refused to renew the contract of Local 1250, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees.

### FINAL TOUCH

The final touch was added when national officials of the CIO union itself, opponents of the Stalinist leaders of the New York locals, gave aid and comfort to the employers, government witch-hunters and AFL raiders. URWDS-CIO President Samuel Wolchock, on Aug. 9, stated: "The Taft-Hartley law is the law of the land and it must be obeyed. There is no reason why officers of locals should not sign the non-communist affidavits."

The type of jurisdictional warfare now being carried out under cover of the Taft-Hartley Act is far from limited to AFL raids on CIO unions. In fact, the Philip Murray machine in the CIO—which howls the loudest about "raiding" by the AFL—has turned the CIO itself into a battlefield of warring unions seeking to dismember and steal dues-payers away from other CIO unions—chiefly Stalinist-led—which are under Taft-Hartley attack.

The Walter Reuther leadership in the auto union is trying to tear the large CIO United Electrical

AFL union naturally "won." The latter began to scab-herd for the company, which obtained an injunction limiting pickets of the striking union and placed a huge sign over its entrance: "The Issue Is COMMUNISM!"

### NARROW-MINDED

AFL leaders refused to take this necessary step. They turned inward, engaged in jurisdictional squabbles, forced the unions to devour themselves.

The present situation flows

from the fact that the top union leaders again are drawing back from the next great forward step demanded by the times. Unable

to advance a step further because they reject genuine independent labor political action through the formation of a labor party, having no program to advance the interests of the workers or to defend them from government as

assault, these union leaders are trying to protect their own narrow interests and salvage a little for themselves no matter if the rest of the union movement goes to hell in a high-speed elevator.

NEW LEADERSHIP

So long as the narrow outlook and primitive aims of these union leaders continue to dominate the labor movement, the unions will be torn with internal strife and dissension. Only a new leadership, with a broad and fundamental understanding of the great class issues and with will and courage to lead the unions into a new political avenue, can save the labor movement, restore its unity and inspire the workers to successful struggle against their enemies.

### UGLY PICTURE

That is the ugly picture we see today. AFL unions raiding other AFL unions and CIO unions; CIO unions rushing in to tear apart other CIO unions; the top leaderships of both completely indifferent to the fate of the labor movement.

We saw a similar situation in

the AFL during the Twenties.

Then the great need was for in-

dustrial organization. But the

peaks of any state — 1,080, which are more than 10,000 feet high.

Like every visitor to the Colorado Rockies, I was impressed by the superb scenery and the wonderful climate. Different from other visitors, I was more impressed by the fact that here were the early outposts of the militant American labor union movement. To mention the names, Ludlow, Cripple Creek, Boulder, are recall the brave struggles of the labor pioneers of the Western Federation of Miners and the early IWW against the ruthless, labor-hating mine bosses of the West.

That we are now organizing the outposts of the new, militant workers' movement in Colorado and Utah was still more impressive to me. They are small groups, to be sure, but they are the first Trotskyist centers to be established in this area for many years. I am confident that, in time, this will mean that the voice of revolutionary socialism will once again be widely heard.

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# The Tito Affair and Stalinism

By E. Germain

The Tito affair has thrown considerable light on the much debated question of the social nature of Stalinism. With one blow, Stalinism has lost the peculiar fascination of success, which, since the end of the war, it exerted even on certain revolutionaries. The Russian regime, whose admirers as well as those most implacable enemies — in words! — proclaim its "astonishing stability," has become a regime devoured by internal crisis. The territorial expansion of Russia, cited by so many of our superficial critics as a "definite refutation" of the Trotskyist thesis, revealed itself as a projection outside the Russian borders of the internal contradictions gnawing Stalinism.

INTENSE CONTRADICTION

The Tito affair defines the essential elements of Soviet policy in Eastern Europe. This policy seeks to utilize and exploit these countries for the strategic, political and economic objectives pursued by the Soviet bureaucracy. It is true that experience has taught Stalin that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the desired results through collaboration with the traditional capitalist elements. But the Kremlin has also learned another no less important lesson. The elimination of the bourgeoisie from control of the economy and the state cannot be realized without mobilization, however limited, of the masses. The Communist parties of these countries can achieve such a mobilization only to the extent that they maintain their effective influence among the laboring masses. But the more these parties seek to keep their mass base, the more sensitive they become to the pressure of the workers. The more they take into account the sentiments of the workers, the more their power tends to correspond to the social conditions of their own countries and to become independent of the rigorous control of the Kremlin.

STALINIST PUPPETS

That is why it is not enough for Stalin to rid himself of Petkov, Mikolajczyk and Masaryk. He has to seek to eliminate the Stalinist leaders who are most closely connected with the workers' movement and replace them with mere puppets who owe their power exclusively to the Kremlin. That is why Stalin tries in Rumania, Hungary, Poland and elsewhere to push into prominence

Chiang Kai-shek in China — a formidable trump card in his bargaining with Washington — considers with growing uneasiness any definitive victory on the part of Mao Tse-tung. If Tito, in a country so tiny in comparison to Russia, has already dared to rebel, what would be the attitude tomorrow of CP dominating a country such as China? The more Stalinism expands, the greater become the centrifugal forces it unleashes.

Smelling the sensational aspect of the conflict, the ignorant section of the capitalist press shouts from the roof tops that the Tito defection breaches the strategic potential of the USSR in Eastern Europe. It is true that Tito has created a breach, but not in the place where the capitalists are looking for it. A breach has just been created in the ossified consciousness of scores of thousands of Communist members in Yugoslavia, in Switzerland, in all the countries of Eastern Europe, and one hopes, of the entire world; a breach in their belief in the infallibility of Stalin. This means a breach in the whole ideological edifice so painstakingly constructed on the basis of the USSR as "the only fatherland of all the workers." The word "degeneration" is already circulating in the Yugoslav CP cadres, and not only there!

Contrary to all false appearances, we have never ceased to repeat that Stalin, far from seeking to extend a new social system over the entire world, sought fundamentally a compromise with world imperialism. The Tito affair provides explosive confirmation of our analysis. It incontestably shows how impossible it is for Stalinism to expand in an unlimited fashion.

The relation between the Kremlin and the Stalinist parties in "power" are modified to the extent that these parties enjoy the confidence of large masses. It is evident that Stalin, who views favorably the armies of Mao Tse-tung harassing the forces of

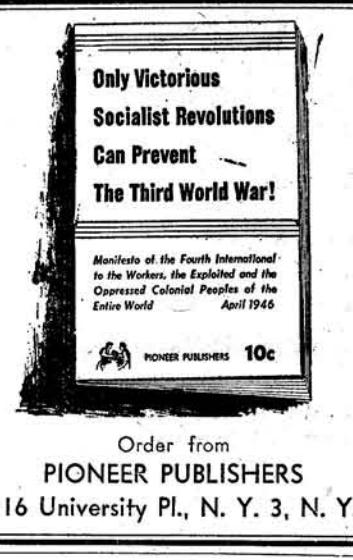
It is now ten years since the end of the Moscow trial when Stalin massacred the old Bolshevik guard. That was the end of the initial period of Stalinism, during which Stalin did not yet dare break openly with the formulas of Leninism. The following period witnessed a series of abject crimes, not the least of which was the systematic poisoning of the workers of the USSR and the entire world with nationalist poison.

Today history is beginning to revenge itself on Stalin. We cannot but feel a certain satisfaction before the spectacle which makes the very instruments of Stalin's crimes, the instrument of his punishment.

TEN YEARS

If the Communist advance guard of several countries will succeed in drawing conclusions from the Tito affair — and they should be helped in this task with all our strength — it will signify an important step toward the regeneration of the world labor movement as well as the regeneration of the USSR.

(Condensed from the July 5, 1948 issue of *La Lutte Ouvrière*, organ of the Belgian Trotskyists.)



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## At New York AFL Convention



On the platform for the opening session of the New York State Federation of Labor convention are (l. to r.) Francis Cardinal Spellman, state AFL President Thomas A. Murray and Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York. Federated Pictures

## CALIFORNIA SWP OPENS CONGRESSIONAL DRIVE

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 9. — James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, will address a public meeting launching the presidential and congressional campaign of the Los Angeles Local on Aug. 20. The date was selected as fitting tribute to the memory of Leon Trotsky, founder of the Fourth International, who was murdered by a Stalinist assassin on that day eight years ago.

Comrade Cannon will speak on "The Presidential Campaign —



MYRA TANNER WEISS

the Men, the Parties, the Issues." The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Hall, Embassy Auditorium building, 837 South Grand.

Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, selected at a membership meeting of the Los Angeles Local last week as SWP candidate for Congress in the 19th district, will speak on the local campaign.

California's undemocratic election laws, which practically bar minority parties from the ballot, make it necessary to cast a write-in vote for Dobbs and Carlson in this state. The Aug. 20 meeting will launch a campaign to place the name of Comrade Weiss on the ballot in the 19th district by securing the signatures of 3,000 registered voters who did not vote in the primary election.

"I welcome the opportunity to counterpose our program to that of the Truman, Dewey and Wallace candidates in the 19th district race," Comrade Weiss said.

"Our campaign will provide the only working class alternative to the capitalist parties for voters in that district, just as the Dobbs-Carlson campaign does on the national scene."

Readers of *The Militant* and friends of the Socialist Workers Party who are interested in aiding the Los Angeles campaign may obtain information by calling Richmond 4644 or writing Militant Publishing Ass'n, 316½ W. Pico Blvd.

Yancey's main theme was "The Negro Struggle for Civil Rights." Mr. Yancey wasted no time in pointing out the real enemies of civil rights and the Negro people.

Finally their main city, Lawrence, was captured and looted by the "border ruffians." Brown saw that the only way to fight the terror of the slave-owners was with terror. He led a raid upon a slave settlement and executed five men named on his slave-owners' list. The slavery men were quick in reprisal. They captured two of his sons who had not been in the raiding force and massacred them. They could not capture Brown's guerrilla band, however. A genius of partisan warfare, Brown

was the revolutionary man-of-action in the struggle against the slaveocracy. He inspired a whole generation by his dauntlessness and heroism. His raid on Harper's Ferry did not inaugurate the Negro uprising he hoped for, but it was one of the sparks that ignited the powder barrel of the slavery system and finally destroyed the slave power in four years of bitterly fought civil war.

Yancey stated, "For 150 years Big Business and the agents of capitalism have been lulling us to sleep with nothing but empty promises. We only get what we organize and struggle for, and that struggle must be directed against this capitalist system which breeds race prejudice, with its horrible lynchings and shameful persecutions."

Mr. Yancey is a veteran of World War II, and said he needed no one to tell him about the evils of imperialist wars. "I have experienced," he said, "the suffering, discrimination and Jim Crow that goes with imperialist wars."

Mr. Yancey pointed out that the Socialist Workers Party was not out making promises of what would be done when they got in office, but stated they were actively engaged now in the fight for civil liberties and rights of Negroes. He cited cases like the Hickman Case of Chicago, the Corainey James case of Flint, and the O'Day Short case of California.

He said, "The Socialist Workers Party is for a Workers and Farmers Government, the abolition of capitalism, and the establishment of Socialism — the only political party on the ballot worthy of the Negroes' support."

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FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

Vol. XII—No. 33

Monday, August 16, 1948



The human race has a right to be proud of its Aristotle, Shakespeare, Darwin, Beethoven, Goethe, Marx, Edison and Lenin. But why are they so rare? Above all, because almost without exception, they came out of the upper and middle classes. Apart from rare exceptions, the sparks of genius in the suppressed depths of the people are choked before they can burst into flame. But also because the processes of creating, developing and educating a human being have been and remain essentially a matter of chance, not illuminated by theory and practice, not subjected to consciousness and will. . . . Socialism will mean a leap from the realm of necessity into the realm of freedom in this sense also, that the man of today, with all his contradictions and lack of harmony, will open the road for a new and happier race.

—LEON TROTSKY, Copenhagen Speech, 1932.



LENIN

TROTSKY

## Univis Strike and Labor Solidarity

One consequence of supporting the Taft-Hartley "yellow dog" oath is revealed in the Oppenheim-Collins strike, as reported on Page 1. In this case, an AFL union has taken advantage of the Taft-Hartley Act and is scab-herding against a striking CIO union. The AFL leaders justify their scabbery with the pretext that the striking union is "communist."

What damage such a viewpoint can cause the labor movement is further shown in the case of the Univis Lens strike in Dayton, Ohio. In this instance, the workers went on strike May 5 after the company discontinued recognition and demanded an NLRB decertification election. A bitter struggle ensued, lasting over three months. The issue was unionism or non-unionism.

Because the striking union was a local of the CIO Electrical Workers, which is Stalinist-led, the right-wing controlled county CIO Council for months denied support to the strikers, in spite of repeated appeals for aid. Only when the police began slugging strikers right and left, when an NLRB "Ja" election was held decertifying the established union and when Dayton CIO workers were outraged by the CIO Council's conduct, did the right-wing leaders permit the Council to vote support of the strikers on July 20.

But just as the crucial moment of this bitterly-fought strike was reached on the day

the Governor directed National Guards into Dayton to smash the strike, the CIO Council leaders announced the cancellation of all further demonstrations in aid of the Univis Lens strikers. The CIO Council leaders preferred to have a CIO local smashed rather than support a strike whose leaders they oppose politically. The strikers have been forced to return to work, with eleven of them victimized and without union recognition.

The logic of this policy is borne out to its inevitable conclusion in the Seattle Boeing strike. This strike involves the International Association of Machinists, a conservative union which was one of the first to sign the Taft-Hartley affidavits. But if you can scab-herd against allegedly "communist"-led unions, you can always find a pretext for strikebreaking against any other union. And that's just what Daniel J. Tobin's lieutenant, David Beck, has ordered the AFL Teamsters to do against the Boeing strike.

Union leaders who advocate a policy that encourages or condones scabbing and strike-breaking for any reason should be branded as moral lepers and quarantined from the society of healthy union men. The great principle from which organized labor has always derived its strength is: "An injury to one is an injury to all." That is the principle the workers must always uphold, regardless of organizational or political differences, when any union is under boss attack.

By William F. Warde, National Fund Director

It's 30 per cent of the total on the third scoreboard of the \$25,000 SWP Election Campaign and Party Building Fund. The branches have been raising the good average of \$2,500 each week.

Philadelphia goes to the top of the list this week with \$340 of its \$500 pledge already collected. Congratulations, Phillie, on your pace-setting.

Youngstown leaped in one bound from zero to tenth place with a money order for \$290 which represents 36 per cent of its quota. Milwaukee expects that its picnic will boost pledge payments quite a bit.

From far-off Wiseton in Canada, Jim Seward encloses \$5 to help Dobbs and Carlson. "It thrills me through and through to read their speeches which are so full of courage and determination and loyalty to the working class. They will not go down to any disgraceful defeat. Their aim and object is a noble one."

We want to thank these readers for their donations and urge others to follow their example. Help the voice of socialist truth to be heard by sending your dimes and dollars to the Dobbs-Carlson Fund, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

radio, I'm sending you \$10. Hope I could send you more. Yours for the emancipation of the workers."

John Miller of Harrisburgh, Pa., urges our candidates to "Keep Fighting. Wall Street Monopoly Capitalism must go." And he's doing his bit to hustle it toward the grave.

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In New York City the Painters Branch has been successfully securing contributions from their shopmates and fellow-workers on the job. Over \$30 taken in to date. Dobbs-Carlson collection lists have been sent out to all branches. Use them for circulating among your neighbors and fellow-workers and for mailing to contacts.

In response to our appeal, Militant readers are mailing in contributions. Here are a few of the encouraging letters received.

H. Anderson of Chicago writes:

To show you my appreciation for the courageous work you are doing in educating the workers to know their economic interest in society in times like these when there is so much confusion, misunderstanding and misinformation in the press and over the

### Attention Flint & Saginaw Readers

GRACE CARLSON  
SWP Vice-Presidential Candidate  
will speak  
Thursday, Aug. 19 - 7:30 P.M.  
COLUMBUS HALL  
201 N. 6th Street  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN  
Friday, Aug. 20 - 7:30 P.M.  
11th floor, CIO BUILDING  
FLINT, MICHIGAN  
Auspices:  
Socialist Workers Party

Branch Quota Paid Percent

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Philadelphia	500	340	68
St. Louis	50	34	68
Tacoma	50	30	60
Allentown	50	25	50
West Virginia	100	50	50
Reading	150	75	50
Flint	400	160	40
Detroit	1,600	610	38
Minnesota	2,000	767	38
Youngstown	800	290	36
Milwaukee	400	140	35
New York City	7,500	2,584	34
San Francisco-			
Oakland	1,500	473	31
Baltimore	50	15	30
Chicago	2,000	596	29
Newark	750	200	27
Los Angeles	2,500	510	20
Pittsburgh	200	35	18
Cleveland	400	70	18
Boston-Lynn	400	60	15
Toledo	200	31	15
Seattle	600	70	11
Buffalo	1,000	37	4
Akron	400	10	3
Connecticut	250	0	0
Rochester	25	0	0
San Diego	50	0	0
General	1,075	69	6
Total thru Aug. 11	\$25,000	\$7,581	30

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## The Tombstone

By Theodore Kovalesky

Jimmy and I sat quietly by the side of the creek. The current moved steadily by, tugging gently at the bright little corks on our fishing lines. We had worked the night shift and driven straight out to the creek, for we were off the next day and could afford not to sleep for a while. So there we sat, talking when we felt like it and enjoying the warm morning sun on our backs.

After one very long pause, Jimmy pushed a hand into his pocket and said, "Hey, I been meaning to show you this."

I took the crumpled bit of paper. It was a newspaper photograph of a tombstone, one like I had never seen before.

It was a large stone. Near the top were the words, "WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE." Also at the top was a five pointed star with a hammer and sickle cut into it. Beneath the star was the name of the man who lay in the grave, Morris Wohansky, 1882-1934. The inscription read, "Mourn not the dead, but rather mourn the apathetic throng, who sees the world's great anguish and its wrongs, yet dare not speak."

Jimmy watched me with a cynical smile as I read the little news item that accompanied the photograph. It seemed that the Canadian Legion had found out about Comrade Wohansky's gravestone in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Waterloo, Ont., and it had displeased them. They didn't act like the Nazis; they didn't steal into the graveyard in the dead of night and smear it with paint or oil or hack it with hammer and chisel. Had it been necessary, they probably would have done so, but it wasn't necessary.

## A 100 Percent American

By Art Preis

The Chicago Tribune's biography of John Parnell Thomas observes: "He seems to have been molded by life for the job he now faces." That job is chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, first made notorious under ex-Congressman Dies and which is currently seeking to hold the spotlight in whipping up the spy scare.

In a more critical appraisal of Thomas, "White Knight or False Prophet?" by Milton Lehman, published by the Aug. 1 N. Y. Times, the job for which "the stocky, florid Congressman" has been molded is as "a hunter... he tracks down people he considers subversive, un-American and dangerous to the national welfare"—as defined by J. Parnell Thomas.

"In his hunt," says Mr. Lehman, "he is usually flanked by a battery of photographers and reporters, and when he fires, he sometimes brings down a few of his quarry. But his buckshot has also hit a number of innocent bystanders."

Congressman Thomas has a very simple definition of "Americanism." He told Mr. Lehman that "Americanism is conservative. We've got to stop the radicals and stop them now." You'd better not differ with his definition, either. Several who have done so in his presence are now studying his definition in jail under a conviction for "tempt."

When Mr. Lehman asked Thomas during an interview to define such terms as "communist," "fascist," "subversive" and "un-American," the man, who can smear you at will and send you to jail for any of these things "buzzed for his secretary and asked her to bring in that list on communism and the rest of it I always use." He wagged his finger. "Every time I define them," he said, "I do it differently."

This flexibility in defining terms like "com-

munism" and "subversive" is a wonderful aid to Thomas and his colleagues of the Un-American Committee. He can make these terms fit just about anyone he dislikes or who disagrees with him. Moreover, Congressional immunity gives him the right to question, accuse, smear or otherwise "expose" anyone, without fear of suit for libel or even cross-questioning.

The two terms Thomas seems to have most difficulty in defining are "fascism" and "democracy." He told Mr. Lehman: "Fascism—I guess I've never been asked to define it. I'd say it's just like communism, dangerous to America. And democracy—why, everybody knows what that is."

With respect to fascism, Congressman Thomas is in the same position as a man with halitosis—his best friend won't tell him. His subcommittee on fascism recently reported there was "no danger of fascism in America" and declared that such organizations as the Columbians of Georgia and the Ku Klux Klan are "native-American institutions and not subject to investigation by the committee." Which just goes to show how nature blunts people to their own smell.

We might add to this portrait of a 100% American—who looks like a Laura Gray cartoon of a Wall Street capitalist—that his zeal for hunting down "subversives" was undoubtedly nurtured in his years as a successful Wall Street bond and insurance salesman. He also managed to get through the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School, where, he now modestly admits: "I was never a good student, but I could always tell a troublemaker." And a troublemaker, for the New Jersey Republican who likes to make up definitions as he goes along, is anybody who makes trouble for J. Parnell Thomas.

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## The "Four Freedoms"

By Dinah Sanders

August marks the anniversaries of two proud achievements of American imperialism—the "Atlantic Charter" and Hiroshima! In August 1941, Roosevelt and Churchill met aboard a battleship somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, and announced with great fanfare the signing of the "Atlantic Charter" guaranteeing the "four freedoms" to the peoples of the world forever. This was supposed to represent the great principles for which millions were asked to shed their blood.

While the muddleheaded liberals cheered themselves hoarse, The Militant denounced the "charter" as a fraud. Who was right?

Four years later, when the application of the Charter was being questioned, Roosevelt blandly announced that actually there never was any such document. Millions had gone to their deaths on behalf of a non-existent "Charter"!

As originally dictated to the press by Roosevelt, Point Three of this non-existent document read as follows:

"They (Roosevelt and Churchill) respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them."

The Militant files give an interesting account of how the imperialists have "celebrated" the succeeding anniversaries of this momentous proclamation:

Aug. 1942, INDIA: On the first anniversary of the "Atlantic Charter" the Indian masses got

their first taste of the "four freedoms" in the form of tear gas and bullets from Churchill's troops.

Aug. 1943, ITALY: Allied leaders through AMGOT prevent Italian masses from driving out the fascists and setting up their own government.

Aug. 1945, BERLIN: "The Big Three" (U.S., Britain, Russia) completed plans for enslaving the German people by dismembering the country, permanent strangulation of its economy and indefinite military occupation.

In 1945 U. S. imperialism staged a special commemoration ceremony in honor of the "four freedoms"—especially freedom from fear—by dropping the first atomic bomb as an "experiment" on Hiroshima's 344,000 inhabitants. Four days later they dropped the second atom bomb on the 250,000 men, women and children of Nagasaki. Just before the bombs were dropped, Washington assured the world that "We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation."

On Aug. 18, 1945, The Militant's banner headline warned the world that "THERE IS NO PEACE!" This warning has unfortunately been confirmed over and over again in the past three years—in China, Indonesia, Indo-China, Burma, Palestine, Greece, in the "cold war" between the U. S. and Russia and the ever more feverish preparations for the shooting war.

In this seventh year of the "Atlantic Charter," the world has less of the four freedoms proclaimed by Roosevelt than before the second world holocaust began.

The prospect under imperialist rule is not a greater perspective of freedom, but a new world war—this time of annihilation. That is why the fight to take power out of the hands of the imperialists and place it in the hands of the workers and farmers has become a life and death question for the American people and mankind.

## Notes from the News

PRESIDENTIAL STAKES — Whoever wins the presidential elections will have about 500,000 federal jobs to dispense as patronage. H. Eliot Kaplan, Director of the Civil Service League, estimated that the total annual "patronage payroll" totals about one billion dollars.

SHAME-FACED SUPPORT—Jack Kroll, National Director of CIO-PAC strongly hinted that the CIO leaders would back Truman for re-election in November. He said the formal decision would probably be made at a meeting of CIO vice-presidents in Washington on Aug. 19.

POISON GAS — An NBC correspondent stated that Greek War Minister George Stratos charged U. S. officials with failure to make good on their promise to deliver poison gas for use against the guerrilla forces. He claimed that American representatives, including Gen. Wedemeyer, made the promise.

CHINESE DOLLARS—100,000 Chinese dollars are now worth one United States cent, as inflation continues to rage in China.

## THE MILITANT

VOLUME XII

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1948

NUMBER 33

## N. Y. Transit Interests Move To Put Over New Fare Steal

By Art Sharon

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 — Fourteen private corporations controlling practically all surface transportation in the city are again reaching into the pockets of the city's working class population. They reason that if the city and the little coterie of bankers on the inside track of the city's subways could raise their fares then they too are entitled to more.

This outrageous hijacking is being attempted in broad daylight. The excuse for a fare hike is the new 24-cent wage increase granted the transit workers organized in the CIO Transport Workers Union.

Simple arithmetic reveals the extent of the proposed steal. The largest of the transit corporations, the Third Avenue Line and the N.Y. City Omnibus and Fifth Avenue Coach Company employ 7,000 workers and carry 4,000,000 passengers daily. The companies want to raise fares three cents.

## WATERED STOCK

This is so badly fraudulent that it brought laughter from the witnesses at the hearing. The Mayor answered: "They went in, but they came right out again."

"How long do you expect the Third Avenue riders to carry that \$60,000,000 in water that you have up there?" the Mayor asked.

The corporation attorney had the unbeatable answer: "We wonder how much water there is in the city's bonds?" Neither got an answer. Both quickly passed over to a less embarrassing point.

## THIS IS AMERICA

"This is America... I hold bonds in this company and if it's any crime to hold a bond and make a profit I don't know what it is."

These hearings simply served to momentarily lift the veil and reveal the cesspool of corruption and legalized thievery that goes on daily in every city of this country. As the transit corporation attorney boasted, fleecing the poor and gouging the public no crime under capitalism.

## PETITION GOAL REACHED IN 53 N. Y. COUNTIES

By Irving Beinin, N. Y. State Campaign Manager

Aug. 11—A mobilization called Saturday night by the New York Local for petition gathering netted 3,200 signatures on

Reports continue to come in of support for the SWP and its candidates from many upstate areas. Two new friends not only support the party but offered to begin building the SWP in their localities.

## PACE SETTERS

A pace-setter's squad captained by George Rock is sparking the campaign in New York City. Squad members circulate in factory areas at noon and gather signatures from hundreds of workers daily. With this and other special measures, petition work is expected to be concluded well within the 30-day period.

The Buffalo Branch is doing yeoman's work in this campaign. Its members have successfully organized all SWP petition work in Western New York State. The reports show that three times the necessary minimum signatures have now been obtained in each county of Western New York. The comrades expect to concentrate their work in the city of Buffalo itself and turn in 1,500 additional signatures.

Three times the required minimum of 50 signatures per county have been obtained in 53 of the 61 counties of the state. Petition work in the remaining counties has already been started and it is expected that all county requirements will be shortly fulfilled.

An Active Workers Conference is scheduled for August 29, upon the completion of the petition work. The conference will map plans for an effective campaign to aggressively bring the party's program to the working class of New York and bring out the vote for Dobbs and Carlson on election day.

## LEON TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING And Presidential Campaign Rally

Speakers:

MURRY WEISS, National Committee member, Organizer, Los Angeles SWP  
GEORGE CLARKE, National Campaign Director, SWP

MIKE BARTELL, New York City Organizer  
"SWP ON THE MARCH"

Motion picture of the SWP Convention, launching its first presidential campaign

THE MILITANT CHORUS

## HOTEL DIPLOMAT

108 West 43rd St. FRIDAY, AUG. 27  
New York City 8 P. M.

Auspices: Socialist Workers Party

## AFL Raiding



CIO members picket Oppenheim Collins Dept. Store in New York exhorting management to "Negotiate, Don't Redbait." The Stalinist-led union is trying to save its bargaining rights from a joint employer-government-AFL attack. Federated Pictures

## L. A. School Board Hit on Prejudice

By Al Lynn

LOS ANGELES, July 20.—

The reactionary Los Angeles Board of Education twisted into its opposite charges of racial

prejudice and anti-labor sentiments

brought against one of its principals at a hearing last night.

A committee to Combat Racial

Discrimination in the Los Angeles Schools brought to light several

months ago, a confidential memo-

randum from Mrs. Nell Haas,

principal of the 28th St. School, in

which she wrote her superiors

that she wanted "to separate my

union clique if possible," also

"please do not send me any more

Jewish teachers who want to re-

form the world."

She also asked for "a Cau-

cian teacher as all of my primary

teachers, with one exception, are

colored."

The Board of Education, with

the exception of the Negro, has

been openly hostile to the Negro

and has been openly hostile to

the Negro in its policies. The

Board of Education has been

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