

## GEORGIA LYNCHING AND TRUMAN'S CIVIL RIGHTS PROMISES

-- See Page 4 --

Vol. XII -- No. 49

Workers of the World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

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# CIO LEADERS PUSH RIGHTWARD DRIVE

## AVC Delegates Hail Kutter's Civil Rights Fight

CLEVELAND, Nov. 27—Fifteen hundred delegates to the third national convention of the American Veterans' Committee last night gave James Kutter a stormy ovation after he had delivered a stirring talk on his fight for civil liberties. Amid prolonged applause, the convention then took a standing vote to unanimously pass a resolution endorsing the Kutter case.

Kutter was an invited guest at the convention and sat on the platform with the other guests when the convention

### Text of Resolution On James Kutter Adopted by AVC

The following resolution on James Kutter was unanimously adopted by the third national convention of the American Veterans' Committee in Cleveland, Nov. 26:

"Whereas the right to work is a basic right of all members of a democracy, regardless of their race, religion or political belief, we protest the firing of James Kutter from the Newark regional Veterans' Administration. We demand that James Kutter be reinstated to his job and any stigma against his name be wiped out. We will devote all possible efforts to see that justice is done James Kutter."

### New Jersey ADA Backs Legless Vet

NEWARK, Dec. 1—The local Kutter Civil Rights Committee reported today that New Jersey Council of the Americans for Democratic Action has voted to endorse its campaign in defense of James Kutter. Leo Gamow, state secretary of the Council, was requested in behalf of the ADA, to participate in the work of the Kutter committee and to extend it every possible cooperation.

The Kutter defense group also announced that CIO locals in all parts of the state are sending in resolutions offering support for the legless veteran's fight against the government purge.

(Continued on Page 4)

## ILA Dock Strike Wins Gains After Revolt Against Sell-out

NEW YORK, Nov. 29—Some 45,000 AFL longshoremen are returning to work today on the East Coast after voting Saturday to accept a new contract with substantially better terms than the sell-out agreement which their president, Joseph C. "King" Ryan, tried to put over before the strike.

The strike began Nov. 10 as a spontaneous revolt against Ryan's original contract. It spread so swiftly along the coast that he was forced to recognize the strike after three days and agree to "lead" it. This was not only the first general strike of Atlantic Coast dockworkers, but the first officially sanctioned strike in the history of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association.

A wage increase of 13 cents an hour for day work and 19½ cents for night, week-end and holiday work was won. Ryan, whose machine voted him a lifetime presidency at the last ILA convention, had originally agreed to raises of only 10 and 15 cents. The new contract calls for a week's vacation with pay after 800 hours work and two weeks after 1350 hours. Ryan's original deal called for one week's vacation after 1250 hours, only 100 hours less than the old contract. A welfare fund, to go into effect by Jan. 1, 1949, was also won. No such fund was included in Ryan's first agreement.

A guarantee of four hours work when hired on the morning shape-up and a total of six hours

### Murray Machine Tightens Grip on CIO at Convention

#### Unleashes Smashing Attack on Stalinists

By F. Lang

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 26—The Tenth Constitutional Convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) which adjourned here today was a "victory convention" for the official bureaucracy under the leadership of President Philip Murray. The Murray machine ran the convention in celebration of the victory of the Democratic Party in the national election campaign. This was combined with cheers for their own victory over their Stalinist opponents within the CIO.

At this point, when the whole convention was present, Dan James, chairman of the civil rights panel of the AVC, took the microphone and introduced Kutter. "The civil rights fight is all-important these days," he said, "and so I am very proud to introduce a member of AVC who is leading a fight on behalf of civil liberties. He has come here as an invited guest of the convention to tell you about his case himself."

The convention cheered Kutter loud and long as he got up and walked to the rostrum. As he arranged his notes, the applause continued, only stopping when he began to speak.

#### ABSOLUTE QUIET

This was a noisy convention, in constant disorder with groups meeting and buzzing all over the hall because of the factional fight. But when Kutter spoke there was absolute quiet except for the bursts of applause during his speech.

#### KUTTER TELLS STORY

Kutter then told the story of his experiences in the Army, of how he was discharged after losing both his legs in action five years ago, of how he got a job as a clerk with the VA in Newark, and how he had been fired from that job last month because he belonged to the Socialist Workers Party.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION

He explained to the delegates how and why the Attorney General had placed the SWP on his "subversive" blacklist, and what a menace to civil liberties this was.

#### (Continued on Page 4)

The Murray machine was especially anxious at this convention to demonstrate to the Truman Administration that it knows how to deal with the Stalinists and is capable of providing "loyal and responsible" leadership within the trade unions — loyal and responsible to the program and needs of the American capitalist ruling class.

In his opening remarks to the convention, Murray made it amply clear that the purge was on, and that the CIO national leadership intends to drive its Stalinist opponents out of leading positions in the organization whenever possible.

This was foreshadowed by the pre-convention decision last week of the CIO executive board to revoke the charter of the Stalinist-dominated New York City CIO council for "violation of CIO policy." This council had refused to plug for Truman and had supported the campaign of Henry A. Wallace for president.

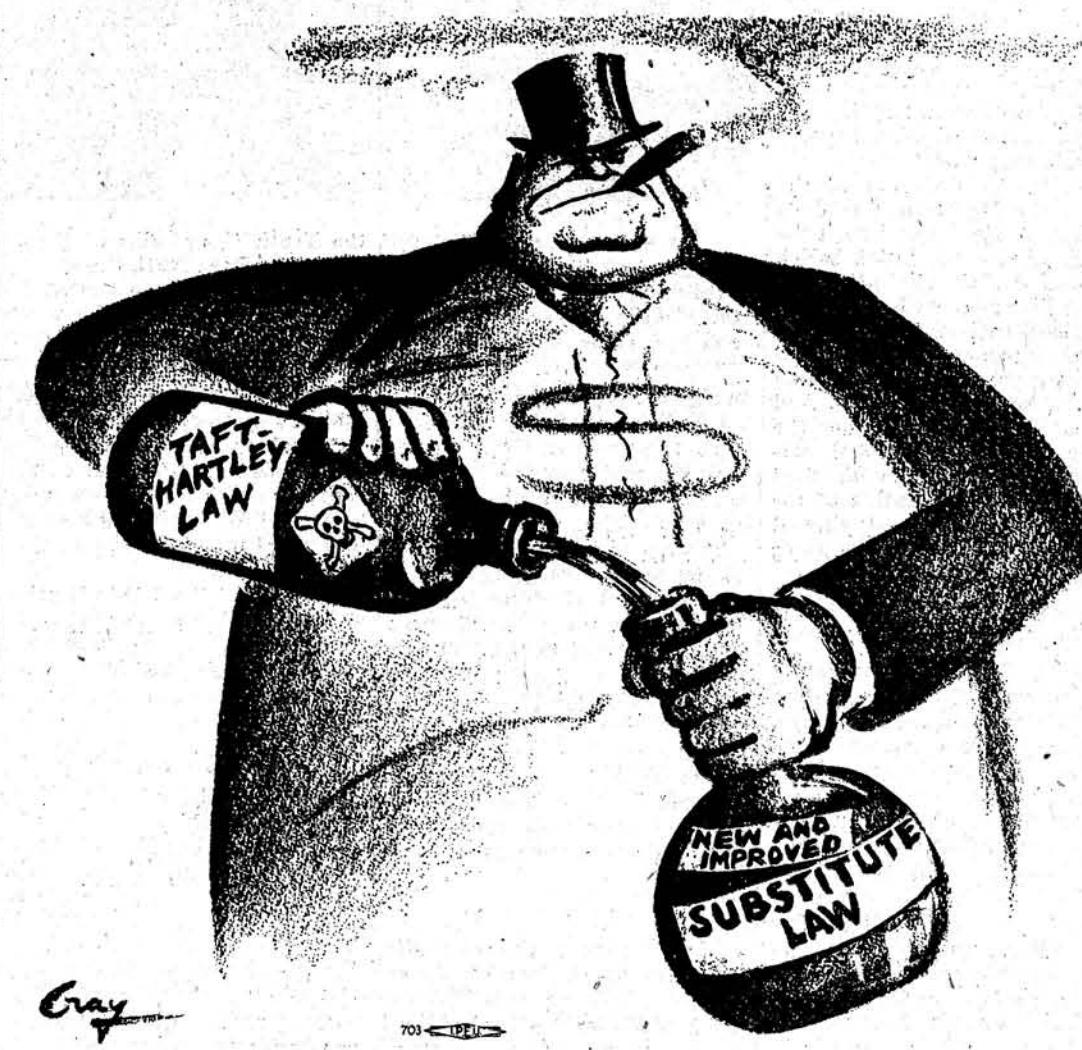
The insistent demand of the Murray machine that was made at every session of the convention was "strict adherence to CIO policy." And by that they meant to serve notice on every International officer, organizer, and department head of the CIO: Follow the line laid down by Murray or get out!

#### PURGE FORMULA

Murray's purge formula for the immediate future was revealed at the outset of the convention when he said, "I am going to recom-

(Continued on page 2)

### Same Poison — New Bottle



## V. R. Dunne, G. Breitman Obtain Encouraging Vote

MINNEAPOLIS — Vincent R.

Dunne, former leader of the Minnesota teamsters movement, received 4,951 votes as Socialist Workers Party candidate for U. S. Senator from this state. Although the vote represents a drop as compared with the total cast for the SWP candidate for the same office in 1946, it constitutes a significant achievement in view of the national attention given to this senatorial contest.

The national CIO and AFL intervened directly in this election with a lavish expenditure of campaign funds and a concentration of personnel to insure the defeat of the anti-labor Republican incumbent, Joe Ball. The Americans for Democratic Action, liberal supporters of the Truman-

Marshall Doctrine, considered the election of Hubert Humphrey, one of their top leaders, as a key point in their struggle for control of the Democratic Party.

The final vote demonstrated that the anti-Ball movement was the decisive factor in the Minnesota election. Humphrey's plurality, 34,000, larger than received by the national Democratic ticket, helped carry the state for Truman and reaction.

Dunne was the only opponent

of Ball and Humphrey. The Wallace Party withdrew their candidate and threw their support to Humphrey. Neither the Norman Thomas Socialist Party nor the Socialist Labor Party ran a candidate for U. S. Senator. The 4,951 votes cast for Dunne represent clearcut opposition to the capitalist two-party system and its bi-partisan policy of world war and reaction.

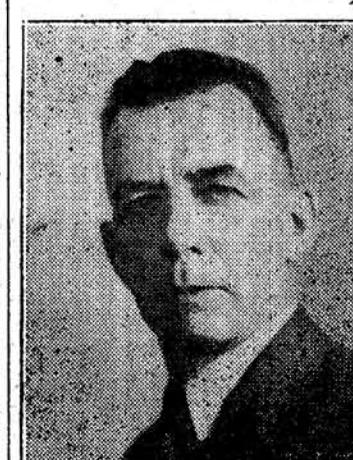
In the process of attacking the Stalinists, the Murray machine grasped new bureaucratic powers. It voted itself dictatorial authority not only over local CIO councils, but over the international unions—a new and far-reaching concentration of power in the hands of Murray and his lieutenants. It laid down the ultimatum that everyone and every section in the CIO must conform to the political views and foreign policy held by Murray and his group.

#### A GRAVE OMISSION

Only incidentally, sandwiched in between long hours of ballyhoo for the Marshall Plan and Wall Street's bi-partisan foreign policy, was brief recognition paid to the real problems confronting the workers — unconditional repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, fourth-round wage increases, organizing the unorganized, etc.

NEW WAGE BOOST  
Take the question of wages. The resolution adopted showed black on white that the workers need higher wages. But there

(Continued on page 3)



V. R. DUNNE

## Venezuelan Democracy Crushed

By Joseph Hansen

Totalitarianism scored another triumph in the Western Hemisphere when a clique of Army officers in Venezuela staged a coup d'état in Caracas Nov. 24.

The program of the new Brass Hat regime can be judged from the decree they issued the following day suspending all sections of the Constitution "relative to the inviolability of correspondence, of the home, of liberty of thought, of travel, of changing address, of leaving the country and returning to it, of public assembly and of individual security."

On the same day, Lieut. Col. C. Delgado Chalbaud, who appears to be the central conspirator, hastened to assure American Big Business that his military regime would continue "to maintain cor-

dial relations with the United States as always and that all foreign investments in Venezuela would be duly safeguarded and protected."

Most of the heads of the elected government have been jailed and a man hunt is on for those who went into hiding.

The Romulo Gallegos government, which was overthrown, took office only last February when it won more than 70 percent of the vote in free election. The Democratic Action party polled 871,000 votes against 262,000 for the Conservative party, the "Copei," while the Democratic Republican Union party and the Stalinist party received some 50,000 votes each.

It appeared at the time that Venezuela might be granted a breathing spell from the succession of dictatorial regimes that

have flourished there under the protecting wing of American imperialism. The Gallegos government even seemed to have won Wall Street's toleration if not its good will.

But the military clique, shaped in the mold of the former Gomez dictatorship — one of the most brutal and ruthless the world has seen anywhere — saw how quickly Truman recognized the military conspirators who overthrew the legally elected government in Peru. They drew their own conclusions and acted.

Since the end of World War II, the Truman Administration has fostered and strengthened militarism throughout Latin America thus giving the military cliques even more power and political prominence than they formerly enjoyed. Significantly enough, one of the main conspirators in

Venezuela is Lt. Col. Jorge Marcano, a graduate of Kelly Field, Texas, and former military attaché in Washington.

The Truman Administration as well as the capitalist press, shouting about the lack of democracy in Eastern Europe, have taken the establishment of another totalitarian regime in Wall Street's backyard with complete cynicism. The State Department merely announced that it was still "too early" to discuss formal recognition of the military conspirators although the property of U. S. investors in Venezuela is "safe."

American capitalists hold about two billion dollars worth of oil property in Venezuela. Standard Oil and Royal Dutch Shell are the principal companies. Bethlehem Steel has a big iron ore concession and U. S. Steel is exploring six concessions.

READY TO FLEE  
Meanwhile his government is making hasty preparations to evacuate Nanking. Where it intends to flee has not been decided as yet. Conflicting reports say Formosa or Canton or Chungking.

The speed with which the events are unfolding in China cannot be ascribed to developments on the military front alone. By far the more decisive factors lie in the economic and political fields.

Chiang's corrupt and reactionary regime is utterly bankrupt economically and politically. It has lost all support among the mass of the people. All this has been translated in recent days into the crushing military defeats and the incapacity and outright refusal of entire armies to continue to fight in its behalf. Conversely, the Chinese Stalinists continue to score successes not because of their own policies but despite them.

#### WEAK NANKING DEFENSES

Walter Sullivan, N. Y. Times' correspondent in Nanking, asserted flatly that there exist no "effective forces to bar the way" to direct thrusts against Nanking itself. (N. Y. Times, Dec. 1.)

The same dispatch reports

fears in the capital that such attacks may be imminent. Chiang

has reportedly issued a ban on the mooring of any ships along the north bank of the Yangtze,

#### Hands Off China!

— See Editorial on Page 3 —

fearing attempt by the Communists to cross."

The defense of Nanking has been placed under the "personal command" of Chiang himself, who has boasted he will hold the capital "for three months" under the most adverse conditions.

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# Murray Bureaucracy Tightens Its Grip on CIO

(Continued from page 1)

mend, although it is not contained in the report which the officers will submit to you later in the day, that the Executive Board be empowered by this convention to meet these difficult organizational problems which arise and which we are constantly required to meet, particularly as it has affected industries and the unions to which I have made reference."

The industries and unions he named specifically are "government services, public workers, white collar workers, workers employed in the retail and other fields" — most of them now under jurisdiction of Stalinist-dominated organizations.

Murray attempted to sheath the sharp edge of his purge formula by explaining, "It is not a question of communism with me. If a communist is leading a labor organization in the CIO and, after years of existence he is unable to demonstrate his fitness to organize the unorganized, then, in justice to the people employed in that industry he should resign. That is a practical, realistic, factual description of certain situations which confront the Congress of Industrial Organizations today."

## STALINIST ABSTENTION

The resolution granting Murray dictatorial re-organizational power over international unions was introduced and adopted during the fourth day of the convention. The vote on the resolution was approximately the same as that on other crucial issues. The Murray machine had 537 votes to the Stalinists' 49 on the Political Resolution. But by the time this resolution on reorganization came up, the Stalinists appeared to have lost some votes. Many of their delegates abstained from voting on some questions because of the pounding they took throughout.

The real issue dividing the firmly entrenched Murray machine and the Stalinists hit the convention floor the afternoon session of the first day, Nov. 22. Donald Henderson of the Food and Tobacco Workers Union introduced some "minority exceptions" on the Report of Officers. These "exceptions" constituted the minority report on the work of the CIO during the past year. It was signed by Henderson, Irving Potash of the Fur Workers, and Joseph Johnson of the Marine Cooks and Stewards.

In the debate that followed it was clearly revealed that the dividing issue is the Marshall Plan.

Murray and his smooth-talking, heavy-handed lieutenants are attempting to sell the Marshall Plan as "economic aid to the destitute peoples of Europe." This is "CIO Policy" as set forth in Murray's Report of Officers.

The Stalinist "exceptions" sought to amend Murray's line by pointing to the reinstatement of Nazi industrialists to their former positions of power in Western Germany and Marshall Plan funds being used to rebuild the German cartels and trusts; to the use of French armed forces, maintained with American funds and supplies, against striking French miners; to Marshall Plan bolstering of dictatorial regimes in Greece, China and Turkey where all bona fide unions are destroyed.

While the "exceptions" favored aid for the relief and rehabilitation of war-devastated countries, they opposed "a plan administered by the representatives of Wall Street to further a cold war against the Soviet Union" and American union officials serving as advisors to the Marshall Plan administration to cloak its true imperialist aims.

## UPHOLD UNITED NATIONS

But the Stalinists added, "To achieve the fine objectives for foreign economic aid as set forth in the Report (Of Officers), an effective program must be carried through the United Nations" — that is, through an agency dominated by U. S. British imperialism.

The Stalinist statement also took "exception" to Murray's report because: (1) it failed to criticize the "malicious testimony" of CIO Secretary James B. Carey against officers and members of the United Electrical Workers Union at a hearing of the 80th

Congress House Labor Committee; (2) it failed to denounce raiding within the CIO under the Taft-Hartley law; and (3) it did not mention that "those unions, their officials and members who gave support to the Progressive Party and Wallace made their contribution" — to the Truman election victory!

These then were the issues upon which the Stalinists were forced to state their position. They announced in advance that they were abstaining from the vote on Murray's report.

Having stated their opposition to the Marshall Plan, the Stalinists in the same statement compromised any principled opposition to this master plan of American imperialism by endorsing the imperialist-dominated United Nations and urging that it administer the Marshall Plan. They also sought to climb on the Truman band wagon by taking credit for "the general awakening of the people to the dangers of reaction" that made Truman's election victory possible.

## NO INTENTION OF FIGHTING

The Stalinists had no intention of making a real fight. What fight was made was left to the pages of the Daily Worker. Throughout the remainder of the convention the Stalinist delegates were concerned with defending themselves as best they could from the furious attacks of the Murray machine. And it was a very dispirited defense. The whole

amalgam was not invented by the Stalinists but they have done much to perfect it. Kroll's words were the words of the Stalinists in 1944 against advocates of a labor party.

The cry of the pack was taken up by Jacob Potofsky of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers who gloated over the Truman victory, referred to the CIO convention as a "victory convention," taunted the Stalinists with the poor showing Wallace made, and incited the Murrayites by crying out that "when Mr. Wallace called Philip Murray a misleader of labor it was a dastardly attack upon democracy in this country."

## NO CONDEMNATION OF BI-PARTISAN POLICY

Van A. Bittner, reporting on the Foreign Policy resolution, complained, "I am sick and tired and sore (Murray's words of the day before) of hearing these Communists condemning the United States of America and never a word of condemnation about Russia." But he did not mention that there is no word of condemnation in the CIO Foreign Policy resolution about the bi-partisan program of American Big Business administered by Truman-appointed bankers, industrialists and Brass Hats who are out to enslave the workers of every land — including America.

The Stalinists made a show of putting up a fight against the endorsement of the foreign policy of the American employing class and their "labor advisors," but it was a poor show. They are too vulnerable to attack. And they know it.

Murray and Reuther baited the Stalinists with detailed accounts of the crimes of Stalinism, reviewing the history of Stalinist foreign policy from the days of the Stalin-Hitler pact, through the wartime alliance with America and British imperialism, and into the present post-war period.

The Stalinists had to content themselves with pleas to the delegates to "respect our right to express our opinion" and crave tributes to the "democratic attitude of President Murray."

The Stalinists had planned to make a fight over the question of jurisdictional raiding within the CIO in debate on this resolution, but Allan Haywood, director of organization, took some of the wind out of their sails by speaking against jurisdictional raids (a worthy cause), and Emil Rieve, head of the Textile Workers, who was in the Chair, ruled all discussion of jurisdictional matters and "so-called raids" out of order under discussion on this resolution.

However, the Stalinists took occasion here to make a few veiled threats. James Matles of the Electrical Workers spoke for the resolution to organize the unorganized, concluding with the following warning to the Murrayites: "Don't mistake this attitude of our union for a sign of weakness that we do not or we are afraid to use the weapons of destruction if we are convinced we have to use them to protect the integrity of our organizations."

## SPURS MURRAY GROUP

Whatever Matles meant by this, one thing is certain: it was not intended as a signal that the Stalinists would bolt the convention.

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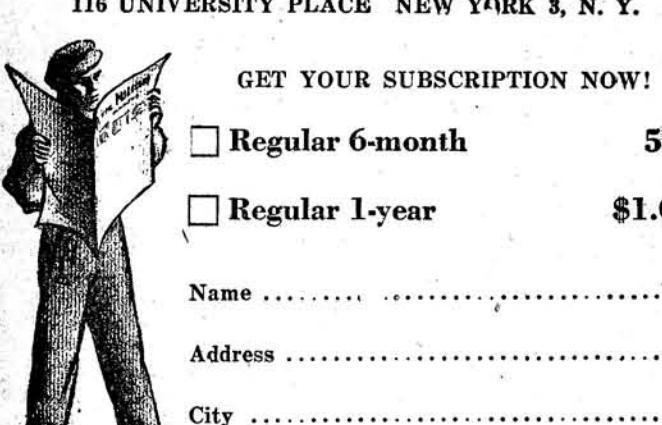
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Baldanzi revealed the aim of the CIO top leadership to demonstrate its complete responsibility and respectability under pressure of the Big Business-inspired anti-red drive, when he shouted that the whole organization work of the CIO, particularly in the South, "will be wasted until we can wipe our face, and face the workers of America as a one hundred per cent American organization."

The Murrayites took up this cry and used the Stalinists, identified with the Soviet bureaucracy, as whipping-boys to ballyhoo the dubious virtues of Wall Street's Marshall Plan "aid."

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Capitalist monopolies, having corroded the middle classes, are devouring the democracies. Monopolies themselves were a result of private ownership of the means of production. Private ownership, having once been the source of progress, came into contradiction with modern technique and is now the cause of crisis, wars, national persecutions and reactionary dictatorship. The liquidation of the private ownership of the means of production is the central historical task of our epoch and will guarantee the birth of a new, more harmonious society. The act of birth daily observation teaches us, is never a "gradual" process but a biological revolution.

—Leon Trotsky, Interview in St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Mar. 1940

TROTSKY



LENIN

## Douglas's Speech to the CIO

Hailing Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas's speech to the CIO convention, Philip Murray said it "will ring through the land, and its effects will be felt." It was indeed a significant speech, even if not precisely in the sense Murray meant.

Douglas, one of the shrewdest and ablest spokesmen of American imperialism, publicly admitted that Washington is meeting tremendous popular hostility in Western Europe to the Marshall Plan. The European workers do not accept the claims of the American diplomats and propagandists that the Marshall Plan is a strictly humanitarian venture.

On the contrary, they view the Marshall Plan as a scheme to extend Wall Street control and to prop up rotten and bankrupt capitalist regimes that the masses hate and yearn to overthrow as speedily as possible.

"A gap has been growing between the United States and Europe," said Douglas. And the American labor leaders alone are "peculiarly qualified" to bridge that gap. His speech expressed the hope that American imperialism would be able to sell the Marshall Plan to the European workers by assigning the job of chief salesmen to the American union leaders.

In developing his thesis, Douglas pointed out that "a new Europe is being born," that new leaders have come to power in Western Europe and "in almost every case their political strength is in the labor movement." These labor movements are "bitter" and "suspicious of all those who may be undislosed agents of predatory interests"—and, specifically, agents of "an American imperialism . . . extending its power into Europe

through cartels, banks and other powerful instruments of industry and finance."

American imperialism is so discredited, distrusted and feared that it cannot speak through its own mouth and in its own name. But "American labor carries good credentials to western Europe. Doors tightly closed to all others may open at its knock." It is in this precise respect that American labor can render a unique service, whether it represents the government in particular missions, or as an observer of the European scene, or acts as an educator of the rank and file of the people.

Thus, as Douglas sees it, the main role of the American labor leaders is to do for American imperialism what it cannot do for itself. They must be assigned the key task and the dirtiest chore—to appeal to the class consciousness of the workers abroad and serve as the "labor" bait to lure the European masses into the Wall Street trap.

Murray hailed the words of Douglas as recognition of the great force and influence of the American labor movement in the world today. And that is so. But the real meaning of Douglas's appeal is that this influence is to be used not to aid the European workers to rid themselves of hated regime, but to fasten their shackles tighter and to add new imperialist chains.

That role will not increase the influence of the American labor leaders. Rather it will lead to their speedier discreditation. In the minds of the European masses—and the American workers too—it will link these "labor statesmen" with all that the peoples hate and fear most, the capitalist system and rulers that have dragged them to the edge of the abyss.

## The AVC Convention

The national convention of the Americans Veterans Committee (AVC) in Cleveland last week struck a blow for civil liberties in this country when it unanimously endorsed a resolution to support the defense of James Kutcher, legal Newark veteran who was fired from his government clerical job because of membership in the Socialist Workers Party. This action does credit to the AVC and we take this occasion to commend it.

But, unfortunately, other actions taken by the convention can only serve to harm the cause of civil rights and to help embolden the very witch-hunters who are persecuting Jimmy Kutcher and others who do not agree with the political beliefs current today in Washington.

The denial of seats to the elected delegates of 13 Stalinist-controlled New York chapters of the AVC was a highly anti-democratic act. It is a method borrowed from the arsenal of bureaucrats and totalitarians of every stripe, including the Stalinists.

## Hands Off China!

The next major decision affecting the course of the Chinese civil war will be made in Washington, D. C. That is why Chiang Kai-shek, "the Butcher of the Chinese people," has sent his wife across the Pacific to plead for the tottering Kuomintang dictatorship. And that is why a section of the American capitalist class, frightened at the danger to their investments in China, are shouting for "all out aid" to the hated despot.

They speak about a "Marshall Plan for Asia." They suggest five billion dollars to keep Chiang's private war going. They even talk about an American Expeditionary Force to invade China and fight the dictator's battles against the Chinese people. Chiang himself is less out-spoken. In his latest interview he does not "expect American troops" but does "hope for munitions from the nearest American supplies in the Pacific."

Chiang has made clear his willingness to subvert Chinese sovereignty for the dollars and bullets he needs so desperately. The dictator "would welcome appointment of Gen. MacArthur or some other leading American military man as supreme military adviser" and would serve him humbly like the Japanese Mikado.

If this plan went through, the direct conduct of Chiang's war would become the responsibility of the U. S. Armed Forces and we would see the horrors of blood-soaked Greece expanded on the vast scale of China.

The inner circle of America's 60 richest

The convention also passed a resolution instructing the incoming officers to stage a purge against members of the Communist Party. To deny membership to anyone because of his political beliefs is to uphold the very principle on which all reactionary witch-hunts and political persecutions are based. It can only weaken the "AVC" as a non-partisan organization fighting for veterans' rights.

The AVC resolution on behalf of Kutcher struck a greater blow at the Stalinists than any purge. It helps to expose their criminal silence in the Kutcher case and the falsity of their claims to be defenders of civil liberties.

We have long pointed out that the Stalinists are a menace to any liberal and labor organization. But the way to fight them is not through witch-hunts and anti-democratic methods. It is to expose their aims and program, to destroy their influence in the ranks.

families have apparently not yet made up their minds what to have Truman do. It is not difficult to see why they hesitate.

The policy of supporting the Chiang dictatorship has ended in disaster. What guarantee is there that continued support will prove more successful? If America's armament factories are opened wide to Chiang's corrupt bureaucracy, will not great quantities end up as in the past in the hands of the opposing forces? To seat this tyrant firmly in the saddle would require a major effort—direct intervention. Can Wall Street get away with plunging America into armed conflict on the continent of Asia to save the despised Kuomintang regime?

For the labor movement there can be no question of the correct policy to follow toward China. The Chinese people have demonstrated in the most decisive manner that they want no more of Chiang's brutal dictatorship. Without American guns, this blood-stained monster would have gone down long ago and been replaced by a popular government of the Chinese people's own choice. To continue to block the will of China's teeming millions can only build up such hatred for America as to poison relations for generations to come.

Let the Chinese people decide their own fate! Help them achieve the peace they seek. Stop the shipment of arms to Chiang's regime. Withdraw all American troops! Hands off China!

# Party-Building Fund Hits \$22,816, 91% of the Goal, as Campaign Ends

By William F. Warde, National Fund Director

The final figure on the Party Building Fund of the Socialist Workers Party is \$22,816, bringing the total to 91% of the goal of \$25,000. Although the 100% mark was not reached, the grand total contributed represents a magnificent achievement for the members, friends and sympathizers of the Trotskyist movement in the United States.

The entire sum came from the pockets of self-sacrificing working people who believe in the socialist future of mankind and who understand the necessity of building a genuine Marxist party to fight for that future.

The fund campaign was conducted during the first Presidential campaign of the Socialist Workers Party. Strenuous electioneering slowed down some of the branches in their collections, yet the final total is the highest ever achieved by the American Trotskyist movement in any of its fund campaigns.

Connecticut sent in \$74 in the final week to jump from 75% into the 100%-or-better category, the final score being 104%.

Akron crossed the line with \$41 for the week. "This represents quite an achievement on our part," writes D.H., "since our resources were decidedly limited."

Buffalo contributed \$104 to hit the bull's eye of 100% of their \$1,000 goal.

Buffalo came through with the final punch, a \$45 contribution that gave them their 100%.

Newark too turned the trick with \$48 that took them across the goal line.

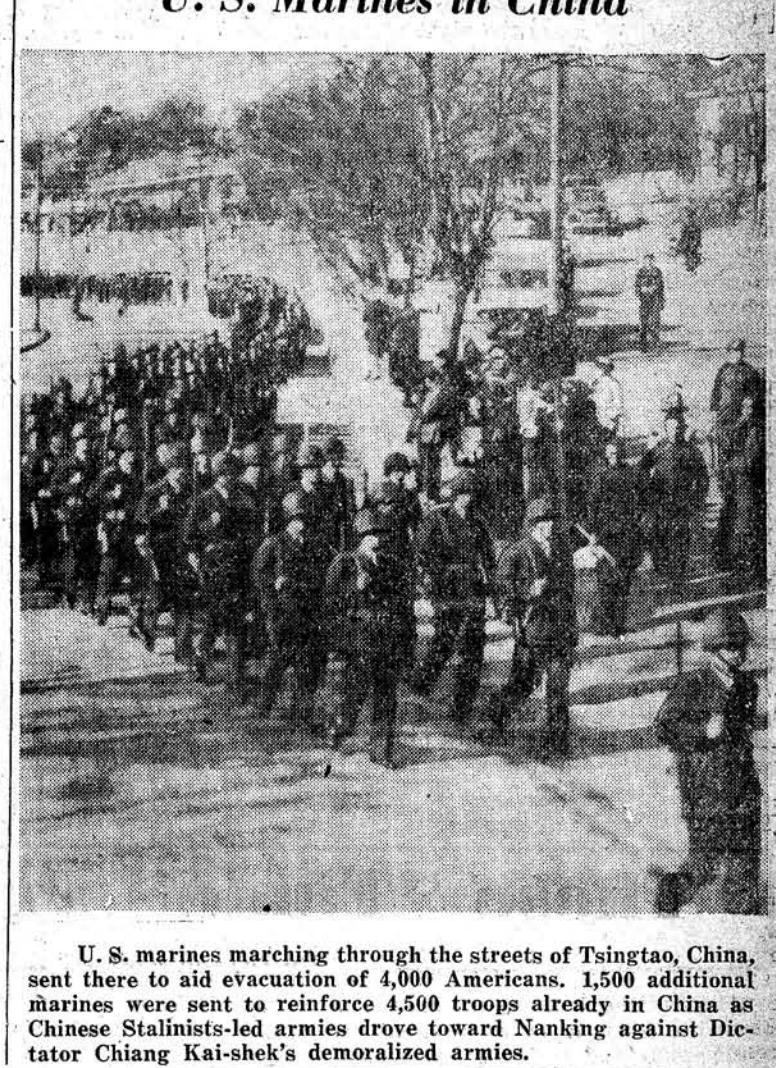
New York tried hard to reach that 100% mark, but \$115 for the week took them only to 97%.

Chicago did its valiant best with another \$110.

## SCOREBOARD FOR \$25,000 SWP PARTY BUILDING FUND

| Branch                | Quota    | Paid     | Percent |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Rochester             | \$ 50    | \$ 75    | 150     |
| St. Louis             | 50       | 69       | 138     |
| Baltimore             | 50       | 65       | 131     |
| Boston                | 275      | 355      | 129     |
| Allentown             | 50       | 61       | 122     |
| Tacoma                | 50       | 61       | 122     |
| Philadelphia          | 500      | 550      | 110     |
| Milwaukee             | 400      | 419      | 105     |
| Connecticut           | 250      | 261      | 104     |
| Akron                 | 400      | 402      | 100     |
| Buffalo               | 1,000    | 1,000    | 100     |
| Cleveland             | 400      | 400      | 100     |
| Detroit               | 1,600    | 1,600    | 100     |
| Flint                 | 400      | 400      | 100     |
| Lynn                  | 125      | 125      | 100     |
| Minneapolis           | 2,000    | 2,000    | 100     |
| Newark                | 750      | 750      | 100     |
| Pittsburgh            | 200      | 200      | 100     |
| Reading               | 150      | 150      | 100     |
| San Francisco-Oakland | 1,500    | 1,500    | 100     |
| Toledo                | 200      | 200      | 100     |
| Youngstown            | 800      | 800      | 100     |
| New York City         | 7,500    | 7,300    | 97      |
| Seattle               | 600      | 550      | 92      |
| West Virginia         | 100      | 90       | 90      |
| San Diego             | 50       | 41       | 82      |
| Los Angeles           | 2,500    | 1,830    | 73      |
| Chicago               | 2,000    | 1,372    | 69      |
| General               | 1,050    | 190      | 18      |
| Total                 | \$25,000 | \$22,816 | 91      |

## U. S. Marines in China



U. S. marines marching through the streets of Tsingtao, China, sent there to aid evacuation of 4,000 Americans. 1,500 additional marines were sent to reinforce 4,500 troops already in China as Chinese Stalinists-led armies drove toward Nanking against Dictator Chiang Kai-shek's demoralized armies.

## WORKERS FORUM

### Letter from Carner Explaining His Political Views

Editor:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have just sent to the Washington Post. Identical letters were sent to the N. Y. Post and the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. I would appreciate your reprinting the letter in full or in part.

Francis E. Carner

Editor:

I am one of the participants in the security cases mentioned in Marquis Child's column of Nov. 12 which dealt with the "Joint Orientation Conference" held recently in Washington by the Department of National Defense. These "poor security risk" cases of Herb Lewin and mine at the Marquis plant of the Westinghouse Corporation reveal in startling detail the drive being conducted against organized labor and political radicals under the guise of security measures.

As for the Stalinists at the CIO convention, they showed once again, through their total failure to offer any program of action to meet the needs of the workers, that they can never be a progressive force. They went right down the line with Murray.

The CIO convention once more demonstrated to the hilt that a new and different type of leadership is needed—a militant, class-conscious leadership paying allegiance neither to Wall Street's State Department nor the Kremlin.

The Murray leadership was mainly intent on demonstrating to the Truman administration how indispensable the CIO bureaucrats are in putting over the program of U. S. imperialism. This war program is a huge road block in the path of any progressive reforms.

The vast arms expenditures, the subordination of civilian needs to war production, the bolstering of rotten dictatorial regimes in Europe, Asia and Latin America, can only result in economic dislocations and crisis, the imposition of new burdens on the American masses.

This fear haunts the workers. They hang between the pit and the pendulum—the swinging blade of inflation that slashes their living standards and the black abyss of depression and unemployment.

This is the same crucial problem the workers faced before the election. But the labor leadership gave no sound answer to it. They played the old senseless game of capitalist two-party politics and backing the "lesser evil" instead of building a labor party fighting for labor's own program.

Denied this latter choice, the workers voted for the "lesser evil."

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and friends here in Los Angeles last Saturday. Introducing comrades who joined the movement at various stages of the struggle to build the party, Master-of-Ceremonies C. Charles traced the history of the organization in California from a large graphic map on a wall of the hall. The trials, the humor and the confidence of the vanguard were expressed in the anecdotes and reminiscences of comrades from the oldest, who has participated consistently since the "dog days" of the movement, to the newest oil worker recruit.

Particular tribute to The Militant for the role it has played in the development of the international movement was given in a speech by a comrade who was the only Trotskyist in a distant part of the world when the first issue of the paper appeared.

In addition to group singing, entertainment included a violin solo and a skit depicting the plight of a recent "liberal" candidate for Congress who ran against a Trotskyist, Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss.

The affair netted \$61 for The Militant.

J. Blake

### Forrestal Reimposing Wartime Censorship?

Ben Hibbs, editor of the Saturday Evening Post, is indignant over attempts of the Pentagon to have him revise the memoirs of Gen. Holland M. (Howling Mad) Smith currently running in that magazine. A friend of Defense Secretary James F. Forrestal phoned Hibbs on a "very delicate matter," namely, completely rewriting the memoirs. Hibbs denounced Forrestal for trying to "hush up" history.

Twenty years of the Trotskyist movement in California and of the role The Militant played in its development was celebrated at a banquet attended by 135 comrades

Francis E. Carner

### Los Angeles Banquet Celebrates 20 Years of "The Militant"

Editor:

Twenty years of the Trotskyist movement in California and of the role The Militant played in its development was celebrated at a banquet attended by 135 comrades

Francis E. Carner</

## Another Negro Lynched

By Albert Parker

Civil rights promises come and civil rights promises go, but lynch terror continues as usual in the South, and as usual the government does nothing about it. The latest evidence of this grisly fact is the story of Robert Mallard and his wife, Amy.

On the night of Nov. 20, less than three weeks after the elections, Mallard, accompanied by his wife, 18-month old son and two other persons, was driving to his home, 20 miles outside of Vidalia, Georgia, when he found the road blocked by a group of automobiles and a gang of 50 to 75 hooded men. Mallard was dragged from his seat and shot to death; the mob would not even permit his horror-stricken family and friends to take the body, which they left lying by the roadside.

For several days the fact that a man had been lynched was hushed up and kept out of the press. When a newspaper finally did break through the curtain of silence on Nov. 23, and it was revealed that Mrs. Mallard accused the Ku Klux Klan of the crime, the Georgia authorities moved into action—and arrested Mrs. Mallard at the funeral of her husband, charging her with his murder!

This was so raw that the Georgia police were later compelled to release her. But, as this is written, they have not yet arrested the member of the mob whom she had positively identified, or the owner of an automobile which she recognized in the roadblock. Add those facts together, and you will understand the real attitude of Georgia authorities toward prosecuting known white Lynchers of a Negro.

That's the attitude of the Southern ruling class—but what about the attitude of the gov-

ernment in Washington? It's substantially the same. Truman's agents are not trying to arrest Mrs. Mallard, but neither are they trying to do anything to apprehend or punish the lynch mob.

Walter White assures us that Truman assured him that his civil rights program, including an anti-lynching bill, will get top priority in the 81st Congress. It remains to be seen if Truman will actually do this, or if it will have any success if he does.

This does not mean that foes of lynching should sit back now and wait to see what will happen next year. If we do that, little or nothing will be accomplished and the lynch murderers will remain free to continue their savage practices. What we need now is the mobilization of mass pressure, through a conference of Negro and labor organizations in Washington to force the new Congress to take appropriate action.

Finally, we must recognize an important truth—the passage of an anti-lynching bill will not automatically end lynch terror any more than the presence of an anti-murder law in the Georgia statutes has prevented the mob murder of Negroes. It is possible to have an anti-lynching law that will achieve nothing, just as it is possible to have one that has some real teeth in it. And much will depend not only on the kind of law passed, but also on who enforces it, and how.

That is why, while pressing for the strongest possible kind of anti-lynching law, we must also work unceasingly for the abolition of the capitalist-bred Jim Crow system that encourages lynching and for the establishment of a Workers and Farmers Government that would really be concerned with wiping out terror and violence against minority groups.

## Those "Timid" Profiteers

By Joseph Keller

It's surprising how shy and coy the big corporations are when it comes to discussing publicly their profits and how they are made. Get some Congressional hearing going to "investigate" the unions, or to reduce corporation taxes, and the corporation spokesmen swarm about thick as flies around molasses and buzzing twice as loud. But let some Congress committee ask the corporations for a little first-hand information about their profits and prices, and they wing for open country like they were just an inch ahead of a spray of DDT.

Senator Ralph E. Flanders, Vermont Republican, admitted last week that his Congressional sub-committee to investigate prices and profits is being strangely shunned by "some" corporations. No matter how politely and invitingly the committee's invitations are worded, these corporations are reluctant to appear and testify.

Of course the worthy Senator didn't mean to imply that these corporations have anything to hide. The trouble he said is with the corporation lawyers. They suffer from "timidity." Lawyers, he said, "are timid folk, the most rabbit-like of the human race." And he might have added—which he didn't—that it's a strange coincidence that the higher-paid the lawyer and the bigger the corporation he represents and advises, the more "timid" he is.

Although Senator Flanders didn't give the names of industries of any of these reluctant corporations, he cited the example of one that "is under, or facing, indictment under the anti-trust laws, and their attorneys have assured them that they should not say a word, not even mutter to themselves in a closet."

Some naive soul might well ask, "Why doesn't the committee subpoena these corporations?" After all Congress committees haven't hesitated to subpoena "reds" and labor leaders when they

want to grill them and send them to jail for "contempt" should they refuse to answer questions.

But Senator Flanders said that the committee felt "in doubt" about its power to issue subpoenas to wealthy and powerful corporations. In any event, he added, the committee would not issue subpoenas "for we felt that we can get further, and get more information, without them." He didn't say how.

We are not surprised that the corporations are particularly tight-mouthed about answering questions about the sources and scope of their profits at this season. The third quarter returns have come in and the figures take a lot of explaining.

Aggregate profits for the three months ending September 30 were 39% higher than in the same period a year ago; and this follows a rise of 24% for the first quarter and 28% for the second. And that's during a period when wages went up hardly at all.

Bernard T. Frevert, of Standard & Poor's Corp., business advisors, writes in the Nov. 27 N. Y. World-Telegram that "this excellent showing" is "largely the result of price advances"—that is, of milking the consumers. He predicts that when the full year's profits reports are in they will show a profits increase over 1947 of 25% or more.

We don't think the workers should wait for "timid" lawyers to advise "timid" corporations to testify before timid Congressional committees. The unions should undertake their own investigating. They should demand to see the books and records of the corporations. We have no doubt that this kind of "peep at the books" will reveal good reasons why the corporations play shy violet on the matter of profits.

## Notes from the News

**CAPITALIST DESTRUCTION** — Europe's largest drydock, the 80,000 ton one at Wilhelmshaven, Germany, was blown up Nov. 25 by occupation authorities. It took 40 tons of explosives to smash this costly product of human labor.

\* \* \*

**DIDN'T GET HIM SOON ENOUGH** — J. Parnell Thomas of the House Un-American Committee is seeking to quash the indictment against him for defrauding the Government. He claims that his alleged crime of padding the payroll occurred more than three years ago and hence under the statute of limitations he cannot be prosecuted.

\* \* \*

**TAFT-HARTLEYISM IN JAPAN** — On "suggestion" of General MacArthur, the Japanese House of Representatives has outlawed strikes and collective bargaining by Government employees. Japanese unions unanimously opposed MacArthur's version of the Taft-Hartley Law.

\* \* \*

**WANT A BASIC CHANGE** — Delegates of 530,000 coal miners in Western Germany voted Nov. 30 for a resolution to socialize the German coal industry.

\* \* \*

**NAZI SPIRIT MARCHES ON** — Phi Kappa Psi, the fraternity which expelled its Amherst

College chapter for pledging a Negro student, is now being urged by the Johnstown, Pa., alumni to ban "adherents of all Semitic creeds." The Johnstown group wants "our unwritten traditions" written down in the fraternity constitution and by-laws.

\* \* \*

**IMMIGRATION BARS DOWSON** — Ross Dowson, National Secretary of the Revolutionary Workers Party (Trotsky) of Canada, was refused permission by U. S. immigration authorities to return from a national tour to Ontario via the United States. Dowson ran for mayor of Toronto in January 1948 on a program of revolutionary socialism, polling more than 15,000 votes.

\* \* \*

**TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE** — Eric A. Wildman, president of the National Society for the Retention of Corporal Punishment, was taken by surprise when he delivered a lecture at school in England on the virtues of whipping children with canes. The students overpowered him and gave him six blistering strokes with the canes he had used to demonstrate his lecture. Besides lecturing on corporal punishment, Wildman manufactures canes.

\* \* \*

**IS NOTHING SACRED?** — An Italian company holding an unpaid debt against the Government, has attacked the battleship Vittorio Veneto. Unless the Government pays up, the battleship will be sold at auction within 10 days.

\* \* \*

**American Committee for European Workers Relief Announces Annual XMAS SHOPPING BAZAAR**

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## THE MILITANT

VOLUME XII

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1948

NUMBER 49

## Pacific Coast Longshoremen Defeat Union-Busting Drive

At AVC Convention



James Kutcher, victimized legless war veteran, being greeted at the AVC convention by Chairman Chat Paterson (l.) and George L. P. Weaver, Director of AVC National Committee to Abolish Discrimination (r.).

## GIFT VOLUME INDICATES BIG ACEWR XMAS BAZAAR

The American Committee for European Workers Relief reports that articles are pouring in for its annual Xmas Shopping Bazaar. The volume of choice gifts from merchants, manufacturers and individuals indicates that this year's bazaar may have more merchandise available for Christmas shoppers than in previous years. The bazaar will run for two days at the ACEWR headquarters, 130 West 23rd St., New York City. On Friday, December 10, the bazaar opens at 6 P. M. and closes at midnight. The doors will re-open Saturday, December 11, at 10 A. M. for a full day of shopping. The auction will take place Saturday night.

Budget-wise New Yorkers will find unusual bargains in clothing for adults and children, electrical appliances, ceramics, leather goods, plastic products, art objects, native handicraft from all over the world, toys, jewelry and an endless array of other articles. A feature of the bazaar will be a display showing photographs of some of the Europeans to whom ACEWR packages have been sent. Thus shoppers can see a sample of the people they will be aiding as they purchase gifts at a fraction of department store prices.

The ACEWR stakes that many people mistakenly believe that re-

ported economic recovery in Europe and Marshall Plan shipments have lessened the need for relief work in Europe. But relief packages are just as vitally needed by European workers as ever before. This is especially true in the cases of those anti-fascists who spent long years—in some cases from 1933 till 1945—in concentration camps and have still not recovered their health.

How important relief packages are to them is seen from the following paragraph taken from the letter of a German worker to the ACEWR: "The entire official restitution received by us former concentration camp inmates is less than what we receive in these packages. By this comparison you will be able to understand what great help your solidarity action means to us. Let us shake hands... We feel strong and proud in the knowledge that we are not fighting alone."

You can help this German worker and many other European workers—French, Italian, Dutch, Greek, Austrian, Spanish refugee—by coming with your family and friends to the gala ACEWR Xmas Shopping Bazaar. Every penny you spend will help send parcels of food, clothing and medicine to Europe.

**AVC BACKS KUTCHER**

(Continued from Page 1) represented. He demonstrated that his own case was a touchstone for the whole government purge, and promised to fight it to the end as a matter of principle because its outcome could determine the fate of thousands of other victims of the purge.

**OPPOSES ALL WITCH HUNTS**

Although Kutcher, as a guest speaker, could not intervene in the bitter convention fight on the Stalinist issue, he made it unmistakably clear that he and his party were strongly opposed to any "witch hunts anywhere: My party's differences with the Communist Party are fundamental and irreconcilable. Nevertheless we believe that they too have constitutional rights which must be guarded and defended."

Kutcher closed his talk by thanking the AVC's National Planning Committee and many of its members for the help they had already given him. He asked for the extension of additional moral and financial help for the non-partisan Kutcher Civil Rights Committee which has been organized to fight his case.

When he had finished, the convention again broke into cheers. Dan James took a floor mike and

introduced a resolution supporting Kutcher. (See Page 1.)

Vice Chairman Joseph A. Cleary, Jr., who was in the chair, called for a unanimous standing vote. The convention arose as one man, with the applause continuing unabated until the chairman called for order and went on to other business.

After this, numerous delegates from various parts of the country came to Kutcher and assured him of their support.

As a result of his appearance at the convention, Kutcher's story has received considerable publicity in the local press. Today's issues of the Plain Dealer and the Press ran stories and pictures. The AFL weekly paper, Cleveland Citizen, ran an editorial on the case. The editor of this weekly is scheduled to discuss the case over Station WSR.

James Christensen, secretary of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee unit in Cleveland, was in charge of Kutcher's personal welfare and press relations during his stay here. Christensen said that Kutcher's visit to Cleveland had strongly stimulated the work of the local committee, and would undoubtedly result in increased support for his defense in local labor, liberal and veteran circles.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 28—The Pacific Coast maritime strike which began last Sept. 2 appeared near settlement yesterday as 6,000 members of the CIO International Longshoremen & Warehousemen's Union in this area voted overwhelmingly to accept a contract recommended by ILWU president Harry Bridges.

The new agreement, underwritten by the national CIO, extends until June 15, 1951. It continues the rotary system of hiring through the union hall that has been in effect since 1934, recognizes the principle of the six hour day and limits the work day to 9 hours (except when ships are ready to sail and work can be completed in 11 hours), raises the wage scale 15 cents an hour, bringing the straight-time rate to \$1.82 for six hours (overtime rate of \$2.73 is payable after six hours and/or after 5 p.m.), and provides for an annual wage review on Sept. 30 each year. Also gained is a vacation clause providing for one week with pay after 800 hours work, two weeks for 1,344 hours. Hereafter, the starting time for work shall be 8 a.m., and longshoremen will get one day off each week, at least two Sundays a month.

These are the gains longshoremen voted to accept. Inasmuch as the employers undertook to smash the maritime unions on this coast and restore open-shop conditions, this is considered a victory after nearly three months on the picket line. Longshoremen do not intend to return to work until all other maritime workers have reached satisfactory agreements with the employers.

## OTHER STILL NEGOTIATING

Still to complete negotiations are the CIO Marine Cooks, the independent Marine Firemen, and the CIO radio operators. Both Cooks and Firemen are expected to vote on agreements early this week. The operators have offered both unions an approximate wage increase of \$20 a month across the board without retroactivity. This has been rejected and the seamen's unions are standing pat on their original demands of \$17.50 with retroactivity or \$22.50 without. In all other respects the pattern of the offers follows that set by the longshoremen. The union hiring hall is recognized. The contract proposal is to extend for 3 years with annual wage reviews.

Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the non-striking AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, has announced that members of that union will not return to work until certain jurisdiction questions with the striking maritime unions have been settled.

Lundeberg attempted a raid upon the CIO Marine Cooks during the strike when he attempted to secure an NLRB election under the Taft-Hartley law for the steward's department on vessels operating out of Seattle in the Alaska run. Last week, Thos. P. Graham, regional director of the NLRB, dismissed the SUP petition for hearings. The CIO Marine Cooks are presently negotiating a contract for the Alaska ships.

It does not appear now that the other questions of jurisdiction raised by Lundeberg will be a deterrent to strike settlement.

## STRIKERS STILL SOLID

After nearly three months on strike the ranks of the seamen and longshoremen are as solid as the day the strike was called. The employers, who announced at the beginning of the strike that they would not negotiate with the present leaders of the CIO longshoremen's and cooks' unions, have been forced to negotiate and come to agreement with these unions.

At the moment the striking unions are in a position to force the operators to accept the original demands. Some of these demands which have been given up by the leadership are central to the future enforcement of the contract.

The three-year contract with a no-strike clause renders the annual wage review provision meaningless so far as demanding any needed wage increase is concerned. It makes the unions dependent upon the decision of an arbitrator, and experience in this respect has demonstrated that such awards always lag behind rising living costs.

Longshoremen were fed up with the clause in their old contract which allowed the employers to order work changes and forced the longshoremen to follow these orders. This opened the way for speed-up on the job. That

clause remains in the new contract.

## NEW HIRING HALL CLAUSE

A new clause in the contract, inserted by the employers, gives them greater control over the hiring hall. This new clause established qualifications for the election of the union dispatcher and provides that the dispatchers shall hold office for the life of the contract. Formerly the dispatchers were elected according to the rules of the union and held office for one year, same as all other elected local officials.

Under the new contract the union business agent is required to notify the employer of his intent to visit a dock or board a ship. This is one of the demands of the employers which they have insisted upon for a number of years, but were never before able to insert in the contract. It allows the employers to build up their black list which they hope to use at a later date.

The union officials are campaigning for the proposed contract by claiming that "longshoremen and ship clerks won practically every demand the unions made previous to the strike." What they fail to report is that the employers also won many of their demands.

In the enthusiasm for the gains that have been won and the back-to-work rush whipped up by the officialdom, the membership has momentarily lost sight of what has been given away in the new contract.

The officials arrived at the new contract in a spirit of amicable relations with the employers. They now believe that they have made their peace with the employers for another three years. Before those three years have elapsed they will surely be forced to answer for those clauses favorable to the employers which they failed to report to the membership.

## CONTINUED SAG IN SALES ALARMS BUSINESS MEN

By John G. Wright

The decline in retail sales shows little sign of abatement. On the contrary, every section of the country without exception continues to report sagging sales for the fourth consecutive week. These monotonously gloomy reports stress one feature, that the most recent declines