

# John L. Lewis Rips Green on 'No-Strike' Offer

In a "memorandum" dripping with contempt and sarcasm, United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis informed AFL President William Green — and indirectly the Truman administration — that the militant coal miners would not be bound by any "no-strike pledge" which union leaders like Green might make to the employers and government.

Lewis' remarks were directed to commitments the AFL leaders have said they are prepared to make to the war mobilization chief W. Stuart Symington, head of the National Resources Board, from whose labor advisory committee the UMW has been excluded. The UMW leader also reminded Green of the fact that the miners had been excluded from the "unity" talks between the AFL, CIO and Machinists and therefore that "any mess you can cook up with the CIO" will be "eaten by you and by alone."

Telling Green he was "distressed" at having "to disturb the calm placidity of your ordered existence," Lewis declared that nevertheless "the rights of American workers in industry should not be bartered to appease your innate craving for orthodox respectability."

SERVING NOTICE

Thus Lewis has served notice that the fighting miners, as in the last war, will again stand in the forefront of the defense of American labor in wartime.

Green replied in a letter that tried to write off the miners as a part of any future united labor movement. He wrote that "you would be out of place if you were affiliated with any organized labor movement which might be committed to a no-strike policy." He added that the AFL officialdom "stands ready now" to offer a no-strike pledge "whenever the President of the United States advises us it is necessary."

The full text of Lewis' letter to Green reads as follows:

"Washington, D. C., Aug. 29, 1950  
Memorandum to: William Green  
From: John L. Lewis

"You know, John, that I am ever distressed when I have to disturb the calm placidity of your ordered existence. Yet I suggest that the rights of American workers in in-

## MacARTHUR, MATTHEWS EMBARRASS TRUMAN

By Art Preis

Secretary of the Navy Francis P. Matthews and General Douglas MacArthur shocked the world last week with their bold admissions of American imperialism's real aims.

Matthews urged the U. S. to "declare our intention" of "instituting a war" for "peace." MacArthur called for the "aggressive exploitation" of Formosa as a permanent U. S. military base from which to launch American air power to any point in Asia "from Vladivostok to Singapore."

Their statements threw such glaring light on American capitalism's brutal design for world conquest and the fraudulence of Washington's claims of "peaceful," "non-aggressive" intent, that Truman and the State Department were forced to publicly disavow them.

Matthews, addressing a Boston Navy Yard celebration on Aug. 25, brushed aside the humbug about "aggression" and "non-aggression." To "compel cooperation" for what he called "peace," he said, "we should be willing, and declare our intention, to pay any price, even the price of instituting a war..."

### A PROUD TITLE

To show he was engaging in no loose rhetoric, he added that the U. S. must adopt the role of "aggressor for peace." This, he admitted, would "cast us in a character new to a democracy — an initiator of a war of aggression."

This program would be branded "imperialistic aggression," he conceded, but he could accept such "islander" with "complacency." Because, by becoming the "initiator of a war of aggression," the U. S. would "win a proud and popular title — we would become the first aggressors for peace."

Matthews' insistence that Washington proclaim openly its intention to "initiate a war of aggression" would be embarrassing to the government under any circumstances. No imperialist power ever admits that it is waging or plans to wage a "war of aggression." But Matthews' declaration is doubly embarrassing to the Truman administration at this time.

Truman's whole case for his undeclared war in Korea is based on the charge of "aggression" by the North Korean government. He

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### Made for Each Other



## CONGRESS VOTE BOLSTERS FASCIST RULE IN SPAIN

The House of Representatives took Dictator Franco to its bosom on Aug. 25 as the Senate had done a few weeks before. The blood of the Spanish people is on the hands of Congress. By voting a \$62 1/2 million dollar loan to the butcher of Madrid, against the opposition of all organized labor in this country and against the will of the peoples of Europe, Congress more firmly bolted the gates of Spain's concentration camps, ground the iron heel of repression more deeply into the necks of the outlawed trade unionists of the Iberian peninsula.

The debate in the House was carried off in rapid-fire style, with true Franco firing squad speed. In approximately an hour, with five speakers on each side, limited to five minutes each, the discussion was over. With more than one-third of the representatives absent or not voting, the loan was passed by a voice vote of 165 to 90. Brazen as their action was, the congressmen weren't brazen enough to let the American people know how they voted.

### LIBERAL PLAINTS

The few feeble speeches of the liberals in opposition were all couched in the language of expediency. Typical of these were the remarks of Rep. Holifield (D., Calif.), who declared the loan to be a "colossal blunder, a monumental act of stupidity."

The loan, he said, was "bad political policy" because it would antagonize the anti-fascist peoples of Europe and would discredit American propaganda for "democracy."

It was "bad military policy" because it might indicate to Atlantic Pact nations that the U. S. would

### A-Bomb Shelters Only for Big-Shots

A consultant for Gov. John O. Pastore, of Rhode Island, said people would have to be "graded for admission" to atom-bomb shelters "on the basis of their importance to the United States."

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Clarke Goodman, gave this opinion to the governor on Aug. 26. "Some people are more important than others," he said, "and we can't build shelters for everybody."

In the event of an A-Bomb war, rich "important" big-shots will get the shelters, but average persons — the ones who build and pay for the shelters — will have to stay outside.

(Continued on page 2)

## Strikes Reflect Labor Resistance To Rising Prices

A growing wave of strikes has been inspired by the fast-rising cost of living brought on by government war spending and corporatism war profiteering.

Some 49,000 employees of the International Harvester Company last week shut down 19 plants in a fight for higher wages. The strike began with 22,000 members of the CIO United Auto Workers in 8 plants. Another 27,000 walked out of 11 plants on the call of the Farm Equipment Council of the independent United Electrical Workers, after the company withdrew from a tentative agreement.

Possibility of a national strike against the country's largest electrical equipment manufacturer, General Electric, loomed after 16,000 workers at the company's plants in Lynn and Everett, Mass., hit the picket lines.

### HIT AND RUN

In Detroit, an estimated 10,000 Ford workers were involved in a series of so-called "hit and run" strikes which have repeatedly halted assembly lines. These pressure tactics are being used to bring the company in line with wage increases already won in other parts of the auto industry. Chrysler corporation, which earlier in the year had been hit by a 100-day strike, didn't wait for another one, but announced hourly-wage boosts of 10 cents for production workers, 15 cents for skilled employees. Packard settled a 13-day strike by granting a 4-cent raise and a cost-of-living escalator clause on the General Motors model, plus \$125 a month retirement pensions.

## Truman Again Breaks Rail Strike

By Fred Hart

AUG. 28 — America's million railroad workers are working today under a military dictatorship being exercised by railroad corporation executives in the name of the United States Army.

Strutting in colonels' uniforms, seven presidents of railroad companies that have been bitterly fighting union wage-hour demands are now issuing brass-hat commands to the railroad workers.

Under Truman's latest strike-breaking "seizure" order, these railroad magnates have been vested with military authority as regional directors of operations for the country's railroads.

Six of them didn't even have to be sworn in. They were called into "active duty" as reserve officers, having been made colonels in charge of railroad operations in May 1948, the last time Truman "seized" the country's railway lines in order to break a strike for the 40-hour week.

Truman's order for the Army to

"seize" the railroads in advance of a national railroad strike scheduled for today was clearly designed to prevent the 300,000 members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and Order of Railway Conductors from enforcing their long-standing demand for a 40-hour week at 48 hours' pay.

### SAME CONDITIONS

So far as the railroad bosses are concerned the only change the "seizure" will mean is that they will now have military powers in addition to their ordinary rule over the workers and can issue their orders as the voice of the U. S. government.

For the workers, however, it means that their right to strike has been banned indefinitely and they will have to continue to submit to the wages, hours and working conditions against which they have been opposed for more than two years.

Under Truman's "seizure" order,

the railway magnates' profits, ownership, management and control of the railroads are fully protected. At the same time, the order expressly forbids any change in wages, hours or working conditions except by agreement of the corporations. This means the companies are in position to defy and reject the workers' demands indefinitely.

The fraud of this "seizure," in which the government touches neither the ownership, management, control nor profits of the railroads, is made plain in Truman's order. The private managers of the carriers are ordered

"to continue their respective managerial functions to the maximum degree" and "the boards of directors, trustees, officers and employees . . . shall continue the operation of the said transportation systems."

It adds, "there may be made . . . payments of dividends on stocks, and of principal, interest, sinking funds and all other distributions

upon bonds, debentures and other obligations." A separate contract made by the government with 301 companies further stipulates that the companies "will retain all the income of proceeds resulting from such operations."

### HITS RIGHT TO STRIKE

While Truman's "seizure" thus guarantees that railroad profits and dividends will not be restricted in the slightest, his order states that the "transportation systems shall be managed and operated under the terms and conditions of employment in effect on Aug. 20." Thus, wages, hours and working conditions are frozen until the corporations agree to change them. The workers have the right to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing," the order states, but can engage only in such activities as "do not interfere with the operations of the transportation systems."

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(Continued on page 2)

Workers of the World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

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## Bill of Rights Is Being Cut To Ribbons

### MYRA WEISS DENOUNCES L. A. WITCH-HUNT LAW

By Lois Saunders

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 27 — In an unprecedented action, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last week passed a series of thought-control ordinances requiring certain politically designated residents of the area to register with the police because of their views. It is a short step from registration with the police to the carrying of internal passports and the wearing of dog-tags."

In a rush to imitate the action of the County, the City Council immediately scheduled a hearing for Aug. 29, for consideration of a resolution recommending similar laws for the city.

Ostensibly aimed at members of the Communist Party, the ordinances are so phrased that they could readily be used to strangle the union movement by prohibiting strikes and picket lines. They are so all-inclusive and flexible that they could likewise be used against any minority political party, racial minority or pacifist organization, no matter how small.

Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party-endorsed candidate for the House of Representatives from the 19th California district, in a statement prepared for the Council hearing and for distribution to the press, declared:

### A NEW DEPARTURE

"These ordinances represent far more than merely another in a long series of blows at civil liberties and violations of the Bill of Rights. They mark a new departure, set a new precedent. This is the first time in the history of the United States that citizens have been required to register with the

member of UAW Ford Rouge Local 600. The other candidates are:

Sol Dollinger for Lt. Governor, William Yancey for Secretary of State.

Guildford Pennington for Attorney General.

Alice Pollack for Treasurer.

Larry Dolinski for Auditor General.

Genora Dollinger for Congress from the 6th District.

CAMPAIGN ISSUES

The SWP campaign will be centered around the most crucial local and national issues, such as the war danger, the mounting inflation, the problem of rent controls, the continuing housing crisis, the struggle for Negro equality, and the question that is gaining in importance daily, defense of civil rights.

As reported in a previous issue of The Militant, the SWP has attacked and intends to continue the fight against the banning of the Bill of Rights. (Without any legislation Truman is already carrying through such a purge in the maritime industry of all militants opposed to his politics or the policies of the union bureaucrats.)

### THE SAME OBJECTIVE

McGrath's demand neatly sums up the lack of difference between the McCarran bill and the Truman administration's approach. The McCarranites propose to rely mainly on registration as the weapon for intimidating and suppressing opponents of war, capitalism and regimentation; the Trumanites propose to rely mainly on a purge of industry — that is, starvation — to achieve the same objective.

The passage of either of these bills would signify a death blow to political liberties in this country, no matter what the formal status of the Bill of Rights was. A worker distributing a pro-socialist or anti-war leaflet or newspaper would be subject to imprisonment under the McCarran bill, to loss of his job under the Truman bill.

What difference would it make, under such conditions, if the Bill of Rights still remained on the books? The threat of imprisonment, the danger of being fired and blacklisted — these would be the reality for anyone wanting to express independent political views. The Bill of Rights then would be only a legal fiction.

A vote for the Democrats on election day will be a vote for the Trumanites' method of subverting civil liberties, just as a vote for the Republicans will be an endorsement of the McCarran form of police state. A vote for the Socialist Workers Party candidates, on the other hand, will represent a vote to preserve and uphold the Bill of Rights without any evasions, qualifications or subterfuges.

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# Letters from Our Readers

## Open Letter to Members Of the Socialist Party

By George R. Stryker  
Member, Local Nassau - Suffolk, Socialist Party

Dear Comrades,

At Detroit last June our party decided by a resounding vote to continue electoral activity. Despite this action the New York State organization failed to enter a single candidate in this year's state-wide election. It has acted with one purpose, that of defying Socialist sentiment in order to appease certain trade union bureaucrats who have joined the War Party. Burt Beck has had his day.

Are we to allow this rape of Socialism and be forced into supporting the "lesser evil" among capitalist politicians, or will we stand up and fight for our class against its betrayers? You and I, the rank and file of the Socialist Party, will give the answer to that question by our actions between now and Nov. 7. Thanks to the courageous work of Socialist Workers Party comrades throughout our state, often in the face of fascist hoodlum-police brutality and other vicious violations of civil liberties, you and I will be able to vote for socialist candidates.

We must not allow petty factional differences or any sense of misguided loyalty to incompetent "leaders" to divide us. We must not only vote Socialist Workers Party for Bartell, Barker, Ring, Preis and Hansen in November but in addition must campaign vigorously in their behalf in complete cooperation with the SWP in order to assure the largest possible socialist vote.

Don't allow anyone to tell you that you can be a good Socialist and still vote for capitalist politicians. Both old parties represent the oppression of the working class and certainly the chains of capitalist slavery will not lessen for Wall Street on the Liberal Party line. A vote for the American Labor Party is a vote for the Stalinist world imperialism. A vote for the Socialist Labor Party is a vote for starvation until Utopia arrives.

Now, only by giving our loyal support to the Socialist Workers Party in this election can we remain true to our Socialist principles and thus forward the day of the liberation of the working class. Let us then join hands together and make 1950 a year that will long be remembered as the beginning of the dawn of a brave new world for all of humanity. Raise on high the Scarlet Banner!

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## How Workers Reacted To SWP Petition Plea

Editor:

Team 7, which consisted of four of us and a constantly breaking down jalopy, covered five counties in New York State, spoke to thousands of people and collected 750 signatures for the Socialist Workers Party nominating petitions within a period of 8-10 days. We went out with a big questionnaire in our minds — would the ordinary people be hysterical and fearful? Would the red baiting and war hysteria of the madmen in power in Washington reflect itself in a hatred of radical Americans like ourselves?

The answer is that the average workers and ordinary folks in these counties are not the least bit hysterically pro-war. On the contrary, the war is unpopular, and the propagandists in Washington, on the air and in the press, were pleasant enough, but a self-styled "Judge" on the streets tried to give us real hard time. The mill workers, women as well as men, however, signed their names to give our party a place on the ballot.

In the industrial city of Schenectady a couple of street cops tried to pin charges of "third degree assault" on us, for allegedly forcing people to sign. In the face of their haranguing, only our constant repetition of the phrase, "We're only asking people to sign," finally cut down their bullying, and we were let out of the station house.

We covered mainly industrial centers. Schenectady, Amsterdam, Johnstown, Gloversville, Hudson Falls. Explanations that we gave about "an independent labor ticket," "A socialist petition," "Socialist Workers Party," "no connection with the Democratic or Republican parties" did not scare

away many prospective signers. Upon hearing such remarks, many workers quickly signed.

Those who refused to sign were seldom hysterical or deeply antagonistic. In our experience, the vicious opponents were primarily the cops, office-holders, and disappointed office-seekers and former office-holders. In Hudson Falls, for example, a small village in Washington County, the cops were pleasant enough, but a self-styled "Judge" on the streets tried to give us real hard time. The mill workers, women as well as men, however, signed their names to give our party a place on the ballot.

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The workers in Schenectady have experience in both industrial unionism and political solidarity as a class, having had a Socialist mayor over 30 years ago. One of the great pleasures of the trip was signing up old timers of the working class of this city, for whom the very word "Socialist" was a momentary rekindling of the spark that had flamed many years ago.

In Saratoga, the police first forced us to register with the City Clerk. All morning long, prospective signers on the streets were annoyed by a former Judge, turned street urchin since his defeat in last year's elections. We obtained about 80 signatures, in

spite of the fact that the end of his nose constantly kept hitting our petition boards.

In the early afternoon, a policeman pulled me into the station house and the desk officer started shouting that "the Mayor has complained that you're stopping people on the streets. I'm going to give you one more chance," he shrieked. "Get out of town or else in the cooler you go, you radical bastard, Communist, Socialist, Socialist Worker, you're all alike." I left — the station house. May I take this opportunity to inform the unconstitutional diplomat at the Saratoga police desk that we obtained our signatures, in spite of his arrogance and the annoyance it was causing the Mayor?

In our work upstate, the Negro

people in their ghettoed and dilapidated dwellings were a constant source of inspiration and aid. Not that they accepted us at face value. "Politicians" have fooled them too often. However, after we told of our program, entire groups in the neighborhood would pitch in and sign. Ours remains the responsibility of making good on our promises, and struggling for the rights of the Negro people 365 days of the year, not just election time.

It is the unanimous opinion of our team that Truman, his Cabinet, Dewey, Gabriel Heatter, Bernard Baruch and Willis Hearst should take their current war and red-baiting line out on the streets of these five counties. Even though they would not have any trouble, we feel certain they'd run away behind us in obtaining signatures.

Lou,  
New York City

## Explains Role of Negro Workers in the South

Editor:

The Militant has many good articles about the struggles of Negroes for equality, but has few about their struggles in the South. This is easy to understand because of the small forces at your disposal and the difficulty in learning what is actually happening in the South. But I believe that special efforts should be made to show what colored workers in Dixie are doing, particularly those instances when they take the leadership in struggles of both white and colored workers.

Many readers of The Militant try to believe that Negroes will some day become leaders of struggles in the South for the emancipation of all workers, but it is often difficult for them to really believe it possible because of the way Negroes in the South are suppressed. Not only have they been suppressed, but the news of their struggles has been suppressed. At times when Southern workers have moved forward, often Jim Crow white workers have accepted the leadership of Negro workers.

In Tennessee in 1939-40, when the CIO began moving into Memphis, I saw Negroes time after time take the leadership in the fight for the CIO. In 1939, when the Inland Boatmen's Division of the National Maritime Union struck the river steamers on the Mississippi River, the strike was won and the Inland Boatmen established a beachhead for the CIO in Memphis.

Memphis workers began to feel that it was possible to build CIO unions in Memphis, despite the fact that the newspapers were running long articles telling about all the new weapons the Police Department was buying, and liberals were saying, "We'll have a small revolution and lots of bloodshed in Memphis if the CIO comes in." Many workers began to visit the office of the Inland Boatmen's Union and plead for the CIO to send some one down to help organize their plants. Nearly all the workers who pleaded for organizers were Negroes.

After a while, organizers were

sent to Memphis. George Bass of Akron was sent to organize Firestone Rubber Co., which hired around 3,000 workers, 2,000 white and 1,000 colored, and other organizers were sent for hardwood, steel, food processing and other plants. I do not know the complete story about the Firestone struggles, but there white workers took the leadership. But a Negro was elected as Vice-President at the first election, which proved to Memphis Negroes that the CIO was worth fighting for.

Almost everywhere else it was the Negro workers who led. The first strikes were at hardwood lumber mills and cottonseed processing plants, where only Negro help was hired. Many police mobilized in front of those plants; any scabs would have been well protected, and any workers who tried to interfere with them would have been savagely manhandled. But there were no scabs. If any colored workers had the desire to scab, they knew what it would mean when they went back into their neighborhoods.

The first strike of both Negro and white workers was at the Wabash Screen Door Company. Here both Negro and white workers went out and no one scabbed, but almost all the picketing was done by Negroes. The Wabash Screen Door strike broke the ice and after that there were many Negro and white workers brought into the same unions. Negroes became officers in mixed locals.

In the plant where I worked, we had a boss-dominated AFL union.

## Congress Helps Franco

(Continued from Page 1)

Smith (R, Wis.) "Was any protest made when we included Portugal for loans under ECA? No. Yet does any head of any government anywhere rule with greater dictatorial power than Salazar? Where were those members then who now profess with great alarm the men of dictatorships?"

"Where is our consistency?" demanded Smith. "What consistency in our foreign policy when we recognize every rump revolution in South America and military dictators are set up as a result of these revolutions?"

Expediency, however, was the smallest question involved for the proponents of the loan. They were Franco supporters, and they were determined to make an open demonstration by the Congress of

the United States in favor of fascism in Spain.

"It was my privilege," said Smith, "in 1947 to spend two hours with Franco in his summer palace. I came away from that meeting with the feeling that Franco was trying to do a good job for the Spanish people."

He was echoed by Jennings (R, Tenn.): "This I know beyond the peradventure of a doubt, Franco has maintained the independence of Spain and the dignity of the Spanish people. No foreign invader, no foreign dictatorships has imposed its will upon Spain, or on the people of that country." (No, none but Hitler and Mussolini.)

And then Taber (R, N. Y.): "It is impossible for us to pass up aligning with the free nations of the world. Spain must be aligned with us... I can see no way for one who wishes to maintain the liberties of the world and the rights of the people but to vote for the motion."

In these few words Taber tore the curtain of liberal chatter and democratic pretensions from the world policy of American imperialism. It is for the Franco brand of "freedom," for the "liberties" that exist under his fascist regime that Washington is arming the U. S. and Western Europe and invading Korea. As time passes it becomes more difficult and embarrassing to prate

about "democracy." Better and easier to speak of the "holy war" in the manner of the Roman Pope as did the Representative from Tennessee:

"The issue is crystal clear. The battle lines are drawn. Atheistic communism seeks to conquer, dominate, and Communize the free Christian peoples of the world."

So he turns to Franco, who puts his opponents in concentration camps, who outlaws the unions, persecutes racial and religious minorities, starves the people and says: "Give us your hand, stand by our side, make common cause with us — and civilization, Christianity, and liberty will be saved."

There is the true voice of American imperialism. All the others are propagandists of the lie.

## Nationalize the Basic Industries

"Nationalize the basic industries, all war plants, all natural resources and use them in the interests of the producers and consumers through democratically-elected committees of workers and technicians. Nationalize the banks. Institute a planned economy of abundance, based on production for use, not profit." — From the Socialist Workers Party's 1950 Election Platform.

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## "Go Hire a Hall" — Not at Madison Square Garden

Madison Square Garden has refused to rent its auditorium to the Council on African Affairs because it is included on the Attorney General's "subversive" blacklist. Garden officials said they would not rent to organizations on this list until after Congress has acted on the Mundt and other police state bills. The Council on African Affairs has been planning to hold a concert and rally to protest the State Department's interference with Paul Robeson's right to travel abroad. It is further obvious that the government is aiming to make it illegal for anyone to oppose war or to speak in any way against Truman's war policies.

## VIEWS OF MacARTHUR, MATTHEWS EMBARRASS TRUMAN, STATE DEPT.

(Continued from Page 1)

feel the U. S. must move full speed toward war with the Soviet Union even at the risk of being accused of "aggression."

Since the Korean events, the Truman administration has taken a number of steps — including his declaration of policy on Korea, Formosa and Indo-China — which indicates it is speeding up its preparations for war, but still not at the pace demanded by the "extremists" who would brush aside all considerations of public opinion.

The latter feel that American imperialism's strategic aims —

which they share with Truman — require that the U. S. take the initiative in determining where and when the conflict should unfold. They feel that to wait until the Soviet Union or its satellites provide pretexts before the U. S. moves overtly is big handicap and a weakness. They don't want to be bound by diplomatic and political considerations, They want the U. S. to be free to disregard such considerations and to move on its own initiative anywhere and anytime it pleases to seize and occupy any territory that it deems essential to its strategic aims.

Truman holds no difference with MacArthur as to the strategic value of Formosa for the Asiatic plans of U. S. imperialism. But he proposes to move in on Formosa in a more careful and subtle manner than MacArthur wants. Truman would like to get the approval of India, for one thing, and doesn't want to stir up even more antagonism to the United States than already exists among the people of Asia.

MacArthur is pushing for a more openly aggressive policy which would simply disregard the sentiments of the Asiatic peoples. He declares that "those who advocate appeasement" do not understand "Oriental psychology" which is "to respect and follow aggressive, resolute and dynamic leadership" — that is, weekly submit to brutal armed force that tramples over anything that stands in its way.

The statements of both Matthews and MacArthur deeply disturbed the White House and the State Department not merely because they made public certain differences on immediate policy, but because they also disclosed something of the long-range thinking and planning of America's rulers which belies the official propaganda put out for public consumption. In short, Matthews and MacArthur spilled the beans — told too much of the truth about the long-term strategic aims of U. S. imperialism.

It is the unanimous opinion of our team that Truman, his Cabinet, Dewey, Gabriel Heatter, Bernard Baruch and Willis Hearst should take their current war and red-baiting line out on the streets of these five counties. Even though they would not have any trouble, we feel certain they'd run away behind us in obtaining signatures.

Lou,  
New York City

and the knowledge that the mines would surely go down in spite of the "seizure" that forced the government to make major concessions.

COWARDLY LEADERS

But the record of the United Mine Workers leaders shows them to be of a different breed than the railroad union leaders. They have consistently fought government intervention in any form, while the rail union leaders have submitted to government intervention and arbitration through the Railway Labor Board for more than three decades. They have repeatedly put their reliance on government agencies rather than fight — if they even know the meaning of that word. In the present instance, they have been haggling with the government arbitrators, mediators and boards for a year and a half before even making a move toward strike.

It would be putting the most charitable interpretation on the union leaders' plea for "seizure" to call it rank ignorance and stupidity. How they could regard Matthews and MacArthur as anything but an out-and-out strike-breaking move intended to bolster the corporations is hard to imagine.

PLAIN STRIKEBREAKING

Only last month they had the example of how Truman, in the same breath as he ordered the U. S. Army to crush the civil war of the Korean workers and peasants, directed the Army to "seize" the Chicago and Rock Island railroad and smash the strike of AFL Switchmen. They cannot have forgotten how Truman broke the railroad strike in May 1946 and called on Congress to pass a law to draft strikers into the military forces. Their memories are not so short that they have forgotten Truman's "seizure" of the railroads in May 1948, when he prevented the switchmen, firemen and engineers from gaining the 40-hour week at 48 hours' pay — the very demand the Trainmen and Conductors have been making for the past 18 months.

Unless you can believe these railroad labor leaders are nitwits who don't have sense enough to cross a street by themselves, there is no other conclusion to be drawn than that they deliberately and treacherously invited "seizure" rather than lead a militant struggle and wage a strike in opposition to the Truman administration. They are not even in a position to protest the consequences of the "seizure," since it's what they asked for. And indeed they issued a statement declaring that "the men we represent will work for the Government gladly."

The only time that a "seizure" has not cost the workers the major part of their demands is in the single instance when Truman flew the U. S. flag over the coal mines in 1946. Then it was the bitter strike of the miners.

It is obvious that what the witch-hunters in Washington have in mind is to establish a precedent whereby any group or organization that talks about peace or criticizes Truman's undeclared war in Korea is to be branded as the "agent of a foreign principal."

If such groups refuse to accept that title and register as such, they might be subject to imprisonment for five years and \$10,000 fines.

It is further obvious that the government is aiming to make it illegal for anyone to oppose war or to speak in any way against Truman's war policies.

From the Socialist Workers Party's 1950 Election Platform.

expressed in his moves in Korea, Formosa and Indo-China, are in fact a far-reaching concession to the tactical views of the "extremists." But he is not yet ready to discard the propaganda cover under which these moves have been made. He is bound by public opinion and cannot treat the views of the people here and abroad with the arrogant contempt of a MacArthur. He is an elected official, while MacArthur and Matthews are appointed beholders to no one but the top administration.

WHY HE KEEPS THEM

Everyone recalls how summarily Truman dealt with Wallace in 1946 when the latter differed with the administration's tactical policies. If Matthews and MacArthur are out of line with Truman's policies, why does he still retain them? The reason is two-fold: Truman's policies are closer to those of Matthews and MacArthur than they were to Wallace's; and Matthews and MacArthur represent powerful circles in American capitalism which

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"Either the entire old generation of Bolshevik leaders, with a single and sole exception, has really betrayed Socialism for fascism, or the present leadership of the USSR has organized a judicial frame-up against the founders of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet state. Yes, that is precisely how the question stands: Either Lenin's Political Bureau was composed of traitors, or Stalin's Political Bureau is composed of falsifiers. There is no third possibility! But it is precisely because there is no third possibility that progressive public opinion cannot, at the very risk of its existence, evade making this difficult and tragic choice and explaining it to the popular masses."

— Leon Trotsky, Stalin's Frame-Up System  
and the Moscow Trials.



LENIN

TROTSKY

## The Cause of Inflation

Some of the capitalist newspapers and politicians are again trying to hand us the old chestnut that rising wages are the cause of inflation. Some people used to be taken in by that gag. But it has been pretty well exploded by the economic developments since the start of the Korean war.

Every man, woman and child in the country knows what happened the moment Truman ordered U.S. armed forces to Korea. Prices shot up overnight. Within a few weeks, wages, which were at a virtual standstill, lagged some 18% behind prices. Wholesale commodity prices now are more than 20% higher than on June 25 — and it is noteworthy that industrial prices have gone up at a rate twice as fast as farm products.

At a secret Senate Appropriations Committee meeting with three top air force officers, as revealed by columnist Robert S. Allen in the Aug. 14 N.Y. Post, Air Force Chief of Staff Hoyt Vandenberg hinted around that, due to price increases since the start of the Korean war, the air force would have to have a lot more money just to take care of its

current plans. When prodded for the reason, he disclosed that the manufacturers had in six weeks raised their prices as much as 90% for air force supplies. "Generally," the General said, "the increases range from 40 to 60 per cent. One supplier hiked his price 90 per cent in one week."

"What for?" a senator asked. The General replied that "we don't know" but "they are not based on higher labor and raw material costs."

The real cause of the inflation lies in the profiteering of the capitalists who are making a killing out of scarcities created or anticipated as a result of the huge increase in government war spending. Last week the House of Representatives put its seal on a \$36 billion military budget, which will bring the total of federal annual spending to \$52 billion. And that's just the start. This means that about \$1 out of every \$4 of national income is being diverted to the federal government for war. That's where inflation starts — and not in any miserable wage raises that the workers may force from the employers in a frantic effort to keep up with skyrocketing prices.

## Why Not Let the People Decide?

According to a Gallup Poll survey, a strong majority of the Canadian people are opposed to their government's sending troops to the war in Korea. Labor Challenge, the Canadian Trotskyist paper, summarizes the results of the survey in this manner: 39% are opposed unconditionally to sending troops; 15% are opposed conditionally; 12% are in doubt; and 34% are in favor. Forty-one per cent do not support even the sending of a single plane, ship or round of ammunition to interfere in the Korean civil war, let alone troops; while 26% go so far as to outrightly oppose, or withhold support from, even the American intervention.

Despite these figures, the Canadian government has announced that it will send troops to fight in Korea. Like the United States, Canada prides itself on being a democracy, but on the decisive issues a minority overrules the majority.

We don't know if the Gallup Poll has made a similar survey of sentiment in the United States; we don't care much because the Gallup Poll is biased on the conservative side in the wording of its questions and in the selection of the individuals it questions. But we are decidedly in favor of finding out what the American people really think about the war in Korea and in having the majority opinion determine the policy of the government.

## Franco and Truman

It is reported in the press that Truman plans to impound the 62½ million dollar loan to Franco passed in Congress; the appropriation would remain in the U.S. Treasury until Truman sees the need to expend it.

By this neat device, Truman achieves a number of political ends simultaneously. He escapes the need of vetoing the Franco loan, and thereby also the military appropriations bill to which the loan is attached as an amendment. He preserves the guise of being an opponent of Franco which is indispensable for the union bureaucrats in hustling votes for the Democratic Party in the coming election. He diminishes the embarrassment to Atlantic Pact allies in Western Europe where solid anti-Franco sentiment exists. Finally, he lets it appear that he, the head of the Democratic Party, remains loyal to campaign pledges even if the majority of Democratic Congressmen have "strayed" away from them.

It goes without saying that this is how the crawling "labor leaders" will try to sell Truman's role in the dirty Franco business to the workers. Like everything else they say about Truman, their statements will be compounded of half-truths and deception.

They will not say that Truman made

only the most lukewarm efforts to stop the passage of the loan; he chided the "erring" Congressmen but did not threaten them with any reprisals. They will not say that Truman's opposition to the Franco loan is purely a matter of tactics and propaganda since the State Department has already made it plain that Franco can get U.S. money by applying to the Export-Import bank and private bankers. Nor will they say that at the first moment Truman feels the coast is clear he will unfreeze the loan, using the old alibi "in order to save American lives."

But the subterfuges and excuses the Murrays and Greens may dream up for Truman won't go for the gang of Franco-loving Democrats who made the U.S. Congress the scene of a deliberate demonstration in favor of fascism in Spain. A vote for the Democratic Party in this election will be a vote for Franco. That will make little difference to the spineless, venal creatures who hold the reins of power in the unions. They have been sleeping in the same bed with the white supremacists and the upholders of lynch law. Why not make a little room for Franco, the great defender of "Christian civilization"?

Get out the vote! — even if it leads straight to the concentration camp.

## Canadian CCF Leaders Attack Anti-War Group

The recently held 11th National Convention of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation of Canada was converted by its top leadership into an abject capitulation to capitalism and into an unbridled witch-hunt against every opponent of official policies. The chief target of the leadership was the delegation from British Columbia, composed in its majority of left-wingers who are opposed to the Atlantic Pact and who are trying to preserve some semblance of socialist program inside the CCF.

A week before the convention, M. J. Coldwell, national leader of the CCF, delivered a radio broadcast committing the party to unqualified support of the St. Laurent government's Korean policy. On the eve of the convention Coldwell made an unprecedented speech at a public meeting lashing out against Marxism, against the class conception of society and even against the Regina Manifesto, founding document of the CCF.

### SLANDERS TROTSKYISM

Labor Challenge, Canadian Trotskyist paper, reporting Coldwell's speech, notes that he went out of his way to attack Trotskyism and to lie about it, lumping it together with fascism and Stalinism as a "form of totalitarianism." Whether it is the Stalinists or the Trotskyists that rule the USSR," declared Coldwell, "the results would be identical; the Trotskyists are just the other side of the Stalinist coin, just as dogmatic and ruthless, just as undemocratic and just as fanatically devoted to the Leninist tactics of divide and rule. Whether it is the Stalinists, Trotskyists or Fascists we shall always oppose their kind, no matter where they may arise."

While calling for a ruthless struggle against Marxism and Trotskyism — that is, genuine socialism — Coldwell urged "compromises" with other forces no matter how "strange," — that is, with the capitalists, militarists and all agents of imperialism. "Sometimes," Coldwell said, "they're pretty strange people whom we have to stand with against the onward march of Communism," but he vowed, "we will stand with those who will stand with us."

The proceedings at the convention session continued from where

### Former Leaders Of Spanish CP Flay Kremlin Rule

The first issue of Accion Socialista, which appeared in Paris at the end of July, is indicative of the ferment and opposition crystallized by the Yugoslav events in the ranks of the Spanish Stalinists in exile.

The paper is published by Jose del Barrio and Felix Montiel, former members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Spanish CP. Strongly opposed to Moscow domination,

the aim of this group is to provide a rallying center for all tendencies looking towards the eventual creation of a new party. Its principal aim is the creation of a broad united front movement in Spain and in emigration circles to be known as the "anti-fascist workers and peasant alliance."

The Spanish CP, del Barrio pointed out in a press statement,

is under the complete and rigid control of the Kremlin. The majority of the CP members elected to the Spanish Cortes in 1936 are now outside the party. The Central Committee has not met since 1939. Dolores Ibarruri

Passionaria, the general secretary of the party, was never elected to the post, and the leadership is in the hands of a group of five members appointed by Moscow but never approved by a party convention.

The activities of the Spanish CP have diminished to the vanishing point in the past few years.

Del Barrio attributes this situation to the policy of the leaders of the USSR and the Cominform. Just as World War I, he says, led to the political liquidation of the Second International as a revolutionary leadership, so the Second World War has led, due to the policy of hegemony of the USSR, to the political liquidation of the Third International as a revolutionary leadership.

Action Socialista publishes a

statement by prominent figures

and veterans of the Spanish Civil

War exposing Stalinist slanders

in the Rajoy trial and in their

press against Yugoslav participants

in that conflict. The journal

also announces the formation of a

delegation of Spanish refugees to

visit Yugoslavia.

With a foreword on the events in Korea

Considerable applause greeted Cameron's opposition to the sending of Canadian troops to Korea (Colin Cameron is a prominent leftist and former president of the B. C. section) but this support, intimidated but did not show up when the vote was cast."

### LEFT-WING SPEECHES

The Left made its best showing in the convention when the national leadership's resolution came up for debate. White-haired Ernest Winch, who had helped draft the Regina Manifesto, hit out at the right wing for fostering the idea that "we will abolish only monopoly capital." Challenging Coldwell, he reaffirmed that "the class war is here and it won't be over until the exploitation of the human race is over. . . . As soon as Marxism ceases to be the basis of the CCF, the CCF will cease to be."

Colin Cameron lashed out against Coldwell: "I was shocked and so were thousands of socialists throughout the world, to hear the national leader say the class struggle was outdated. This eleventh convention of the CCF has done irreparable damage to the socialist movement in B. C. Scores of socialists have come to me and asked: 'What can we save from the wreckage?' The course of events," he warned, "will drive you people back onto the path of socialism."

"One thing is certain," comments Labor Challenge, "the Coldwells will vote Marx and the class struggle into non-existence in vain. The course of events is exposing the CCF leadership to increasing numbers of workers. In the process of their development they will create a new leadership based on a revolutionary program that will establish a socialist Canada."

## FORMOSA UNDER THE HEEL OF CHIANG

By J. Blake

As Formosa is dragged to the chopping block of the United Nations, with a little Republican-Democratic election year by-play by Truman and MacArthur, an examination of the victim is in order.

Neither the President, in ordering the United States Seventh Fleet to Formosan waters, nor the General, in speaking bluntly about the place of Formosa in U. S. military strategy in the Far East, wasted any words on the situation of the unhappy people who inhabit the island.

This was not always the case. Only last year, with the publication by the U. S. State Department of the 1054-page volume, U. S. Relations With China, official documents detailing the brutal suppression of the Formosan people by the bloody Chiang Kai-shek forces were made public.

Clearly indicated in the documents was the U. S. objective of taking over Formosa.

"Our experience in Formosa is most enlightening," Truman's special fact-finder in Korea and China, General Albert C. Wedemeyer, on Aug. 17, 1947 reported to the Secretary of State:

"The administration of the former Governor Chen Yi has alienated the people from the Central Government (of Chiang Kai-shek). Many were forced to feel that conditions under autocratic (Japanese imperialist) rule were preferable. The Central Government lost a fine opportunity to indicate to the Chinese people and to the world at large its capability to provide honest and efficient administration."

### "Ruthless, Corrupt and Avaricious"

Depriving Chiang Kai-shek of the alibi later granted Syngman Rhee in Korea, General Wedemeyer said, "They cannot attribute their failure to the activities of Communists or of dissident elements. The people anticipated sincerely and enthusiastically deliverance from the Japanese yoke."

"However, Chen Yi and his henchmen ruthlessly, corruptly and avariciously imposed their regime upon a happy and amenable population. The Army conducted themselves as conquerors. Secret police operated freely to intimidate and to facilitate exploitation by Central Government officials. . . ."

Drooling openly, the fact-finder reported: "The island is extremely productive in coal, rice, sugar, cement, fruits and tea. Both hydro and thermal power are abundant. The Japanese had efficiently electrified even remote areas and also established excellent railroad lines and highways. Eighty percent of the people can read and write, the exact antithesis of conditions prevailing in the mainland of China."

Then, couching his recommendation for procedure in diplomatic language, General Wedemeyer wrote, "There were indications that Formosans would be receptive toward U. S. guardianship and U. N. trusteeship. They fear that the Central Government contemplates sending their island to support the tottering and corrupt Nanking Machine and I think their fears well founded."

Now seeking UN legalization of his recent military move in Formosa, President Truman has officially backed UN Delegate Warren Austin's statement that "The actual status of the island is that it is a territory taken from Japan by the victory of the Allied forces in the Pacific. Like all other such territories, its legal status cannot be fixed until there is international action to determine its future."

### A Shift in the U. S. Line

But the U. S. State Department's official publication said, "By the terms of the Cairo Declaration of December 1, 1943, the U. S. and China declared their intention that Formosa should be restored to China."

Accordingly, in September 1945, the administration of the island was taken over from the Japanese by Chiang Kai-shek's forces "assisted by small American teams."

The iron curtain of Allied censorship concealed for some time the story of the rape of Formosa that followed, of the heroic resistance of the Formosan people, and of the blood-bath in which their struggle was drowned by Chiang Kai-shek's troops. But in 1949, when it suited the aims of the State Department to lift its protective cover from its erstwhile "democratic ally," the truth was told.

These were the conditions which fanned the spark of the Formosa revolt against Chinese Nationalist tyranny. It took only a relatively small incident to touch off the uprising, which was smothered with the brutality and ferocity that have always characterized the Chiang Kai-shek regime. The facts cited by the U. S. reports about the revolt and the massacre that followed will be reviewed in next week's issue of *The Militant*.

## THE COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By James P. Cannon

This pamphlet deals in detail with the great transformation of the American working class since the Thirties. It says, and explains why, "In the study and analysis of this great transformation, rather than in vapid ruminations over the 'backwardness' of the American workers, one can find the key to prospective future developments." It is must reading for every participant and student of the socialist movement.

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