

DETROIT SWP ON TELEVISION

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Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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RAILROAD WORKERS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Truman -- Servant Of Rail Barons

By The Editor

For the second time in seven weeks, members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have tied up the railroad system.

The rail workers did not launch this struggle lightly. They knew that President Truman would threaten them, and try to carry out his threats; they knew that the government would brand them as "traitors"; they also knew their leaders did not have the stomach for such a fight.

But they have dared everything because they know their cause is absolutely just. While other rail workers have the 40 hour week, the operating brotherhoods have to work any and all hours at straight time. While other workers have received two wage increases in the past two years, they have received none. The machinery of the Railway Labor Act, a special railroad slave labor law, has stalled their demands for almost two years. Small wonder the railroad workers are out of patience!

Truman Is Their Enemy

The railroad workers know Truman as their enemy. It is clear to them that if he were on their side he could easily force a decent agreement based on the unions' demands. But instead, Truman has used his power to back the companies; he "seized" the roads, and then appointed railroad executives to high military rank to run the roads and rake in the profits.

Let the labor leaders explain why Truman does not appoint some switchmen and trainmen to the rank of Colonel and let them operate the lines. Why doesn't he turn over the huge profits to the unions for welfare, hospital care, medical aid, and educational purposes?

Because Truman, the government he heads, the Army he commands, the courts he appoints, are not the servants of the people. They are the agents of Big Business. They are all in league against labor!

A Fight Against Odds

The railroad workers are struggling against great odds. Their greatest obstacle is their own leadership, which called Truman "strikebreaker number 1" in 1946, then backed him for President in 1948, and begged him to "seize" the lines last August. These same leaders keep the rail unions divided along craft lines. It will be difficult for one craft, in a spontaneous struggle, disconnected and without real organization, to win a complete victory.

The railroad workers are trying to emulate the militancy of the miners. To do this, they need a unified national organization which will consolidate all the operating crafts into one mighty striking force.

But even with their handicaps, the railroad workers can win this fight if all labor rallies to their cause.

Truman Asks 10 Billions More In New "Soak-the-Poor" Taxes

Lowest Incomes Face 20% Boost; Millionaires 3.5%

Truman's "pay-as-you-go" tax program will take another \$10 billion from the purchasing power of the American people. For the low-income earner it is a "pay-through-the-nose" program. The workers do the paying to make Wall Street's war machine go.

As detailed by Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, the latest tax extortion will increase income taxes in the lowest brackets by another 20 per cent. What the government doesn't withhold from your pay, it will rake off from what you buy thru excise taxes on hundreds of manufactured commodities.

SOAK THE POOR

The tax program is designed, Snyder admitted, to bear most heavily on the small taxpayers, those with annual incomes under \$5,000 — the 83 per cent of taxpayers who receive only 58 per cent of taxable income. "This concentration of income must be tapped if the tax is to raise enough revenue," Snyder declared. He did not speak of the real concentration of wealth in the hands of the top tenth of the 17 per cent of taxpayers who get 42 per cent of the country's taxable income.

To make his new tax bill palatable, Truman has again thrown in a proposal for increased corporation incomes taxes — though even he asks that only 30 per cent of the \$10 billion in new taxes come from corporations. But Truman proposes and Congress disposes. The 81st Congress cut in half the excess-profits portion of his previous tax

(Continued on page 4)



Hansen to Tour Country Analyzing World Crisis

The Socialist Workers Party has announced a coast-to-coast tour of all party branches by Joseph Hansen, SWP candidate for U.S. Senator in the 1950 New York elections. The tour, beginning Feb. 23 in New Haven, Connecticut, will feature a talk on the war crisis titled: "America and the World Crisis."

The speech will deal with the important questions in the "Big Debate" over U.S. foreign policy arising out of the American intervention in the Korean Civil War, and bring the Trotskyist point of view to the public.

TROTSKYIST ANSWERS

Hansen will give the Trotskyist answers to the critical problems in the minds of the workers. He will make clear why the U.S. troops are in Korea, the true relationship between China and the Kremlin; he will analyze the meaning of the Asian Revolution to America, and expose the real purpose behind plans to rearm Europe; Hansen will also explain the home-front consequences of war plans as they affect democracy and living standards, and

will pose the socialist alternative to capitalist militarism.

Joseph Hansen was born 40 years ago in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1936 he served as Associate Editor of *The Voice of the Federation*, official newspaper of the West Coast maritime unions. In 1937 he became secretary to Leon Trotsky in Mexico City, and was there when a Stalinist agent assassinated Trotsky in 1940.

BIGGEST VOTE GETTER

As senatorial candidate of the SWP in New York in 1950 Hansen was the biggest Trotskyist vote-getter in the state campaign.

He is the author of numerous pamphlets on labor and socialist questions: "Wall Street's War — Not Ours," "American Workers Need a Labor Party," "The Socialist Workers Party — What It Is — What It Stands For." Hansen is a regular contributor

to The Militant and Fourth International.

The Militant will carry detailed information on the dates and places of Hansen's speaking engagements from week to week. Further information may be obtained by writing the Socialist Workers Party, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.



JOSEPH HANSEN

Freed Krupp 'Takes up Where He Left Off'

By Joseph Keller

If justice were truly served, Alfred Krupp would have died before Hitler — and each at the end of a rope. Indeed, Krupp would have mounted the gallows first, for in reality he was the master and Hitler the servant. Krupp and his fellow industrialists and bankers financed the Nazis to power in order to crush the German labor movement and atomize the revolutionary German working class. His vast Ruhr war industries armed Hitler's Wehrmacht and reaped untold profits from German imperialism's slaughter of tens of millions.

A MONSTER FREE

This capitalist monster Krupp — in the interest of whose class the Nazis tortured and murdered millions of German workers along with a host of other victims — is today alive and free, his confiscated properties restored to him, hailed as a "national hero" by the German capitalist class and its Bonn government.

His release on Feb. 3 from

Landsberg Prison, along with 28 other Nazi murderers, including six fellow-directors of the Krupp armaments works and four of Hitler's generals, was the occasion of a festive celebration. Rejoicing capitalists, Bonn officials and other ex-fascists met him at the prison gates. He was "escorted quickly to the biggest hotel in town," reports Jack Raymond in the Feb. 2 N. Y. Times, where he was "guest of honor" at a celebration breakfast which included champagne" and was "greeted like a returning national hero." He disclosed that he "intends to take up where he left off as head of the vast iron, steel and coal empire of the Ruhr."

SLAVE LABOR BOSS

Krupp is now free "to take up where he left off" through an "act of clemency" by Gen. Thomas T. Handy, United States Commander in Chief in Europe, and John J. McCloy, United States High Commissioner for Germany.

His original sentence to 12 years imprisonment on a charge of em-

ploying and brutally abusing hundreds of thousands of slave laborers was reduced to "time served" — less than three years. More than a desire to "temper justice with mercy" prompted Washington to order "clemency" for Krupp and his fellow criminals. This is a deliberate political demonstration timed in connection with two major developments:

(1) the U.S. campaign to secure Bonn's agreement to supply German armed forces for Eisenhower's "Atlantic Pact" army; (2) the threat of a general strike by a million organized Ruhr steel and coal-mining workers which has wrung from Chancellor Adenauer a promise to support a bill granting "co-determination" — 50 per cent representation in management — to the workers in West Germany's steel plants and coal mines.

AID TO CAPITALISTS

Through the demonstrative release of Krupp, chief figure of the German armaments industries, Washington holds out the promise

of great rewards to the German capitalists for their "co-operation" in rearming Germany as an ally of the Western powers and converting their industries into an arsenal for the "West European" army.

But Krupp's release signifies much more. It is intended as a declaration, however symbolic in form, of Washington's support for German capitalist resistance to German labor's pressure for an "equal say" in the control and management of industry.

Wall Street imperialism looks with trepidation on the German labor movement's offensive against capitalist "rights of management." Thus, Earl Bunting, managing director of the National Association of Manufacturers, on Feb. 4 issued to Heinz L. Krekeler, German consul general in New York, a stern warning against "co-determination." Bunting wrote that "American investors are watching the developing situation with increasing concern" and that "if the German economy expects American capital investments . . .

it may find that the existence of a co-determination law is a serious roadblock." Threats as well as "clemency" are being used to stiffen German ruling-class opposition to German labor's demands.

WORKERS' MAIN ENEMY

Bunting's statement helps illuminate the motives behind Washington's moves in Germany, particularly the "act of clemency" toward Krupp, the Ruhr armaments baron. This act, coinciding with the upsurge of the Ruhr workers, indicates that Washington desires to rearm German capitalism first of all against the German working class — the "main enemy." In this, the U.S. capitalist government agrees with the Bonn government of the Krupps, whose Minister of the Interior Dr. Lehr recently told a meeting of German businessmen: "We need an army not merely for defense against the East but also for defense against the excessive wage demands of the trade unions."

Detroit SWP Presents Program on Television

(During the 1950 Detroit election campaign, Howard Lerner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Michigan, was denied equal time on television broadcasts with the Democratic and Republican candidates.)

After protests to the Federal Communications Commission, the Detroit SWP was finally granted a half hour on television station WXYZ in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 28, to present its views on the major questions of the day.

Commenting on the television program, a Militant reader from Detroit wrote: "Watching the faces of comrades and visitors in the SWP hall, viewing the TV program, it was clear why the bosses don't want the ideas of genuine Marxian socialism spread among the millions who listen to radio and watch television."

The program took the form of an interview between Brewster Campbell, Detroit Free Press city editor, and Howard Lerner, spokesman for the SWP. Following is the text of the TV interview:

Basic Party Aims

QUESTION: Would you mind telling the listening audience what the basic aims of your party are?

ANSWER: I have here (exhibits 1948 Election Platform) the essential program of our party as published in 1948. It states: "The Socialist Workers Party alone consistently and unconditionally champions the interests of the workers in their struggles against capitalism. This goal is expressed and concretized in . . . the mobilization of the masses for a Workers and Farmers Government."

"Such a government, based on direct representation from democratically elected councils of workers, farmers, housewives, soldiers, and minority groups, will initiate the reign of real and complete democracy in every sphere of life. It will take over the means of production, expand and coordinate them in a planned economy, and create the conditions for permanent prosperity. Its victory will bring peace and harmony to the United States by doing away with the material cause of class divisions and therefore of class conflicts. The victory of socialism in the most powerful country will serve as an inspiring example to be quickly followed by the rest of the world."

QUESTION: Is what basic ways does your platform differ from that of the Socialist Party?

ANSWER: The Socialist Party of today has nothing in common with Eugene V. Debs' party except the name. It has betrayed his ideas. As counterposed to Debs, it supported the Second World War, whereas Debs went to prison opposing the First World War. We continue in the tradition of Debs by opposing capitalist war.

Debs also opposed capitalist-minded and reactionary union bureaucracy. He fought throughout his socialist career against the conservative and treacherous union leaders. But the Socialist Party of Norman Thomas is cheek by jowl with modern so-called "labor statesmen," who have joined every hack capitalist politician who announces he is a "friend of labor." In this respect, we, too, follow in the tradition of Debs by remaining independent of politicians of the two capitalist parties, the Republican and Democrat.

QUESTION: Are you in favor of the Stalin setup in Russia?

Opposition to Stalinism

ANSWER: We are unambiguous opponents of the Stalin regime in Russia and Stalinism the world over. As a matter of fact, we opposed Stalinism when it was fashionable in liberal circles to extol and whitewash its crimes, when books and moving pictures repeated his lies — for example Davies' book "Mission to Moscow" later made into a movie.

As against monolithic control, we favor the broadest form of workers democracy, rule by the people through freely elected councils, workers' management in industry, and not only a reaffirmation of basic freedoms of the Bill of Rights, but their extension through the achievement of industrial democracy.

We were and continue to be staunch defenders of the Russian Revolution of 1917 which kicked out the landlords, gave land to peasants, kicked out the capitalists and abolished private ownership of the means of production. We think this kind of economic setup constitutes the basis in Russia and the rest of the world for a truly cooperative system.

QUESTION: How do you propose to achieve your aims in the country?

ANSWER: My party supports the views published in the newspaper and magazine. (Displays The Militant and Fourth International). But above all, we will gain support by participating in the labor movement and other progressive movements. By building a political movement — a mass socialist movement. This will occur not primarily because of persuasion, but because the demands of life will push the American people in the direction of our Marxist ideas. This process will win for us the support of the majority of people.

As illustration of what I mean, let's look at industrial unionism. Socialist pioneers such as Debs and Big Bill Haywood advocated industrial unionism for many years. Finally, their ideas were concretized in the creation of the huge CIO. The idea they originally advocated became realized when conditions of life pushed the American workers in that direction.

QUESTION: How do we know that if a socialist government is established in this country, it would be any more democratic than the Stalin government in Russia?

ANSWER: The Stalin dictatorship stems from specific historical conditions. Russia was one of the most backward countries in Europe in 1917. Moreover, the country was devastated and ruined by three years of imperialist war and three or four years of civil

Let the People Vote

QUESTION: What is your party's position in the current war crisis?

ANSWER: We feel that the Korean war was declared in violation of the constitution, which gives Congress the power to declare war, not the President. The fact that he took the power to make war indicates how far the country has drifted toward dictatorship.

Those who must do the fighting and dying should have the right to declare war. The American people should have the right to vote on this question. If elaborate machinery is invoked to elect dog-catchers, certainly it is not too much to ask that the same machinery be invoked to ascertain the people's opinions on war. Were this done in the case of Korea, I feel sure American troops would not now be lying there dead.

I further think that American troops ought to be withdrawn from Korea. Just as we did not want intervention in the American Civil War, we should let the Koreans settle their own problems.

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SWP Spokesman Lerner



HOWARD LERNER

QUESTION: Just what is your background, Mr. Lerner?

ANSWER: I served on the first executive board of Ford Local 600, UAW-CIO, and am a charter member of that local. On the military side, I spent four years in the army — in England, Africa, Italy, France and Germany. Politically, I was candidate for Mayor of Detroit in 1947, and for Governor of Michigan in 1948 and 1950, both times on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

war and foreign intervention. All this made for great scarcity. This was reinforced by a long tradition of primitive backwardness and czarist dictatorship.

Consequent impoverishment of the population, absence of necessary industry and advanced economy on which to begin building a socialist economy almost inevitably pushed to the top a new bureaucratic oligarchy. Since there wasn't enough to go around for all, it became inevitable for a policeman to take over to decide how the inadequate rations were to be distributed. A socialist government in the United States or in any advanced capitalist country would have no such difficulties.

The CIO Economic Outlook (exhibits "Corporate Profits After Taxes") shows the tremendous draining of the American economy by the rich. These polls show profits to be at a new historical high. If profiteers were completely curbed, that is, if capitalists were removed from their positions of power over the economy, living standards could rise. The 84 brands of tooth paste, for instance, could certainly be cut down on. Inefficiency could be eliminated. Corporation attorneys could work in constructive channels, swords could be made into plows, and even atomic energy could be used to benefit and not to destroy mankind.

A socialist America, instead of passing out scarcity, would guarantee a decent living standard to every man, woman and child, and improve it from year to year. That, in addition to the advanced educational and cultural background are guarantees against dictatorship.

Facts About Civil Rights

QUESTION: How do we know that it would be any more democratic than the present government of the United States?

ANSWER: In my opinion the present government is governing less democratically day by day. The country is heading toward a military dictatorship. In the past few years alone, labor has been shackled with a Taft-Hartley Act and numerous state restrictions. Professors, teachers, students are restricted in expressions of loyalty oaths. (Exhibits ACLU pamphlet). I have here a summary of civil liberties conditions in the United States put out by the American Civil Liberties Union, a non-Stalinist and even anti-Stalinist organization as far as its supporters think politically.

As against monolithic control, we favor the broadest form of workers democracy, rule by the people through freely elected councils, workers' management in industry, and not only a reaffirmation of basic freedoms of the Bill of Rights, but their extension through the achievement of industrial democracy.

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Such a government represents the next great advance of the human race in constant fight to lift itself up from barbarism of the past and banish poverty and tyranny in the affairs of man.

QUESTION: What is your opinion of the future of Stalinism?

ANSWER: The Kremlin oligarchy, despite newspaper editorial to the contrary, is in my opinion, not interested in world revolution but is a national bureaucracy interested solely in preservation of its own powers and privileges. It utilizes control over satellite countries to strengthen its own economy and strategic position. It utilizes control over Stalin parties abroad as blackmail to extort concessions. And it attempts to utilize colonial revolution in Asia as pawns of its nefarious game. This does not mean the purposes of the Kremlin and aims of colonial masses to gain freedom are the same. Nor does it mean that the motives of the Kremlin and the aims of advanced workers to abolish capitalism are one and the same.

On the contrary, the Kremlin wants to use progressive movements for its own reactionary purposes. As soon as this is clear to the colonial peoples and to advanced workers of the west, these will break with the Kremlin.

This is not just a theory. We have seen the first big step with the split of the Tito working-class government from Moscow. We have seen Tito oppositionists develop in the labor movement of Western Europe. The export of Moscow Trial and blood purges shows how fearful Stalin is of this growing opposition.

Stalinist expansion thus carries the seeds of its own destruction. Titoism shook the Stalinist structure as no single event since Stalin took power. But Titoism represents a small country of only 15,000,000 people. When a similar event occurs in a larger and more influential country, the whole structure of Stalinism will topple to the ground.

SWP and Union Officers

QUESTION: What is your relation to the official leadership of the AFL and CIO?

ANSWER: We support them when their policies are right and oppose them when their policies are wrong.

It may be a surprise to you that we are the originators of the very idea of an escalator clause to defend the living standards of workers. This program was published by the Socialist Workers before a reactionary Voorhis Act made it impossible to belong to any sort of world grouping. The idea of the escalator clause is embodied in this document containing the program of the Fourth International. This idea is still accepted by the Socialist Workers Party. The gist of the thought is contained in these words, "Against a bounding rise in prices, which with the approach of war will assume an ever more unbridled character, one can fight only under the slogan of a sliding scale of wages. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in prices of consumer goods." The document was written way back in 1939.

Reuther fought against this idea, as did the Stalinists. But no slogan is a magic cure-all. Reuther has inserted it into contracts with low base rates, based on faulty Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, and tied it to five year contracts. Thus, a lot of its power has been lost.

We think that the present labor leadership has become virtually

a pawn of the American ruling class. It supported both world wars the Marshall Plan, the Korean war. As Socialists, we draw a dividing line. Support of imperialism means giving up elementary economic interests of workers, it means acceptance of the wage and man-power freezes, and no-strike pledges.

While we defend unions, we oppose those policies and practices inimical to the interests of union members.

QUESTION: Do you support the union's political campaigns as expressed by the CIO-PAC and the AFL-LLPE?

ANSWER: The idea of organizing labor as an independent group meets our hearty approval. But this has been perverted by labor leaders into supporting the Democratic Party or into voting for "friends of labor."

QUESTION: What is your party's opinion of Truman's domestic policies?

ANSWER: We think Truman is drifting toward the creation of a third world war. We are opposed to this policy.

Besides violating the constitution by going to war without Congressional declaration, he is endeavoring to suppress critics. Executive Order 9835, people are being fired from government jobs — without trial, without the right to face witnesses, without knowing of evidence against them, allegedly because they are "subversive."

Both the AFL and CIO have protested against this trampling upon basic civil rights.

We think his methods are capitalist methods to prepare for war. We oppose shelving of democratic rights as well as basic needs of the people and pushing the country into war.

This doesn't mean we support the Republicans by any means. Their difference with him is only tactical, not basic.

QUESTION: What progress is your organization making in winning the American people to your program?

ANSWER: Our organization was making considerable progress in the years following the war in recruitment, audiences, and support for our ideas in unions. This was epitomized in our ability to conduct a Presidential campaign in 1948. Frankly, we admit this progress slowed down in the last couple of years in the face of the reactionary sweep.

But every witch-hunt so far in American history has temporarily strengthened the forces that he, but finally turned against them. It was thus with those who inspired the Alien Sedition Act of 1798 and those who attained the Dred Scott decision just prior to our Civil War. It was thus with the Palmer raids instituted by Wilson's Attorney General. I predict it will be the same with the present witch-hunt.

SWP Branches Maintain Pace, \$18,000 Fund Is on Schedule

By Reba Aubrey
Fund Campaign Manager

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party collected \$950 during the week on their quotas in the 3-month \$18,000 Organization, Press and Defense Fund. The score-board shows a national total of \$6,920 paid — 38 per cent — and right on schedule at the end of the fifth week.

The comrades of the Youngstown branch decided to get the campaign off to a fast start, borrowed some money, and completed their \$500 quota two and one-half months before the March 31 deadline.

Newark branch, far ahead of schedule with 59 per cent of their \$700 quota, approached the problem in a different way. These comrades heard a rumor about a proposed fund campaign. They got on the ball and started collecting. Their initial payment reached us a month before the campaign was officially launched, and regular weekly payments since that time have completed 59 per cent of their \$700 quota.

Pittsburgh didn't let any grass grow under its feet either. "We thought if we got an early start," wrote Comrade Carl, director of the local campaign, "we might be able to go over our quota — which we aim to do." Pittsburgh has reached the 57 per cent mark.

Frank Powers writes: "Look for Seattle to catch up quick and finish fast."

Comrade Marietta says that Detroit's "payments will be coming in steadily, and we may even go over the top."

A group of Socialist Workers Party supporters in the south sent a contribution of \$132 for the Organization, Press and Defense Fund with this note: "The record on this fund is inspiring and we feel good about being able to do our part."

Should students at the University of Minnesota be permitted to read about socialism? Not if the school authorities and Minneapolis cops have their way. This is clearly the implication of the arrest of Pauline Swanson for distributing America's leading socialist weekly, The Militant, on the campus.

It appears, however, that among the students themselves are some who do not take kindly to this educational method familiarly associated with the late, unlamented author of *Mein Kampf*.

On reading in the daily paper and campus news sheet about the unsavory incident, they came to headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party. "They figured that if the paper was banned from the campus, it must contain some information that was worth reading," writes Pauline. "As a result one of them took a subscription. In addition, since my address was published, I received a card at my home, reading: 'Please send me a copy of the Socialist Workers Party paper, *The Militant*.'

Continued sales in San Francisco require an increase in the bundle order, writes Literature Agent Jane Sebastian. Last Saturday she and Rico sold 20 copies in the Fillmore district in short order.

In Detroit, The Militant and Fourth International came over television nicely when Hy Lerner appeared before the cameras. "During a close-up," reports Shirley Mason, "he held both of them up and we were able to read the headline on The Militant and see Laura Gray's drawing of John L. Lewis on the cover of Fourth International very clearly."

Ruth J. of New Orleans liked the issue reporting American atrocities in Korea. "The impact of that page of quotations was terrific." She also felt that "The news of the reception the paper's getting is pretty wonderful."

S. R. of Schenectady, N. Y. was also glad to hear of the excellent sales record. I've been following the Derrick case through The Militant. The response to these articles not only shows the degree of indignation of the Negro people but also demonstrates that a great many of the community recognize our uncompromising stand in support of the struggle for real equality. The Militant for January 29 came in yesterday. Was terrific on all counts. Read of the case of Carl Skoglund and am enclosing \$2 as a contribution for his defense."

HANSEN TOUR SCHEDULE

Friday	Feb. 23	New Haven	Friday	30	"
Saturday	24	Boston			

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On the Capitalist Madhouse of Europe

"Europe resembles a madhouse. And at first glance it seems as if the inmates themselves are unaware half an hour in advance whose throat they will cut and whom they will next embrace. But in the stormy waves of this chaos one irrefutable lesson is to be discerned — the criminal responsibility of the bourgeois world. Everything now occurring in Europe was prepared for during the past generations by its economic system, its state relations, its system of militarism; by the morality and philosophy of the ruling classes, by the religion of all the priests."

— Leon Trotsky, Order Out of Chaos. 1919

TROTSKY



LENIN

They Defy the People's Will

Washington has made it clear that it intends to continue the sacrifice of American youth in Korea. Now that the U.S. military command has halted the long retreat and has launched its own "limited offensive," the talk is once more of "staying in Korea at all costs."

Last week, it was to be a drive only "up to the 38th Parallel." Now Maj. Gen. John H. Church informs us from the Pentagon that "there is a possibility" that MacArthur will try to carry the offensive beyond the South Korea border. MacArthur himself, declares, "The stake we fight for now is more than Korea. It's a free Asia." His aim is nothing less than the conquest of a whole continent.

This decision of the rulers in Washington to continue and extend the war in Korea brazenly defies the will of the American people. They have expressed themselves unmistakably in their flood of letters to Congress and the newspapers, in country-wide polls, in meetings of mothers' groups. They are overwhelmingly against the U.S. intervention in Korea — Truman's "police action." They want — they are pleading and demanding — that the U.S. troops be withdrawn at once from Korea and brought back home.

Peiping Indicts U.S. Imperialism

On Saturday, Feb. 3 over the Peiping radio Chou En-lai, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, made a formal reply to the resolution which the U.S. imperialists had steamrolled thru the UN labeling Mao Tse-tung's regime as "aggressor." This reply was deliberately underplayed and twisted by the capitalist press, because it was a stinging indictment and at the same time an exposure and a defiance of American imperialism.

Chou disclosed that his government had definitely accepted the Asian-Arab proposal for a cease-fire.

"We made a further statement," said Chou, "that after the convocation of the seven-nation conference, a cease-fire for a limited period can be agreed upon before further negotiations on all related problems." This bears out completely the declarations to the same effect made by Sir Benegal Rau of India on the floor of the UN.

"The United States government," Chou went on to charge, "lost no time in intimidating and coercing representatives of a majority of nations into hurriedly rejecting the resolution for a seven-nation conference." Every word of this is true. So true that T. J. Hamilton, the N. Y. Times reporter at Lake Success, did not even bother to hide it. He wrote

The true sentiment of American mothers was expressed by Mrs. Emmett Stillwell, of Denver, six of whose sons are being taken into the armed forces. "Don't make me out the wonderful patriotic mother," she told reporters. "They're not going because I think it's a patriotic move they ought to make. It's simply that they have to go and there's nothing I can do about it."

And she added what is undoubtedly the feeling not only of mothers, fathers and wives at home, but of the GIs themselves who are doing the fighting and dying: "I wouldn't mind if they were going to defend their own country, but this business in Korea doesn't make sense."

It doesn't make sense to anyone who isn't thinking of conquering foreign territories, of crushing the struggles of colonial peoples for their national independence, of grabbing natural resources, markets and cheap labor power in other lands. But it does make sense to the American imperialists who dream of world conquest to enrich themselves.

These mad criminals will yet kill off hundreds of thousands and millions of American boys unless the people declare in a mighty voice: "Stop the war now! Bring the GIs back home right away!"

Leon Sedov, Symbol of World Socialist Youth

Today the thinking youth of our country, faced with the yawning abyss of another imperialist world war, are groping for a new road toward hope, toward opportunity and a better world. For them there is no better guide than the martyred Leon Sedov, whose name has become a symbol of the revolutionary socialist youth throughout the world.

Leon Sedov was the older son of Natalia Sedov-Trotsky and Leon Trotsky. Only 32 years old at the time of his premature death, he had lived his entire conscious life in the world socialist movement, giving it all his energies and devotion, subordinating in its service all his talents, which were varied, and gifts, which were many.

The GPU, Stalin's secret police, hounded Sedov throughout his youth in the Soviet Union; they stopped at nothing after he voluntarily followed his father and mother into exile in 1928. Laying trap after trap in attempts to murder Sedov, Stalin's hired killers finally succeeded ten years later — on Feb. 16, 1938.

Young Leon, apparently recovering from an operation for appendicitis, was lying helpless in a Paris hospital, when Stalin's assassins struck him down, covering up their traces. When the news of Sedov's sudden death reached Leon Trotsky, then exiled in Mexico, he wrote the stirring tribute: "Leon Sedov — Son, Friend, Fighter." On the thirteenth anniversary of Sedov's death, we find it most appropriate to reprint the following excerpts:

BY LEON TROTSKY

While but a child — he was going on twelve — he had, in his own way made the transition from the February (1917) revolution to that of October (also 1917 in Russia).

CHILD OF THE REVOLUTION

His boyhood passed under high pressure. He added a year to his age so that he might more quickly join the Komsomol (Soviet Communist Youth), seething at that time with all the passion of awakened youth. The young bakers, among whom he carried on his propaganda, would award him a fresh loaf of white bread which he happily brought home under his arm, protruding from the torn sleeve of his jacket. Those were fiery and cold, great and hungry years.

SPURVED PRIVILEGES

Of his own volition Leon left the Kremlin for a proletarian student dormitory, in order not to be any different from the others. He would not ride with us in an automobile, refusing to make use of this privilege of the bureaucrats. But he did participate ardently in all Red Saturdays and other "labor mobilizations," cleaning snow from the Moscow streets, "liquidating" illiteracy, unloading bread and firewood from freight cars, and later, as a polytechnic student, repairing locomotives.

Leon wrote only when he had something to say and when he knew that no one else could say it better. Leon's chief literary work was his book, *The Red Book on the Moscow Trial*, devoted to the Trial of the Sixteen (Zinoviev, Kamenev, Smirnov, et al., Aug. 1936.) It was published in French, Russian and German. At that time my wife and I were captives in Norway, bound hand and foot, targets of the most monstrous slander. There are certain forms

of paralysis in which people see, hear and understand everything but are unable to move a finger to ward off mortal danger. It was to such political paralysis that the Norwegian "Socialist" government subjected us. (*Trygve Lie was one of these "socialist" jailors.* — Ed.) What priceless gift to us, under these conditions, was Leon's book, the first crushing reply to the Kremlin falsifiers. . .

OUTSTANDING FIGURE

Many comrades who were inclined to regard Sedov as merely "Trotsky's son" — just as Karl Liebknecht was long regarded as only the son of Wilhelm Liebknecht — were able to convince themselves, that only from this little book, that he was not only an independent but an outstanding figure. Leon wrote as he did everything else, that is, conscientiously, studying, reflecting, checking. The vanity of authorship was alien to him. At the same time every line he wrote glows with a living flame, whose source was his unfeigned revolutionary temperament.

While still in Prinkipo, Turkey, he became the actual editor of the *Bulletin of the Russian Opposition* from its inception (the middle of 1928), and took complete charge of this work upon his arrival in Berlin (the beginning of 1931), where the *Bulletin* was immediately transferred from Paris. . . The appearance of each issue was a minor event in his life, a minor event which demanded great exertions; making up the issue, polishing the raw material, writing articles, meticulous proofreading, prompt correspondence with friends and collaborators, and, not the least, gathering funds. But how proud he was over each "successful" number!

Material difficulties and privations Leon bore lightly, jokingly,



LEON SEDOV

like a true proletarian; but of course they too left their mark. Infinitely more harrowing were the effects of subsequent moral tortures.

The Moscow Trial of the Sixteen, the monstrous nature of the accusations, the nightmarish testimony of the defendants, among them Smirnov and Mračkovsky, whom Leon so intimately knew and loved; the unexpected interment of his father and mother in Norway, the period of

four months without any news;

the theft of the archives, the mysterious removal of my wife and myself to Mexico; the Second Moscow Trial (Jan. 1937) with its even more delirious accusations and confessions, the disappearance of his brother Sergei, accused of "poisoning workers"; the shooting of countless people who had either been close friends or remained friends to the end; the persecutions and the attempts of the GPU in France, the murder of Reiss in Switzerland, the lies, the baseness, the perfidy, the frame-ups — no, Stalinism was for Leon not an abstract political concept but an endless series of mortal blows and spiritual wounds.

IRREPROACHABLE

Good-bye Leon, good-bye, dear and incomparable friend . . . We bequeath your irreproachable memory to the younger generation of the workers of the world. You will rightly live in the hearts of all those who work, suffer and struggle for a better world.

Revolutionary youth of all countries! Accept from us the memory of our Leon, adopt him as your son — he is worthy of it — and let him henceforth participate invisibly in your battles, since destiny has denied him the happiness of participating in your final victory.

WHY ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS LOVED BY MASSES

By George Lavan

Abraham Lincoln is the most beloved figure in American history. Of all the official heroes only Lincoln has really been taken to the people's heart.

Why do the American people consider Lincoln their own, their special hero? Why does his memory evoke an emotional response as does no other? Why does the Lincoln legend almost approach the Christ legend?

The schoolboy, the man in the street or in the factory, the housewife, when asked Lincoln's achievement, will immediately reply: "He freed the slaves."

This is the overwhelming fact about Lincoln's life. He was the central figure in that titanic struggle of ninety years ago that destroyed slavery with fire and sword.

The common people of today find no class barriers between themselves and an appreciation of Lincoln. Washington's figure looms up cold as marble. The working people accept his greatness on trust but never feel that they really understand what kind of man he was. This is not merely because his day on the stage of history is ninety years further off in time than that of Lincoln.

The distance is far greater. It is the distance from working people to the landed aristocracy. The patrician life of Washington is incomprehensible to a factory worker or farmer of today. Nor do stories of Washington's strict code of honor or his kindness to his slaves bridge the gap. It is an aristocrat's code of honor and the fact that he was a slaveowner comes as a shock. With Lincoln it is just the opposite.

Lincoln and the Lower Classes

Lincoln came from the class of poor farmers whose search for a decent livelihood opened the western territory of the young republic. He had less than one year of formal education.

The story of his quest for education symbolizes the struggle of the lower classes in his period of history for education. To this day it has meaning for the worker who wants his children "to get a better education than I did."

Lincoln's ambition lifted him from the poor farming class into the ranks of the middle class. He was a lawyer and like many of this profession entered politics.

He was never an Abolitionist. He hated slavery as a cruel system but thought that it could be ended only gradually. His opposition to the Abolitionists was based on their program of ending slavery immediately and at any cost. His lawyer's mind was horrified by their defiance of the laws upholding slavery.

Though a political representative of the rising industrial capitalists, his base was the independent farmers of the West and especially the Northwest. Many of these were foreign born. He had won them by his militant attacks on the Know Nothing movement — the political Ku Klux Klan of that period — which tried to divide the people on native-born versus foreign-born lines.

The coming struggle between the North and the slaveocracy developed in the fight over the Western lands. Would they be owned by the free farmers or the slaveowners?

No extension of slavery! This was Lincoln's position in the struggle. This was the platform of the Republican Party newly founded by farmers, workers and industrialists.

Lincoln won his closely contested election for president because of the support of the workers, farmers and foreign born. These considered him one of their own or a close sympathizer of theirs.

His statements on organized labor were the most sympathetic of the leading politicians. In Connecticut, for instance, he referred to a shoemakers strike then in progress, by saying: "I am glad to see that a system of labor prevails in New England under which laborers can strike when they want to, where they are not obliged to labor whether you pay them or not. I like the system which lets a man quit when he wants to, and wish it might prevail everywhere. One of the reasons why I am opposed to slavery is just here."

From the beginning of the war the Abolitionists kept pushing Lincoln from the left. Lincoln was slow and stubborn. No step against slavery was approved until the terrible war had been on for years. Then there was another battle to get the army to accept Negro troops. On each of the many issues Lincoln was slow to move but the all-important fact is that he finally did move in each case.

Lincoln and Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass, that great Negro Abolitionist, tells of an interview with Lincoln during the war. Lincoln greeted him cordially and then mentioned a speech in which Douglass had attacked "the tardy, hesitating, vacillating policy of the President." Lincoln partly admitted the first part of the charge and said: "I am charged with vacillating; but, Mr. Douglass, I do not think that charge can be sustained; I think it cannot be shown that when I have once taken a position, I have ever retreated from it."

This was a key to Lincoln's successful leadership of the Second American Revolution. Starting the war to maintain the union, he moved with the logic of events to emancipation.

When the president-elect was faced with the terrible pressure of the publicly proclaimed intent of South Carolina to secede, he tried every means of conciliation except that of abandoning his program: No extension of slavery.

Those who wish to picture Lincoln as a demi-god usually overestimate the fact that he was a practical politician. For Lincoln obviously believed that the end justified the means — if the needs of progress justified the end, and the means served the end rather than hurt it.

How else explain such practical steps on Lincoln's part as writing to Gen. Sherman in Sept. 1864 to have all Indiana troops furloughed to vote in the crucial state elections there? Sherman complied so well that even the 19th Vermont Volunteers found themselves voting in Indiana.

The admission of Nevada as a state was necessary to insure the ratification of the 13th Amendment. Three more votes in the House of Representatives were lacking to give Nevada statehood. Charles A. Dana tells how he was Lincoln's go-between with certain Northern politicians whose votes were bought by Lincoln's appointment of men they designated to Federal jobs.

Though a war president Lincoln never glorified war or militarism. His democratic and humanitarian attitude endeared him to the mass of the people and to us today. The beauty and simplicity of his writings and speeches indicate his fundamental honesty and closeness to the working people.

This was possible for a middle class leader, still close to the masses, before the rise of monopoly capitalism. But the very war Lincoln led so enriched industrial capitalism and concentrated political power in its hands that in a few decades the emergence of leaders like Lincoln in any movement other than that of the working class had become impossible.

Detroit Public Meeting

to observe

Negro History Week

Socialist Workers Party Hall

6108 Linwood

Sunday Afternoon

February 18 — 3 PM

— Refreshments —

Open House Afterwards

— Admission Free —

Twin Cities Sunday Forum

"The American Workers in World Affairs"

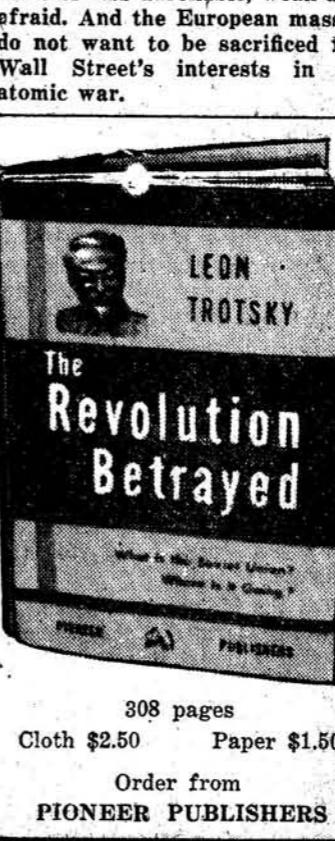
Speaker: V. R. DUNNE

Sunday, Feb. 18 — 3:30 PM

Auspices:

Socialist Workers Party

— Admission Free —



NEED SOCIAL PEACE
The Dutch ruling class is probably afraid of going too far in lowering the people's standard of living by their military effort: After the loss of Indonesia they need "social peace" more than ever. And they have the Belgian example before their eyes: In

Fourteen Years After

By Emmett Moore

On Feb. 11, 1937, a jubilant battalion of sitdowners marched out of the Flint Chevrolet Motor Division of the General Motors Corporation. Their union banners heralded the end of the open shop in the biggest industrial corporation in the world. It opened an epoch of mass unionization of American workers. In swift succession the mightiest trusts were brought to terms by the bold and aggressive actions of an inspired working class. The United Auto Workers from a few-score thousand workers prior to the sitdown strikes has grown until today it is the largest union in America.

Today in the auto centers, Flint, Detroit, Toledo Cleveland, there are only a few thousand workers who participated in these epochal events. A whole new generation of auto workers has entered the industry. These new auto workers must understand the immense experience of the sitdowners of '37.

There were those who said then that industrial unions could never be built in America. This declaration of the auto barons found its echo in the top councils of the AFL. General Motors fortified this concept. Its plants were scattered across the country, near rural areas. GM deliberately hired a high proportion of its employees from rural areas. By this means problems unionization were intensified. The more union-conscious city workers had the task of educating the more backward farmers before a single step forward could be made.

Every spark of revolt was ruthlessly crushed by General Motors, the sole power in small cities. Its control of the press, police departments and city governments strengthened its iron grip on the workers' lives.

Inside the plants, workers went in fear of GM's supervision. Outside, they lived in fear of GM's secret agents who seemed to be everywhere.

A FEW HAD HOPE

Through this dark age a few kept alive the ideas of unionism. This handful were the radicals—Socialists, Stalinists, Trotskyists. They alone believed it was possible to organize industrial unions. Those were the days of secret meetings held in the basement of workers' homes. The blacklist operated openly. *

The GM auto worker is fond of saying that General Motors Corporation "organized" the UAW. By this he means that GM drove the workers to organize by long and frequent periods of layoffs; short periods of work accompanied by inhuman speedup that filled insane asylums with GM workers; the tyranny of management who held the power of life and death and ignored all safety measures that conflicted with increased production.

Today a million organized workers confront the auto corporations, truly a gigantic leap forward. To accomplish this they resorted to the revolutionary weapon of the sitdown. With one dramatic strike they inspired workers across the country to begin the forward march of unionization. Above all they showed how it could be done. They countered every move of the corporation with revolutionary union defensive measures. Mass picket lines and flying squads were established; wives and mothers organized in fighting women's

auxiliaries. GM's courts and injunctions were defied.

Today, sitting complacently in his plush office, the union bureaucrat is satisfied with things as they are. Not so the auto worker. While he has higher wages, vacation pay, a pension at the age of 65, if he lives that long, and union recognition, he knows that GM is still master of the house.

FACTORY IS STILL A PRISON

The GM worker spends third of his day in a factory that to him is like a prison. When the gate closes behind him he leaves his rights outside. Small as well as large abuses irk him. After 14 years the auto worker still works on the line like a jack rabbit. His youth is rapidly ground away by grueling labor and all too soon he is too old for the assembly line.

These GM workers are trying to think this problem through. In 1937, they gained their biggest victory with an infant union.

But now, with all the advantages of big organization, substantial treasures and rich experience, they are not obtaining fundamental changes or even maintaining past gains. Taxes cut deeply into wages already falling behind the rising cost of living.

The speedup that was ended in 1937 by quickie stoppages is today a plague in all GM plants. What holds in check the auto union's great power? Certainly, the workers have no fear of General Motors, the courts, or the government. They showed this in the struggles of 1937 and 1946.

But the militancy of their union is being throttled by a timid and weak leadership. The Reuther leadership talks like the wind waving through the leaves at the top of the tree that never shakes the roots. The leaders are deathly afraid of GM. They see its power in 100 plants across the country. They see its huge treasures, its controlled newspapers, its radio propagandists. They know it is interlocked with the government in Washington in a thousand different ways.

The UAW leaders are aware that a fundamental struggle over basic issues will provoke an economic and political crisis of vast scope. This is what they want to avoid.

A NEW LEADERSHIP

Already groups of militant GM workers have come to understand the nub of the problem. Their answer is a new leadership with the courage and ability to live up to the new tasks.

Do the UAW leaders think they can hold back the tide like the AFL did in the old days? They will try. They never seem to learn. Men of a small mold will do desperate things to hang on to their soft life, their power and their prestige.

There are greater forces at work than the labor fakers. The action of government moving towards world conquest and the policies of the corporation are preparing for a new explosion of the auto workers.

Those who believe in this perspective and prepare for it number no more than a few thousand. No more than those who believed industrial unions could be built in 1937. They are no less inspired, no less confident that their goal of a new leadership can be obtained because they know that from little acorns mighty oak trees grow.

THE MILITANT

VOLUME XV

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NUMBER 7

V. R. Dunne Speech Backs Rail Strikers

By Harold Kent

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 4—The second Sunday Forum in the present series heard V. R. Dunne castigate the arrogant railroad coupon clippers for provoking the present "sickness" among the nation's switchmen. Dunne linked the struggle of BRT men to the struggles of the European workers for peace, bread and freedom. The enemy is the same in both cases—U.S. imperialism.

"The railroad workers are really sick, all right," said Dunne. "They're sick and tired of being pushed around by their own union officials and the government bureaucrats in Washington."

"The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen give the lie to the wiseacre theory that the workers are dumb. With the railroad owners, the government and their own union officials against them, the switchmen devised their own strategy of struggle. It is this resourcefulness," said Dunne, "that strikes fear into the hearts of the bosses. We can be sure that the American workers will have the last word to say about Wall Street's plans for world domination."

U.S. MUST HAVE WAR

"But U.S. imperialism must go ahead with its plans. If it cannot expand outward to include the whole world as its oyster, U.S. capitalism must grind to a halt. They add up to 57 per cent! They are... making more money than at any time in their history."

All this thanks to Truman, who appointed railroad officials to the rank of colonel to administer the heavy government "seizure."

Kennedy and the other heads of the operating brotherhoods begged Truman to "seize" the lines. Now the workers are reaping the "benefits" of capitalist government control.

Not only do the rail workers have a grievance on wages, but they are among the few organized workers who work over 40 hours a week without overtime pay.

"Our men are the 40-hour week and two pay rounds behind—and inflation is way ahead," Kennedy stated Jan. 29. He should have added... because of the weakness of union leadership and the strike-breaking of President Truman.

THE UNION LEADERS

The railroad union leaders have taught the membership for a long period of years to put their faith in government boards and "friends" in Washington. They have kept the union weak and divided. They have never led a



AFL Pres. William Green gets together with Labor Sec. Maurice J. Tobin (left) at Miami Beach in the course of AFL executive council session. Green is anxious to get more labor representation on the Wage Stabilization Board.

RAILROAD LABOR FIGHTS FOR A LIVING WAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

united fight. That is the real reason the rail workers are behind the rest of organized labor on basic conditions.

The leaders of the AFL and CIO have not rallied to the cause of the railroad workers. Instead of backing up rail labor they are busy preparing to lace the whole union movement in the strait jacket of the Wage Stabilization Board, a bigger model of the Railroad Labor Act's stalling arbitration machinery and designed to give all workers the same runaround now being suffered by the rail workers.

Truman and the rail barons are trying to use the Korean war to jam an unfair, dirty deal down the throats of the railroad workers. If they succeed it will be a blow to all labor.

Labor cannot allow the rail strike to be broken. Unionists everywhere should rally to the trainmen. Their fight is every workers' fight.

DISCUSS THE WAR

"It is incumbent upon Merriam to publicly discuss the war question. His refusal to do so and his attempt to hide under the cover of local issues would serve to expose his alliance with the Truman war program, a program that threatens us all with atomic destruction."

Beinin, drawing attention to the well known fact that Merriam is regarded as the protege of "Drop the bomb now" Douglas

Chicago Socialist Challenges Dem. To War Debate

CHICAGO, Feb. 5—Irv Beinin, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Alderman in the Fifth Ward today challenged his Democratic opponent, Alderman Merriam to a public debate on the issues in the campaign.

In his challenge, Beinin pointed out that the campaign for Alderman in the Fifth Ward is unlike that of any other Aldermanic campaign in Chicago today.

GOLD DUST TWINS

Drawing attention to the fact that there is no Republican opposition to Merriam, Beinin stated, "The support of Republicans are giving to Merriam by not entering a candidate against him is a typical example of horse trading in Chicago in politics today. It confirms the fact, as every voter has long known, that there exist no important marks of distinction between the Democrats and the Republicans. These two pro-war parties are the Gold Dust twins of capitalism and the differences between them revolve more around the question of patronage than the vital question of program."

Pointing out that he speaks for the Socialist Workers Party, Beinin stated, "I am campaigning primarily as an anti-war candidate. This is in direct contrast to Merriam's attempt to smuggle in his pro-war position through mealy-mouthed phrases about 'Chicago's preparedness,' and then to confine the campaign to 'local' issues of a secondary nature. The people in the Fifth Ward have a right to fully and clearly understand the contrast in our programs. The democratic way to extend this right of full information to the citizens would be to call a public assembly of the voters to hear, in debate, the programs of the two candidates presented in an atmosphere of free discussion."

"Through my candidacy we intend to provide the growing anti-war sentiment with a means of expression. We shall provide the voters in the Fifth Ward with the opportunity to demonstrate their opposition to the needless, brutal devastation of the Korean land and the killing of thousands of innocent American and Korean soldiers."

Beinin concluded, "I intend to call a spade a spade. Let the liberal Merriam agree to publicly debate me and defend his program. The Socialist Workers Party, in this campaign is determined to demonstrate to the citizens in the Fifth Ward that the main issue confronting everyone today is that of atomic destruction or the building of a socialist society."



IRVING BEININ

further stated, "Merriam, whose main concern in this campaign is his own personal political ambition, would not dare to inject the war issue into the campaign, because his political future depends on the good favor of the very gang in Washington that is pushing the American people into war. Merriam is engaged in a conspiracy of all issues. It is precisely that conspiracy that the Socialist Workers Party is determined to bring to the full public attention."

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NEWARK CIO PROTESTS VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES BY POLICE

NEWARK, N. J. — Feb. 5 — Police violations of civil rights have become so flagrant during the past few months that the Essex-West Hudson CIO Council decided

that it must take a stand against them. Joel R. Jacobson, Executive Secretary of the Council, appeared before the Newark Civil Rights Commission to present charges against Newark municipal officials who "are daily encouraging the violations of civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution."

The specific charges brought before the Commission were: 1. A member of the Socialist Labor Party was arrested for distributing literature in a downtown area. He was found guilty of violating an old law prohibiting distribution of any but religious literature in a downtown area without permit; dismissed of the magistrate who is summarily finding guilty all minority groups brought before him; repeat of the McCarran Law. With such an active campaign there might be a chance of impressing the Commission with sympathetic leaflet to a meeting of AFL Insurance Workers meeting in a hall in downtown Newark. 3. A church service was interrupted and disrupted when police barged in and arrested a man.

In addition to these cases, Jacobson, in a personal interview, cited the arrest of peaceful picketers and their rough handling by the police. There was also an attempt to refuse the OP permission to hold a public meeting in January. So far, the police have not tried to enforce the bar against distributing literature in a downtown area against the CIO, but they were told by a clerk in the Police Chief's office that they would need a permit for their distributions. They distributed a leaflet a few months ago without such a permit.

Some of the demands which should be raised in this campaign are: Repeal of the ancient law prohibiting distribution of any but religious literature in a downtown area without permit; dismissals of the magistrate who is summarily finding guilty all minority groups brought before him; repeat of the McCarran Law. With such an active campaign there might be a chance of impressing the Commission with sympathetic leaflet to a meeting of AFL Insurance Workers meeting in a hall in downtown Newark. 3. A church service was interrupted and disrupted when police barged in and arrested a man.

They escorted me outside and into a squad car. A deputy from the University's department of protection and investigation drove up and I was transferred to his car. He took me to see Mr. C. B. Hanscom, chief of the department.

They questioned me at some length. Mr. Hanscom asked for identification. I produced my driver's license and he copied down the information.

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Readers Forum

Campus Police Arrest Reader

Editor: On the afternoon of February 1, I went to the University of Minnesota campus to distribute *The Militant*. As it was 10 below zero, I stood inside Nichols Hall.

After I had disposed of eight or nine copies, two burly cops approached me and asked to see the paper. "You're the one we're looking for," said one. "Come with us."

They escorted me outside and into a squad car. A deputy from the University's department of protection and investigation drove up and I was transferred to his car. He took me to see Mr. C. B. Hanscom, chief of the department.

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Truman's "Soak-the-Poor" Taxes

(Continued from Page 1)

program. The 82nd Congress is not less sympathetic to the pro-

taxable income, every taxpayer will pay \$4 a year more taxes than before. The increase will thus apply "equally" to rich and poor, much in the manner of that "equality," described by the French writer Anatole France, which forbade rich and poor "alike" to sleep under the Seine bridges.

The present rate of 20 per cent on the first \$2,000 of taxable income would go up to 24 per cent; the 22 per cent on the next \$2,000, to 26 per cent; and so on up the scale. But as the Feb. 26 N. Y. Times points out, "This would amount to a 20 per cent increase in the taxes of persons whose entire income falls in the first bracket, ranging downward to about 3½ per cent for those with incomes of a \$1,000,000."

And this is just the start. The budget of \$71.6 billion he has submitted to Congress, Truman will have to ask for a further \$6.5 billion in a few months. Snyder, in presenting the tax program to Congress, said that taxes may have to be increased even more than \$16.5 billion this year "if our defense program develops as rapidly as is desirable" and that this program will have to be maintained "over a long period of time."

Actually, federal spending for the coming fiscal year, starting next July 1, will reach close to the World War II peak of \$98 billion because of contract authorizations which Truman did not see fit to include in his budget. This colossal expenditure will devour more than a third of the anticipated national income. If we add the \$21 billion in state and local taxes, the grand total will take more than 40 cents out of every dollar of income.

Less than 10 per cent of federal expenditures will go for "non-defense" costs, which include all regular functions of government as well as all social security and welfare programs.

About 90 per cent of federal spending will go for the costs of war, past, present and future.

The proposed "selective" sales taxes would boost prices on hundreds of articles from 15 to 50 per cent. These include beer, and other liquors, cigarettes, gasoline, automobiles, electrical household appliances, refrigerators and washing machines, oil and gas appliances, radios and TV sets, phonographs, records

and musical instruments, toilet preparations, watches and alarm clocks, etc.

The rich, who spend only a small percentage of their incomes even with their fantastically luxurious scale of living, already have an abundance of the things included in the proposed excise taxes list. Those in the lower-income brackets will have to pay these taxes—or do without many things that are essential to the American standard of living.