

UAW Convention Faces Issue Of Political Crisis

All Questions Lead to Washington; Only Answer Is Labor's Own Party

By Joseph Andrews

Delegates to the 13th annual CIO United Auto Workers convention which convenes April 1 to 5 in Cleveland, meet at a time of political crisis for the American labor movement. They will weigh problems which involve no less than the whole future of the working class.

THE MAJOR ISSUE

The major question before the convention is this: how to protect the living standards, working conditions and organizations of labor against the Big Business-dictated policies of the Truman administration.

When the United Labor Policy Committee split with the Wage Stabilization Board, and then with all the war mobilization agencies, the labor leaders took a big step forward. Labor cannot fight against the wage freeze, runaway prices, soak-the-poor taxes, uncontrolled rent increases, threatened conscription of labor, inadequate housing, and government strikebreaking, while the union leaders serve as window-dressing for the Truman-Wilson anti-labor program.

The convening of a national labor conference of AFL, CIO and independent unions, lacking though it was in rank and file representation, was nevertheless a progressive step toward mobilizing the powerful forces of labor against the Big Business-government offensive.

But the break with government agencies and the labor conference in Washington still do not answer the question: where do we go from here?

It is necessary to face two facts squarely and to draw the correct conclusions.

MAIN PROBLEMS POLITICAL

First, the economic position of labor can no longer be protected by pure and simple trade union methods. Gains made in struggle against the corporations are stolen from the workers by legislation and executive rulings in Washington. The greatest dangers to the workers are the destruction of their living standards and the weakening of the unions themselves, through the political domination of Big Business.

These are political issues. They can only be fought on the political plane.

Second, labor does not have a single genuine spokesman in Congress. Truman's 1948 "Fair Deal" promises have all been betrayed. Congress is completely

dominated by anti-labor elements. Truman's executive agencies are packed with corporation executives and financiers.

Thus, at the very time when all of labor's problems lead to Washington, the unions have no independent political voice. That is the end result, today so clearly demonstrated, of the policy of depending upon Democrat and Republican "friends of labor."

A LABOR PARTY

The burning need is the formation of an independent labor party, which can mobilize the potentially gigantic political strength of the working class.

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Howard Lerner Runs for Michigan Board of Regents

DETROIT — Howard Lerner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Regent of the University of Michigan, spoke March 18 at Budd local 306, Turnstedt Unit of local 174, and Dodge local 3, of the UAW-CIO. In his speech Lerner supported the recent labor walkout from the Wage Stabilization Board and its criticism of the "legalized robbery" being perpetrated upon the American workers.

"Hand in hand with legal and illegal blackjacking of American workers," Lerner said, "has come a usurpation of democratic rights. Who has forgotten how war was started in violation of the constitution — which declares war, this not only violates the law, but tramples upon the sentiments of the people."

AGAINST KOREAN WAR

A recent public opinion poll showed that the great majority of Detroiters were against the Korean war and favored immediate withdrawal of troops.

The audiences at the local union meetings listened intently as Comrade Lerner said, "As regent of the University of Michigan I would teach the youth the basic right of American citizens to decide whether the country should go to war or not."

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Workers of the World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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United Labor Parley Blasts Profiteer-Rule in Washington

AUTO WORKERS CAN SHOW THE WAY

An Editorial

Delegates to the United Automobile Workers Cleveland convention should carefully estimate the run-off election results at Ford Local 600.

Joe Hogan, running for this local presidency for the first time, campaigned on a program whose two main points were: 1. End the Korean war. 2. Build a labor party. Against a well-oiled machine backed by the International officers, Hogan received 16,188 votes to incumbent Carl Stellato's 16,664. Only 239 votes determined Stellato's hairline victory.

The secret of Hogan's surprisingly strong showing is his program, which expresses both the needs and the wishes of the rank and file.

One out of two Ford workers showed he understands the connection between "Operation Slaughter" against the Korean people and "Operation Big Steal" against the American people. Big Business is behind both. It profits from both.

The Korean war was initiated without consultation of the Congress or the consent of the American people. Every poll recently conducted shows that the great majority want to stop the Korean war now, want the troops brought home.

American workers and the majority of the middle class on fixed incomes, are all suffering the consequences of the Truman-Wilson program preparing for all-out war is aimed at unloading the ever-increasing costs of militarization upon the backs of the people.

If labor wants to lead, as it must, the struggle of the people against the costs of war, it must oppose the war itself. The best means of expressing these anti-war sentiments is the demand for a national referendum on the use of U.S. troops on foreign fields. This demand would rally tens of millions behind labor. Let the people decide on the issue of peace and war.

A Program of Action

But a slogan alone is not enough. To show that labor is serious, concrete actions must be taken to give political leadership to the vast majority who oppose the Wall Street dominated administration and Congress program.

This requires an independent labor party — a demand which the Ford workers demonstrated in their recent election is one that will inspire the rank and file.

Mobilized on the political field as an independent force, armed with a militant anti-war program, labor could emerge as the undisputed leader of the American common people against the Big Business war lords.

This is the way to stop inflation, prevent unbridled profiteering, protect living standards and defend free labor from the threatened regimentation by the big brass and anti-labor politicians who dominate both the Democrat and Republican parties.

The auto workers can show the way!

It is time to speak out boldly.

For a national referendum on peace and war! For an independent labor party!



Mazey Hits Cover-up of Truman's Role

By George Lavan

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 21 — American Labor met here today in unity and delivered a condemnation of Big Business control of government unprecedented in U.S. history. At the United Labor Conference were seven hundred delegates, from city and state organizations and international unions of the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the rail unions and the Machinists — practically all organized labor except the United Mine Workers and the operating rail unions. The conference voiced its unanimous determination to break the monopoly control by the corporations of the mobilization program.

INSPIRED BY UNITY

Delegates were obviously delighted with the AFL-CIO solidarity in the present struggle. They were not seated by organization but intermingled throughout the great auditorium. Every reference by speakers to the historic significance of the united meeting — the first since 1935 when labor split on AFL and CIO lines — evoked genuine enthusiasm.

Highlights of the conference were speeches by UAW International Secretary-Treasurer Emil Mazey, and by Ed Wells of the Knoxville, Tennessee Central Labor Union.

BLAMES TRUMAN

"One phase of the problem has not been adequately covered here today," Mazey said. "Truman was elected on a fair deal program — I respectfully submit that the president has made but feeble attempts to put that program into effect. And we are getting a raw deal today. Truman has the responsibility of removing C. E. Wilson. The President can't escape his share of responsibility for the mess today."

Today's radicals, he said, are fighting the outmoded social system of capitalism. As long as it exists, we will continue to have depressions, wars and fascism."

GROWTH OF McCARTHYISM

Hansen said that psychiatrists would advise us to humor the type of mentality represented by Child and McCarthy. "But we can't do that now," he said, "because that type of mentality is dominating our government at the present time. The power of the McCarthys is growing bigger and bigger."

Hansen traced the dangerous

(Continued on Page 2)

Joseph Hansen Flails Minnesota McCarthyite

By Harold Kent

MINNEAPOLIS, March 14 —

A forum featuring Joseph Hansen and State Senator Fay Child was held on the University of

Minnesota campus today. Before

a large and interested audience

the representative of scientific

socialism and Minnesota's own

version of Senator Joe McCarthy

took up the cudgels over "The

Trend of Radical Thought in

America." The spokesman for so

cialism carried off all the honors.

The audience laughed when Child reiterated all the absurd charges made by Senator Joe McCarthy that the Truman administration is harboring "radicals" in top government posts. Child named Sidney Hillman as the one man most responsible for this development. He named Frankfurter, Keyserling, Acheson and others as "radicals" leading the country toward socialism.

Child then trained his guns on "radical influence" on the campus. He named Izaak M. Kolthoff, chief of analytical chemistry, as one of the radicals, because Kolthoff has lent his support to the defense of civil liberties.

LITTLE SYMPATHY

Child, who is a renegade from the Farmer-Labor party, is making a frenzied attempt to blot out his "past" and to prove that he is the best red-baiter in the business. His witch-hunting found little sympathy among the students.

Brewer adds in another dispatch that "basically, the Barcelona situation has not changed... all the causes of the crisis remain... there is bound to be further trouble... the next time it may well be more serious."

One fact of greatest significance is that Franco did not dare to call out regular army troops. The commander in the area "confined his troops to their barracks saying the two-day strike was not an army matter," reported the Associated Press. Instead Franco had to send special marines in five warships and 13,000 special police and Civil Guards by train and plane to Barcelona from hundreds of miles away. It is evident that Franco does not consider his army conscripts reliable.

This bears out a report made almost two months ago, on Jan. 27, by C. L. Sulzberger, chief foreign correspondent of the N. Y. Times. He revealed "unrest is growing in Spain's Army because of... low pay and rising prices" and that "an important Spanish general" said "that he could not be sure of the Army's loyalty if full mobilization involving all elements of the population were to be ordered."

GREETED BY SILENCE

"Instead, the advancing UN soldiers were greeted with silence by sullen and resentful knots of people who were tired of the war and of constant 'liberation' and who in many cases would even prefer Communist domination to the destruction and misery which have been their constant lot for more than eight months."

Throughout the business and government quarters, Walker adds, "there is an atmosphere of gloom and depression which deprives the reconquering UN armies of any sense of victory or worthwhile achievement."

"At the Capitol's main gate a group of Korean children stood around watching an occasional jeep go past. But there were no shouts of welcome, no 'Welcome United Nations' placards and no Republic of South Korea flags. An aged, wrinkled woman in tatters of a national dress wept openly as she combed through the pile of brick and charred wood which once belonged to a home.

"Asked why she wept, she replied in broken Japanese that she supposed she was grateful for liberation once again. She looked out over the ruins of the city and sighed: 'But we can't understand why liberation always means more destruction, more hunger and more misery.'

"To this, the Knoxville delegate belligerently shouted back: 'So what? Are you a Republican?'"

A Declaration of Principles, presented to the conference and unanimously adopted, states: "We are shocked by the cruel disregard being shown for the interests of every-day American families. We are shocked by the privilege and favoritism bestowed upon a single group."

"This special privilege is apparent for all to see in the ineffective price control program, in the tight wage freeze, in credit controls, in the deterioration of rent control, in the misdirection of civilian manpower authority."

(Continued on page 3)

Barcelona--Foreshadow of Franco's Doom

By Art Preis



A view of cobble-strewn street intersection Barcelona, Spain, just after fascist police killed two demonstrators during general strike on March 12.

—Wide World Photo.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
Under conditions of fascism in Spain, where the workers have lived for 12 years under the most brutal armed terrorism and repression, the Barcelona uprising has the greatest revolutionary implications. It reveals that the spirit of revolt has become so widespread and reached such a pitch that it dares to break into the open and that Dictator Franco's repressive apparatus has been cracked and weakened.

It is these very facts which have inspired a semi-blackout of the news about Barcelona in most of the U.S. press. The Truman administration and its State Department don't want the American people to know what is going on in Spain at the very moment Washington resumes "cordial" diplomatic relations with Bloody Franco, pours millions of our money into his coffers and tries to sell the American people on the "need" to make fascist Spain a pillar of U.S. imperialism's Atlantic Pact military machine.

The Militant, which headlined the Barcelona struggle last week, has since received reports from

various parts of the country that many newspapers did not carry a line about the Barcelona strike or, at most, a buried paragraph or two. We are indebted to Sam Pope Brewer, N. Y. Times correspondent, for most of the available information.

FRANCO RETREATS

Brewer reports from Spain that from crushing the Barcelona workers, Franco has been forced to make concessions. Originally, the Franco government had announced that all strikers would be fined and all those arrested, numbering more than a thousand, would be fired, if not sent to prison. Under threat of renewed

A further concession to the

demands of the workers was Franco's order for the removal of the civil Governor of the province, Eduardo Baeza, whom the workers held responsible for the killing of three demonstrators and the injury to many others when Baeza sent his police to shoot and club them.

No fascist dictator can afford to make concessions under the pressure of the masses. Every such concession, even the smallest, emboldens the workers.

MOST SERIOUS BLOW

Brewer describes the Barcelona

strike as "the most serious blow

that the Franco regime has had to

face since the civil war ended

itself. The advancing UN soldiers were greeted with silence by sullen and resentful knots of people who were tired of the war and of constant "liberation" and who in many cases would even prefer Communist domination to the destruction and misery which have been their constant lot for more than eight months.

Without a reliable army, Franco is vulnerable. The masses know it. The days of his regime are numbered. Only Washington's aid in money and arms can prolong his evil, brutal rule.

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Yugoslavia's Foreign Policy -- IV

Stalin's 'Socialism in One Country'

By John G. Wright

The material basis of Stalinism lies in the emergence and rise to power in the Soviet Union of a huge privileged bureaucratic caste, in deed and spirit Great-Russian, despotic and anti-socialist through and through. The Yugoslav leaders recognize this. But they shut their eyes to the specific network of ideas which corresponds to this bureaucratic structure and which is wrapped up in the so-called "theory" of socialism in one country.

What blinds the Yugoslav Communists is that their own leaders themselves still cling to the illusory reactionary goal of building socialism within the confines of Yugoslavia, just as they keep clinging to the Stalinist conception of a "monolithic" party.

But without a clear understanding of the role and nature of Stalin's theory of socialism in one country, it is impossible either to understand what gave rise to the parasitic Stalinist bureaucracy or to combat it effectively.

Nothing is falser than the view that the Stalinist bureaucracy was able to intrench itself and to remain in the seats of power by force alone. Like every bureaucracy, Stalinism had first to forge fetters for the human mind, to shackle the social consciousness of the Soviet masses by deceptions and lies.

STALINIST DECEPTIONS

What are these chief deceptions of which the Stalinist web of ideas is woven?

First, to build "socialism in one country" is to lull the people with the illusion that the revolution has been wholly completed. And this, mind you, in the days of imperialism when the whole global economy is under the thumb of capitalist monopolists.

Second, to promise "socialism in one country" is to maintain that the social conflicts at home and abroad will keep growing ever softer. When a workers' revolution is confined to one country, just the reverse takes place, as the decades of the USSR under Stalin have demonstrated to the hilt. The experience of Yugoslavia cannot be different.

Third, that the peasantry will somehow gradually grow into socialism. The Belgrade leaders are deluding themselves on this score just as the Soviet bureaucracy did in the middle Twenties. The decades of struggle against the ever-recurring "kulak danger" under Stalin hold a lesson which Belgrade has yet to assimilate. At all events, for a country so vulnerable and so overwhelmingly peasant and agricultural as Yugoslavia, the illusion of the peasantry growing peacefully into socialism is dangerous in a very immediate sense.

And finally, the fourth deception or self-deception, namely, that regardless of what takes place in the rest of the world, the domestic development can nevertheless preserve a peaceful and planned character. Surely, the experience of Yugoslavia, let alone that of the USSR, should make the Yugoslav leaders hesitate before continuing so blindly on the road Stalin has travelled before them.

RESULTS OF BAD THEORY

This by no means exhausts the deceptions and fatal consequences of Stalin's super-Utopian and super-reactionary "theory" of constructing a socialist society in an isolated country. It has led to socialism neither inside the USSR nor anywhere else. How can this selfsame course lead to socialism in Yugoslavia?

Stalin's brain-child of an isolated "socialist paradise" has resulted in the conversion of Stalinism into a mortal foe of

TWO OPPOSITE VIEWS

General Ridgway, 8th Army commander and field leader of the U.S. forces in Korea, has made a statement interpreted to be at variance with MacArthur's views.

He said that if the war ended with the U.S. in control up to the Parallel, it would be a "tremendous victory for the United Nations. . . We didn't set out to conquer China. We set out to stop communism. . . If China fails to throw us into the sea, that's a defeat for her of incalculable proportions."

This is an advance alibi in the event military setbacks prevent the U.S. command from carrying its campaign back into North Korea. China did not enter the conflict until late in November when the U.S. army was poised on her border. The conquest of all Korea was the original objective of the U.S. campaign.

GIs Lose Taste For Ice Cream

GIs who remain in Korea after May have been promised that ice cream will be added to their rations, reports a N.Y. Times dispatch from 8th Army headquarters. It adds: "Four enlisted men, asked what they thought of the project for having ice cream in Korea as a reward for remaining here until May, did not sound enthusiastic. Said one soldier: 'I'd rather take my chance on eating rat poison in the worst part of the States if I had the choice.'

the international workers' revolution, into an agency of imperialism within the world labor movement. This, too, has escaped the notice of the Yugoslav Communists who in their struggle against these agents of imperialism overlook or play down the imperialist principals.

But the irony of it is that the Yugoslav leaders apparently sincerely believe they can and are building socialism in Yugoslavia. Stalin never believed that socialism could be or was being built in the USSR. On this score, there was no self-deception on his part, any more that there is today in his brazen proclamations that the "transition to Communism" is being achieved in the Soviet Union.

For as late as April 1924, Stalin wrote in his compilation of articles *The Foundations of Leninism* the following:

"For the overthrow of the bourgeoisie the efforts of one

country are enough — to this the history of our own revolution testifies. For the final victory of socialism, for the organization of socialist production, the efforts of one country, especially a peasant country like ours, are not enough — for this we must have the efforts of the proletarians of several advanced countries." Lenin was then only three months dead.

But a little later, in the autumn of 1924, Stalin needed and used the promise of an isolated "socialist paradise" to club down all opposition to the rule of the bureaucracy he heads. He has used it since as a cover for all his subsequent domestic and foreign policies opportunistically designed to protect the interests, privileges and power of the Soviet bureaucracy.

OPPORTUNISM

Stalin's big lie of "socialism in one country" has all the seeds

of opportunism implanted in it. This is not a matter of hindsight.

Back in 1924 Leon Trotsky, heading the genuine Leninist wing of the Russian party at the time, warned that Stalin's line of "socialism in one country" could lead only to opportunism, as it has. The gist of opportunism, as Lenin pointed out repeatedly, is the attempt to derive a program for the workers from the actual or imaginary conditions and tendencies within the narrow national framework.

The real aim of opportunism is to preserve and perpetuate for the labor bureaucracy and aristocracy the powers and privileges it enjoys in a given country, for the sake of which it ruthlessly subordinates everything else.

Just the opposite is the gist of the genuine socialist program. It is always a global one, economically and politically. Hence the international essence of Leninism;

hence its spirit of international solidarity.

Moreover, as the economics of imperialism have fully disclosed, private property is not the only fetter on the expansion of the productive forces. So are the national boundaries, the historic framework within which capitalist property has unfolded. The one is just as reactionary as the other.

The Yugoslav Communist leaders show national narrow-mindedness when they limit their horizons to the defense of Yugoslavia.

national frontiers against the threat of Stalinism, and ignore the global reality of imperialism. By clinging to the illusion that they can build socialism in Yugoslavia without the aid of at least several advanced countries, they are repeating in their present foreign policy, in their own way and under new conditions, the opportunist course Stalin himself did not dare enter until after Lenin died.

Hansen Flails McCarthyite In Minnesota

(Continued from Page 1) growth of the police state in America. Starting with the loyalty purges in 1945 against government employees, he showed how thought-control was next introduced into industry, and finally to institutions of higher learning. The culmination of this sinister development, Hansen stated, was the passage of the McCarran-King bill. "For the first time in American history," he said, "concentration camps have been legalized."

Drawing a parallel between the Mikado's theory of "dangerous thoughts" and the McCarran-King thought-control bill, Hansen declared: "We must defend the democratic rights of all political parties no matter how unpopular their views may be!" Loud applause greeted the speaker.

Hansen concluded that to assure these rights it is necessary to introduce a workers' and farmers' government: "Then we can assure world peace and really build world worth living in."

The meeting, sponsored by the Student Group for Political Analysis, was held on the same campus where only a month ago the *Militant* was banned. In fact, *Militant* distributors had brisk sales before the doors of the auditorium.

Hansen Speaks at Minneapolis Forum

MINNEAPOLIS, March 18 — Pointing to socialism as the only way out for a war-torn world, Joseph Hansen, Business Manager of the *Militant* and Fourth International, declared in a talk here Friday night that America is rearming because the American ruling class fears revolution.

"The real conspiracy today is that of the American ruling class to plunge America into a Third World War — not to make the world safe for democracy, but to make it safe for America's '60 families' and their profit-making," he continued.

There can be no peace or justice in Korea so long as the Korean people are not free to decide their own fate. They did not ask and have never welcomed U.S. intervention. They are fighting for national independence, for land reforms and basic social improvements against all foreign imperialist oppression, as well as the exploitation of their own capitalists and landlords. That was the fundamental issue in the civil war between North and South Korean regimes; that will remain the fundamental issue in any "peace" that leaves Korea the stamping ground of foreign occupiers.

Fund Payments Up to Schedule; 2 Weeks to Go

By Reba Aubrey
Fund Campaign Manager

With the looming deadline only two weeks away, branches of the Socialist Workers Party have put the Organization, Press and Defense Fund right on schedule. Their payments this week totaled \$2,344. Through March 20 the grand total paid is \$15,214. This is 85% of the \$18,000 national quota assigned in the campaign — precisely what the schedule calls for at this point. That's calling the shot.

If this pace is held for the remaining two weeks of the campaign, the goal of the \$18,000 fund will be reached. But we will not consider the campaign a complete 100% success unless each and every branch is paid in full by the deadline, March 31.

The scoreboard shows that four more branches hit the goal line this week — Milwaukee, Buffalo, St. Paul-Minneapolis and Seattle — making a total of eight branches with 100% or better.

Comrade George of Milwaukee tells us how they went over the top to 110%. Comrade Hansen's national speaking tour meeting here was very successful. During the collection many of our members paid up their fund pledges and several exceeded their pledges. Sympathizers also were generous. The appeal was for contributions to the Organization, Press and Defense Fund."

Comrade Charles speaks for St. Paul-Minneapolis: "At the conclusion of Comrade Hansen's inspiring speech and a lively question and discussion period, a motion was made that we dig up enough money right now to complete our quota in the Organization, Press and Defense Fund. The members present dug down,

(Only two more weeks to go!)

\$18,000 FUND SCOREBOARD

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
West Virginia	\$ 25	\$ 33	133
Pittsburgh	150	191	127
Minneapolis	150	165	110
Buffalo	1,000	1,017	102
Cleveland	300	300	100
St. Paul-Minneapolis	1,000	1,000	100
Seattle	400	400	100
Youngstown	500	500	100
San Francisco	1,500	1,309	87
New York	5,000	4,312	86
Toledo	50	43	86
Flint	375	320	85
Newark	700	574	82
Chicago	700	536	77
Detroit	1,750	1,342	77
Philadelphia	600	429	73
New Haven	100	72	72
Boston	550	390	71
Oakland	250	174	70
Allentown	75	50	67
Los Angeles	2,600	1,627	63
Akron	150	84	56
St. Louis	100	20	20
General		326	—
Total through March 20	\$18,000	\$15,214	85

THE MILITANT ARMY

The 14th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party said the circulation of the party

press should have first place in party activity. This idea is now being effectively implemented by the national tour of our business manager, Joseph Hansen.

The tour of our business manager, inspired by the convention discussion of the press, is in itself a graphic illustration of the seriousness with which the decision of the convention is being taken both in the center and in the field.

This is the first time the circulation of the party press is being put on a high-powered organized basis involving the entire party.

The high point of interest all along the route of the tour appears to be the projected all-out subscription campaign which is now being worked out in conferences between Comrade Hansen and the comrades of each branch he visits.

We cannot give details now, but can already let it be known that the central feature of the plan is the division of the party branches into three distinct leagues with three big prizes — one for the champion in each league — and perhaps other prizes for those who place and show.

Here are some extracts from Comrade Hansen's reports:

New Haven: "Good discussion with comrades. They favor the idea of a sub campaign. The comrades think *The Militant* is right on the beam."

Boston: "We had a meeting attended by all the activists and leading comrades to discuss literature. One comrade is now trying to sell 100 Militants a week by herself. After going over subs, sales techniques, systems and theories, etc., we took up the sub campaign proposal. The comrades are enthusiastic; some of them feel they'd like to start right now."

Buffalo: "I met with the leading comrades and discussed literature. They are enthusiastic about the idea of a well-rewarded contest and like Boston wanted to start immediately. As a compromise, they get going right away in building sales to provide a base of operations for when the contest opens."

Cleveland: "The comrades think the proposal for a sub campaign excellent."

Chicago: "The literature department here is self-sustaining and paid in a profit last month. At the literature meeting there was a real burst of enthusiasm at the idea of the campaign. It's the prize that does it, naturally; but it's wonderful to see how it immediately sharpens minds on ways and means of getting sales and subs. The literature meeting, which included the literature committee and leading activists in the branch, then went into what I thought was a fruitful discussion of *The Militant*."

Milwaukee: "They all went for the sub campaign idea. We went into a discussion of techniques and Milwaukee's peculiar problems as interest in the project and the difficulties to be overcome appeared to be high."

Oakland — San Francisco

hear JOSEPH HANSEN
speak on
"America and the
World Crisis"

Oakland

Friday, March 30 8 PM

St. Anthony's Hall

73rd Ave. nr. E. 14th St.

Chairman

FILOMENA GOELMAN

SWP candidate for

Councilman-at-Large

San Francisco

Saturday, March, 31 8 PM

1739 Fillmore St. 4th floor

Admission Free

GIs Lose Taste For Ice Cream

GIs who remain in Korea after May have been promised that ice cream will be added to their rations, reports a N.Y. Times dispatch from 8th Army headquarters. It adds: "Four enlisted men, asked what they thought of the project for having ice cream in Korea as a reward for remaining here until May, did not sound enthusiastic. Said one soldier: 'I'd rather take my chance on eating rat poison in the worst part of the States if I had the choice.'

STRIKEBREAKER

Anthony Anastasia is now hiring boss at U.S. Steel's Isthmian Line's Erie Basin terminal in Brooklyn and making a good thing of it by all accounts. Narushef revealed that Anastasia is also the character who was hired by the Phelps-Dodge Cor-

poration to break the CIO's strike in 1946. Tony's "boys" did such a bang-up job with sawed-off billiard cues, iron chains and bullets that a number of strikers ended up in the hospital and one in the grave.

Narushef also disclosed that Anastasia, together with a waterfront union mediator, got him into a little private meeting where Anastasia explained that his strikebreaking job was worth a cool thousand per day to him and that Phelps-Dodge president Wylie Brown had authorized him to make any deal necessary to settle the strike. Anastasia boasted he had an "open door" to Brown's office.

Tony Anastasia was also an interested spectator and witness at the Kefauver hearings. He admitted arrests for homicide and other felonies, but always "beat the rap." He conceded it was "possible" that Phelps-Dodge paid him \$65,812 in 1946 — as a "steve-dore-contractor." His brother Albert, who was six times arrested for murder and never convicted, was also thus engaged at nearly five years. The court took the cops' word for it and convicted him for alleged assault of a strikebreaker.

Narushef's presence in the Foley Square hearings of the Kefauver committee was entirely voluntary. He was finally given a few minutes to testify on the matter of one Anthony Anastasia, who was once held on \$100,000 bail in connection with the probe of Murder, Inc., and who was characterized by the Brooklyn

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Only the Truth Will Liberate Labor

The liberation of the workers can come only through the workers themselves. There is, therefore, no greater crime than deceiving the masses, palming off defeats as victories, friends as enemies, bribing workers' leaders, fabricating legends, staging false trials, in a word doing what the Stalinists do.

These means can serve only one end: lengthening the domination of a clique already condemned by history. But they cannot serve to liberate the masses.

— Leon Trotsky, Their Morals and Ours. 1938.



LENIN

TROTSKY

Criminals and Politicians

From the days of the Civil War on, capitalist political rule in this country has been notoriously corrupt. But the scandals of the Grant or the Harding regimes pale into insignificance compared to the utter corruption of government today. No administration has ever been so befouled with scandal as Truman's.

Most sinister of all are the disclosures of the connection between the political machines, national, state and local, and the vast criminal syndicates which are looting billions annually from the American people and whose influence has penetrated deeply into all levels of the government.

At the same time, it has been revealed that the Big Business corporations, which control these political machines and the government, have been hiring criminal elements — professional gangsters and murderers — to break strikes and destroy unions.

The whole rotten condition has been dramatically highlighted by the latest revelations of the Senate crime probe committee, headed by Senator Kefauver. It has just uncovered the fact that former Mayor O'Dwyer of New York City, who resigned just ahead of the police gamblers tie-up exposure and was hast-

Blackmailing Starving India

The Truman administration in combination with Congress has entered the fifth month of its deliberate stall to prevent shipments of grain to India where 100 million are slowly starving to death.

One month ago, Truman issued his "appeal" to Congress to extend aid to India. A ballyhoo ensued, amid which a "bi-partisan" Senate group introduced a special "Emergency Aid to India" Bill. It provides for the shipment of only one million tons of grain, clamps an economic noose on India's economic life, unloads all transportation costs on the Indian government, etc. But even this piece of "humanitarianism" has been stalled in the Senate since February 15.

In the House the shipment of grain "to famine stricken India is being secretly filibustered to death in the House Rules Committee," reported the columnist Robert S. Allen on March 13.

Meanwhile, the American Embassy in New Delhi is reportedly busy pressing the Nehru government to give "due publicity" to the "disinterested generosity of the United States." The Indian gov-

Ruining the Dollar

The U.S. dollar is being ruined — at a much faster pace than commonly realized. As of today, the dollar, taking its purchasing power at 100 cents in 1940, is worth a little over 40 cents. A worker earning \$50 a week is actually receiving \$20 in the currency of 10 years ago. Pensioners, old-age and others, insurance-policy holders, savings accounts, government bond holders etc. have already been bilked to the tune of six dollars out of ten they originally had. To many this is an economic disaster.

The biggest single chunk of the dollar's purchasing power has been sliced off by the Big Bankers' \$10-billion raid on the public pocket. By ballooning the credit system, the Big Bankers have debased the dollar by at least 10 percent in the first seven months since Korea. The extent to which the U.S. dollar has been damaged by this ballooning of credit (which still continues!) cannot be fully assessed as yet.

But ominous signals are already here. For the first time since the fiscal convulsions of the depression in the Thirties, the dollar has "softened" abroad. Capital is fleeing. Funds are being pulled out not alone by foreign capitalists but also by the native billionaires.

Since Korea, the Department of Commerce reported in Dec. 1950, there started an "unprecedented outflow of long and short-term U.S. private capital." In the first 90 days, more than half a bil-

lly shipped across the border in the guise of Ambassador to Mexico by Truman, demanded and took a \$10,000 cash pay-off from the Firemen's Association.

O'Dwyer, for all that he is a cheap grifter and bribe-taker, is no political small-potatoes. As Mayor of New York City he wielded immense influence in the Democratic Party nationally and his machine was a chief prop of Truman. Is it possible to believe that Truman — himself an honor graduate of the Pendergast mob in Missouri — didn't know what he was doing when he foisted O'Dwyer on the Mexican people?

Of one thing we can be sure, Truman, the President of the United States, deliberately contrived this move in an effort to protect one of his chief henchmen. Truman himself is as guilty of fostering the alliance of the Democratic machine and the underworld as men like O'Dwyer who have been caught red-handed.

Is the word "traitors" too strong to characterize those labor leaders who still persist in trying to preserve a political alliance with capitalist parties and politicians so completely steeped in crime and corruption? It's time, indeed, for labor to sweep this putrid mess away with its own independent labor party.

Gates then revealed the formula for this struggle. The Stalinists must "expose" the Trotskyites for introducing the escalator clause! And this just when the escalator clause is becoming one of the major issues of the class struggle.

Gates explained that "we need to remind the labor movement that it was the Trotskyites who gave the employers the escalator clause which has become the pattern for the employers' wage freeze plans." This is a gem with but one flaw: Far from becoming a "pattern for the employers' wage freeze plans," the escalator clause is the biggest obstacle to the wage-freezers.

Yes, we Trotskyites pioneered the escalator clause in the fight against wartime inflation and we have every reason to be proud of it. It is one of the most powerful weapons in labor's arsenal today.

The Stalinists, on the other hand, have every reason to conceal their special "contributions" to the labor movement, such as the treacherous wartime "permanent no-strike pledge," their advocacy of "incentive" pay, and their support of Roosevelt's forced labor proposal. Their contributions to the welfare of the corporations won them the deserved contempt and hatred of almost all workers everywhere.

It suffices to refute the "logic" of the American Stalinists' argument against the escalator clause to ask them why the Communist Parties of France and Italy and the great unions under their control have made the escalator wage a key demand and why the Mao Tze-tung regime in China not only supports the sliding wage scale but enforces it.

WHY THE CP OPPOSES

Their real motive in opposing this demand in this country is precisely because it is so identified with Trotskyism and the Socialist Workers Party in the minds of numerous thousands of trade union militants. The Stalinists do not dare to admit that such a good proposal emanated from those they slander as "this criminal counter-revolutionary

lion fled abroad, primarily for speculative purposes, it is officially conceded. The outflow since then has not slackened as witnessed, among other things, by a record outpouring of gold from this country.

By the turn of this year gold was being taken out at an annual rate of two billion dollars; recently the rate has almost doubled. Gold prices have risen in European markets by 20 percent and more above the price pegged by the International Monetary Fund, which is primarily financed by the U.S. Treasury; in other markets, especially in Tangiers and Bombay, gold prices are much higher. International speculators are betting heavily that Washington's \$35-an-ounce gold price, frozen since 1934, will soon be raised.

Among other drastic measures that Washington is reportedly contemplating is to freeze all foreign assets. All this, amid galloping domestic and world inflation, naturally acts to spur the flight from the dollar and to undermine it further. But each step toward debasing the dollar is a step in debasing the living standards, as labor has learned.

This ruination of the dollar adds to the urgent need of the two really effective measures the working people have to fight inflation — the one, the escalator clause for wages; the other, the policing of prices by committees of labor, housewives, farmers and all the poor.

Stalinists Knife Labor, Attack Escalator Clause

By Michael Bartell

During the last war when the Communist Party backed Wall Street imperialism and its wage freeze, the Stalinists were the most malicious opponents of the escalator wage program advocated by the Socialist Workers Party. Now that most of organized labor has been forced to adopt the escalator wage policy as the most effective weapon to fight the wage freeze and defend living standards from inflation, the Stalinists are still continuing their reactionary attacks on this program.

At the recent national convention of the CP, John Gates, editor of the *Daily Worker*, fumed against the "counter-revolutionary Trotskyites" as the initiators of the escalator wage program. In his same special report, entitled "Sharpen the Fight Against Browderism," Titoism, Trotskyism, Gates also warned of the "dangerous increase of Trotskyist influence. We have been dangerously remiss in our struggle against Trotskyism," he confessed, noting with alarm that "in the recent N.Y. elections the Trotskyites increased their vote from 1,600 to 13,000."

A MAJOR ISSUE

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WHY ESCALATOR IS NEEDED

The war program of the Big Business profiteers demands a sharp reduction in labor's living standards. Government wage and price control agencies aim to siphon off "surplus" purchasing power by freezing wages while permitting prices to rise. The sliding scale of wages auto-

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Gates falsely claims that "the escalator clause ties wages to prices" and "not only prevents the workers from raising their standard of living but actually means a steady deterioration in their standards." Exactly the opposite is true. The escalator clause is the only way to safeguard the real wages already won and facilitate the struggle for higher basic wage scales. Without the sliding scale, every wage increase is turned into a hollow victory by price increases. But once a good escalator clause is won, this rat race is over. The way is cleared for an offensive to raise the basic wage scale and improve working conditions.

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The Women of Mendon

By Rose Karsner

On March 12, 1951, a little American village made history. Its name is Mendon, in the state of Michigan, housing 800 souls.

According to a March 13 report in the N.Y. Post a local election was held and a complete slate of women voted into office. As far as I know, it is the first instance in centuries of women being accorded such marked recognition.

"For years," says the report, "this has been a one-horse one-party town. The men always got together on a non-partisan 'Progressive' ticket and a few voters went to the polls to make it legal. But last month, the women got together and formed an all-woman 'Citizens' ticket. It didn't get the voters very aroused; only 195 persons bothered to register. The men figured they were safe, but when the votes were counted last night the women swept the board." Only one woman lost her race. She ran on the men's "Progressive" ticket.

As the report states, just a few of the inhabitants went to the polls. But that is not surprising, since this is according to Mendon tradition. What is noteworthy, is the smug, complacent confidence of the men. They did not trouble to electioneer or make efforts to turn out the vote, so sure were they in advance that the women's ticket would be defeated.

Mendon is only a pin-point in the vast area of the United States. Its parliamentary upset of the status quo would merit only a few lines of mention, were it not for the far-reaching implications embodied in this event.

The mere fact that the voters of a tiny village, where minds as a rule are rigid and tenacious in their adherence to old habits, did not recoil from an all-woman slate, is in itself important. It is a symptom of a revolutionary turn in the mass psychology on the social relations of the sexes. It is a manifestation of the changing

Angry Farmers

By R. H. Monroe

One variant of the popular sentiment to get U.S. troops out of Korea was expressed recently among many farmers in Lapeer, Michigan, where in an eviction proceeding two brothers were thrown off their farm. Neighboring farmers interviewed by the Flint Journal stated that "certain forces" were becoming so powerful here that it seemed to them the boys should come home and do their fighting here."

These farmers had rallied to the cause of the Ziegenhardt brothers, evicted from their farm on March 13, and then promptly reinstated by their battling neighbors on March 14. The sheriff's comment on learning that the Ziegenhardts had returned to their home, was: "I am going to clean up this case, and that's all there is to it!"

The Ziegenhardt "case" stems from a \$300 judgment levied against them by a circuit court in connection with the bankruptcy of an insurance firm 17 years ago. Many farmers in Lapeer and neighboring areas have found themselves in the same predicament.

The Lookout

By the Skipper

The rush of the elite to buy rural housing has been noted in all real estate journals. They hope, of course, to escape the results of A-bombing. We cannot agree that their position would be very secure. In the event that large American cities are struck by the Bomb, the exodus of metropolitan dwellers will be the most terrified and undisciplined movement of people that the world has ever seen. Hungry people roaming the country-side can even disturb the comfort of a country square.

Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin is publishing a new pamphlet on the question of disloyalty. His latest booklet will contain a list of people whom McCarthy does not consider to be communists. His publishers say it will be a short, concise work.

It is reported that the armed forces are going to ask for an additional one hundred billion dollars in June. This sum of money, when laid end to end, will flatten the taxpayers from coast to coast.

Want to get in trouble? Just get a soapbox, get up on any corner and recite the Bill of Rights.

Readers Forum

(Ed. Note: The Community Service Organization has become the spokesman of the residents of the Mexican community of Los Angeles' East Side. This community suffers the oppression of every such minority group. It was the CSO which was primarily responsible for the election of Representative Ed. Roybal, only member of a minority group in the Los Angeles City Council who voted "No" when the vicious "communist registration ordinance" was pushed through the L.A. City Council. The following letter from a member of the CSO describes the speech of Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the Board of Education, presented before this organization.)

Editor: At the recent "Candidate's Night" held by the Community Service Organization, I had the privilege of hearing the Board of Education candidates present their views of this campaign. And it was something to hear!

One after another the candidates rose to tell us of what a hard time they had seen in this world. One "sold papers in the snow when I was a little boy," another "sold papers with holes in my shoes," another thought he would win our approval with his "wit" and he was very jolly and told us "Now I am 39 years old. That puts me in Jack Benny's class — we're having a birthday party, ha ha ha." We laughed, but we laughed at them, not with them.

Mrs. Gertrude Rounsvaile, the incumbent in Office No. 5, and the opponent of the socialist candidate, Myra Tanner Weiss, contributed to this fiasco by making the mistake of mentioning the scandal which she and her fellow-board-members have been involved in, and which has reached the headlines and aroused the indignation of the parents and taxpayers.

The School Board, of which Mrs. Rounsvaile has been an enthusiastic member, has been publicly accused of graft in a shady insurance deal, corruption and bribery in the hiring of teachers,

times — an augur of things to come, the outlines of which are already discernible on the horizon.

Furthermore, the Mendon election demonstrates in life Marx's thesis that social progress can be measured by the position of woman in society. It mirrors the transition stage we live in, when no part of the social organism is static.

Mendon elected the "Citizens" ticket because it represented a change from the traditional "Progressive" ticket. Not because it was made up entirely of women. By this means the voters registered their protest against a government steeped in corruption, racketeering, patronage and looting of taxpayers' funds, as revealed by the Senate investigating committee.

In their simple way, the Mendon voters indicated by their act a desire for a social change, and a definite attitude of opposition to the present Democratic or Republican rulers who have proved unworthy of the people's trust. Unprepared as yet to generalize the problem into a conscious understanding that the source of the evil lies in the federal government in Washington, dominated by Big Business, these voters thought they could cure the ills on a local basis.

That is the true meaning of what took place in Mendon. It's the handwriting on the wall. And it plainly reads: Capitalism has outlived its usefulness. A new social order must take its place.

Mankind has steadily inched its way forward and upward toward higher levels of production and of culture. From the stage of savagery, humanity went to barbarism, and then to slavery; from that to feudalism, and next to capitalism. These transitions took place at ever-increasing speed. It took millions of years to get to feudalism. From that to capitalism took less than three centuries. It will take only a few more years to go to the next higher order of society — socialism.

VOLUME XV

SWP Candidates Ask Civil Rights In Mich. Education

DETROIT — "The youth of today can only be prepared for mass slaughter, and the schools are being used by the capitalists for this preparation." With these words Howard Lerner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the University of Michigan Regent, climaxes his statements on the Big Business influence in the educational institutions of the state.

He went on to say, "Michigan schools and colleges distort the truth to bolster Big Business propaganda. The youth must know the truth in order to defend themselves against the infringement of their rights as citizens."

GM INFLUENCE

Lerner recalled the furor created three years ago when the General Motors corporation interfered with the University of Michigan Extension Service to such an extent that the University had to drop certain portions of their workers' education program. An agent of the GM corporation had attended the classes, and was mortified to learn that the instructor was bold enough to say that there were two economies in this country — one for the upper class and one for the workers. "The thought that even a few workers would be exposed to the truth was too much for General Motors. They acted fast and the result was another victory for the industrialists and their lies."

THE YOUTH

Alice Pollack, Socialist Workers Party candidate for the State Board of Education, voiced every mother's feelings in a public statement, "My children learn fairy tales in school that prepare them for an entirely different life than the one they will have to lead in the real world."

"They are taught to be good sports," she said, "and then look around them and see gangsters bribing their schoolmates, and politicians who wallow in bribery and hobnob with the underworld, as revealed in the Kefauver Senate Committee investigations."

Commenting on the revelations of dope traffic among high school students, Comrade Pollack said, "The actual cause for such behavior among students is not very hard to understand. Any plans they may have made or hope to realize have been threatened by the draft and the prospect of being trained to kill instead of being trained to earn a living for a wife and children. All thought of marriage, working at a trade, exploring their talents or getting ahead in the world are petrified by the prospect of war."

"The problem of relieving the minds of the youth," she stated, "is a political one. The only real solution lies in the program presented by the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party, which takes a firm stand against capitalism, and against their war plans for world domination."

L. A. Party Opens New Headquarters

LOS ANGELES — A very happy and pleased crowd of 100 friends and comrades warmed up the new headquarters of the Los Angeles Local at a gala affair March 17, the Militant Headquarters Benefit Ball, which lasted until the small hours of Sunday morning.

For the first time in several years Los Angeles has a large and attractive home for the Party's lectures, meetings and social affairs. In the center of the Mexican and Negro communities of the East Side, the headquarters is near the Aliso Village and Pico Gardens housing projects in the area which is known locally as "The Flats." Its 4,000 square feet will provide offices, a large auditorium, a kitchen, library, nursery and class rooms when all plans are finally completed.

The Benefit Ball, with Joe Johnson's enthusiastic dance band and excellent food and refreshments was organized by Comrade Juan Suarez, who reports with pleasure that net proceeds total more than \$100.

He made it plain that prejudice and hatred of all the oppressed peoples is taught in the schools in order to produce regimented young people who will consider militarism glorious, and who will willingly become cannon-fodder for Wall Street's wars.

In the face of the stupidities which we heard from the other candidates, Mrs. Weiss spoke against the war and for a socialist program and explained that a real solution, even for problems so immediate as the school system, can be gained only by changing the government to a Workers and Farmers Government. A government that would truly represent the majority of the people!

Lola Mendez

Los Angeles

THE MILITANT

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1951

NUMBER 13

Youngstown CIO Calls for Local Joint Actions

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — The March 6 meeting of the Mahoning County CIO Council showed significant rank and file enthusiasm for the "labor revolt" against the Wilson-Truman mobilization boards. The council voiced unanimous approval of the action of the United Labor Policy Committee in breaking with government agencies.

There appeared to be a genuine desire on the part of the CIO Council delegates to keep labor completely free of governmental boards, and some delegates even stated the hope that labor would go further and strike out on an independent political road.

In the freest discussion since "thought control" was imposed after the Korean war, delegates voiced such ideas as these: That the CIO-AFL should back up the United Labor Policy Committee with a 24-hour general strike; That governmental efforts toward price control and profit control were a complete farce with the sole aim of enriching Big Business.

Delegates also stated that behind the scenes, Big Business and government agencies were laying plans for the complete regimentation of labor under Gen. Lucius B. Clay or some other brass hat.

The formal complaint was filed by George Edwards, attorney for Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO, and for Kenny Morris, president of the Local.

"By the terms of the contract," the complaint stated, "the Briggs Manufacturing Co. paid \$150,000 a year to secure the services of Carl Renda and Santo Perrone, his father-in-law, and the group of gangsters and strikebreakers who worked for Perrone in previous strike-breaking activities.

"This contract resulted in at least five violent and potentially deadly assaults on well-known members of Local 212 and has created an atmosphere of terror and fear which has existed from the inception of the contract down to this present date."

VIGOROUS UNIONISM

The complaint further stated that since the release of this information, every member of Local 212 is thoroughly aware that any vigorous union activity on his part may well mark him for the special attentions of the hired gangsters whose services have been bought by Briggs with the Briggs-Renda scrap contract.

Actions such as the one undertaken by Briggs Local 212 against the company must receive the fullest support of every union man. It is necessary, however, to recognize that activities of the same identical type as those undertaken by the beaten unionists are now opposed by the right wing union administration and smeared as "Communist" inspired.

Frequently newspapers carry condemnations by Reuther and Mazey against precisely such "vigorous" union activity on the part of present-day opposition members. Progressive-minded delegates must fight for the right to assert freely their vigorous opposition to bad contracts and programs even when presented by the Reuther administration.

He concluded by stating: "If you really want to protect the school system you should reject this reactionary amendment. You should lend the weight of your decision to the movement to stop the insidious growth of thought control laws and ordinances which are being sprung in various parts of the land."

Detroit detectives have revealed that they are digging into a connection between gangster Perrone, union busting hoodlum associate of the Briggs Manufacturing Company, and Melvin Bishop, a former regional director of the UAW-CIO, with jurisdiction over the Briggs Local 212.

Bishop, now labor relations counselor, has been accused by union members of playing a part in the Briggs beatings in 1946-47, but was absolved by a union trial board in 1947.

Perrone was recently brought in by detectives for questioning about the Reuther shootings. Both Perrone and Bishop refused to take a lie-detector test.

The right wing in Briggs local 212 during the recent election campaign, had attempted to smear opposition members with Bishop. But they concealed many facts.

BISHOP AND REUTHER

During the World War II period, Bishop was the darling of both Walter Reuther and the so-called Addes group. The International trial board which exonerated

him rendered a unanimous verdict, shared by Walter Reuther. It now appears that this exoneration was in reality a white-wash.

At the 1946 UAW convention Bishop was sponsored by Reuther as candidate for East side regional director against Emil Mazey.

Now Bishop has completed the cycle travelled by Dick Frankenstein and ex-Stalinist John Anderson by becoming a company labor relations counselor. This is the fruit of the international policy during World War II.

Pamphlets by Joseph Hansen

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WASH. STATE SOLONS OUTLAW FREE THOUGHT

By Clara Kaye

Republican and Democratic legislators.

SEATTLE — A vicious anti-sedition act, clearly patterned after Maryland's infamous thought-control law, has been passed by the Washington State Legislature, a campus publication, was removed from his post by campus authorities. The local press failed to mention the real reason for his dismissal in their accounts.

SENATE BILL NO. 379

Senate Bill No. 379, the "Subversive Activities Act," introduced by State Senator Kimball of Seattle at the request of Governor Langlie, is an unbridled attack against the democratic and civil rights of the people of Washington. Ostensibly aimed at outlawing the Communist Party, in reality the bill could prevent thousands of workers and progressive individuals from belonging to or supporting clubs and organizations of their own choice, from voting or running for public office, and from voicing their honest convictions.

LEGISLATION AGAINST IDEAS

The Kimball bill is legislation against ideas, legislation endorsed by politicians who can find no money for adequate pensions or schools, but who willingly appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars for witch-hunting. (State funds are primarily derived from the retail sales tax, which falls heaviest on the workers. Demands through the years for a graduated income tax have been ignored by

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