

6 VOLUNTEER TO SERVE IN DEBS COLUMN

Maritime Labor And The Government

NEW STOOGES FOR "IMPROVED" COPELAND BILLS

The Roosevelt administration has had the reputation of being the most friendly to labor—and yet it has been the instrumentality for clamping upon the maritime workers the most reactionary measures ever known to a so-called "democratic" country. The Cope-land acts (the fink book act and the ship subsidy law) passed by the last Congress laid the base for a vicious drive against all labor.

The maritime legislation of last June had two immediate objectives: (1) to establish the principle of government "identity book" which can easily become a means of blacklisting workers for trade-union political activity; and (2) to set up some permanent governmental body (the Maritime Commission) which would gradually develop itself into a board of compulsory arbitration.

The basic reasons, however, for the legislation lay much deeper and involve fundamental economic and political forces. The principal reasons were: (1) the pressure from commercial interests to safeguard their profits and juicy public subsidies in the face of a growing maritime labor movement demanding its rights; and (2) the ever pressing threat of war, with the consequent necessity of forestalling by adequate control opposition to war plans and activity which would be manifested by American workers, especially those in the key marine transportation industry.

This legislation had been carefully prepared and sugar-coated with a demagogic veneer of clauses supposedly restricting excess profits of shipowners, to satisfy the labor leaders and the easily placated "liberal" congressmen. It was vaguely phrased, admitting of broad interpretation, and could have been made to fulfill its ultimate union-smashing purpose were it not for one all-important obstacle—the alertness and militancy of the maritime unions.

The labor fakers, such as Scharrenberg, Olander, J. P. Ryan, and others, had already been nice-lined up, but then, strangely, this anti-labor legislation misfired. These betrayers, from whom a portion of the rank-and-file (on the West Coast) had already emancipated themselves, overplayed their treacherous hand and are now well on the road toward complete and final repudiation by the union members. They are no longer as effective and useful to Government and to the bosses as they once were. Consequently a new and more effective offensive against labor is being prepared. New agents within the labor movement are required—and they are at hand.

The unanimous and militant protest against the

(Continued on Page 4)

Defense Body Asks Delay Of Radek-Pyatakoff Trial

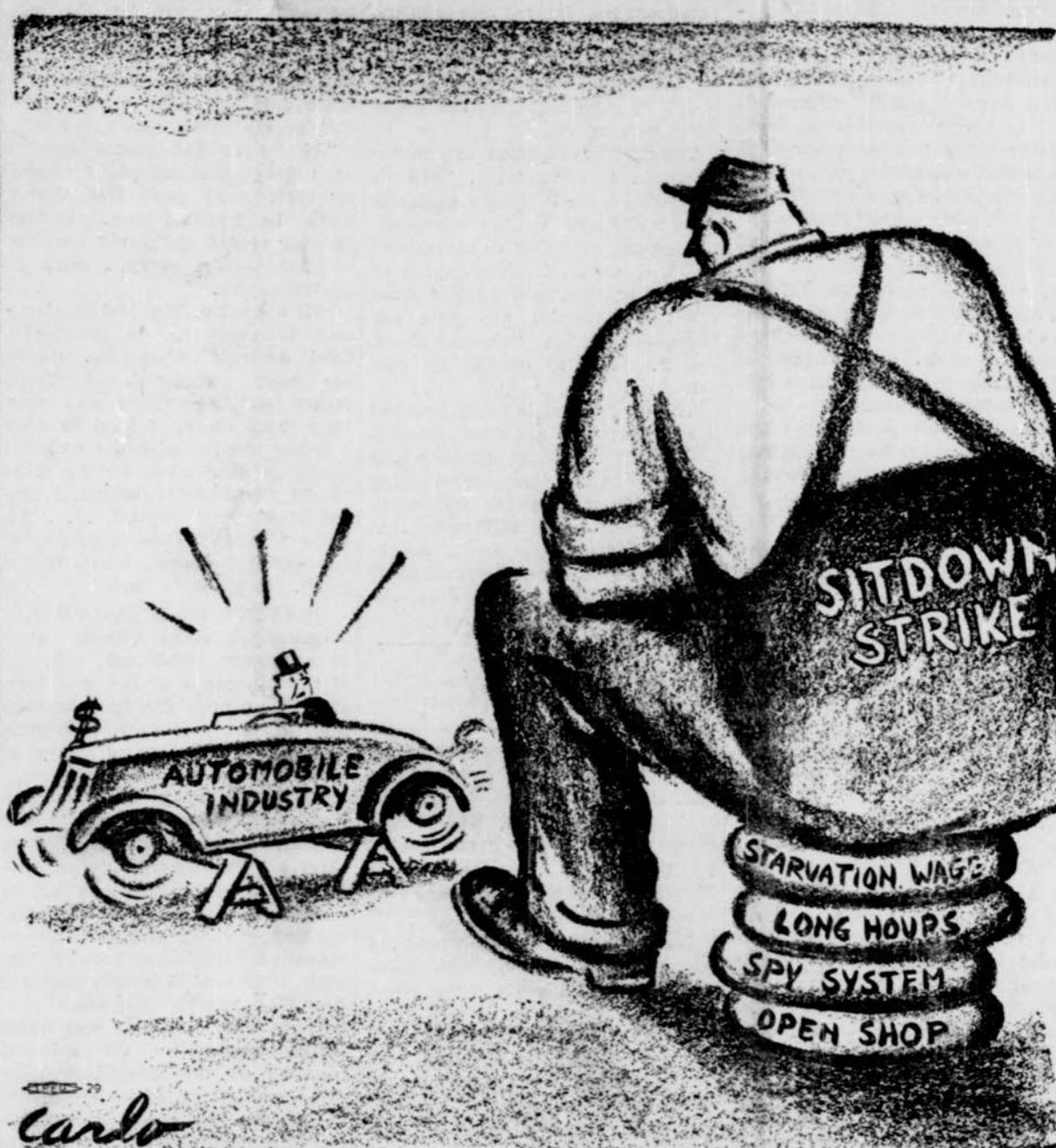
Soviet Government Asked To Permit Attendance of International Commission Of Labor Elements

The American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky today asked the Soviet Government to permit the attendance of an international labor commission at the forthcoming trial of Karl Radek and Gregory Pyatakoff for alleged offenses, and to postpone the trial until the commission arrives.

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Time To Retire! . . . By Carlo



Carlo

Cut Down California Youth Bill

Youth Assembly Adopts Weak Pro- gram and Bans Struggle

The Northern California Youth Assembly for a California Youth Bill met in San Francisco on January 9th and 10th and in one fell swoop weakened considerably the struggle for the American Youth Act, resigned the field of struggle for working-class legislation to professional lobbyists, and frowned down any attempt at class action by organized working class youth.

The left wing elements led by the Young People's Socialist League were railroaded off the floor by parliamentary steamroller tactics and their motions and resolutions were buried in Communist controlled committees, while the super social-patriots rushed through measures designed to placate capitalist legislators who were afraid that they might have to sponsor a bill slightly tinged with a reddish hue.

DEMANDS CUT IN HALF

The bill as finally adopted by

(Continued on Page 4)

Sidelights On Debs Column

The Socialist Party's invitation to the Communist Party to participate in the organization and financing of a Western Division of the Debs Column to aid the Spanish workers in their struggle against Fascism was greeted with an oral return message that the Communist Party would send "a committee to confer." (The committee has not showed up at the time of writing.)

A comrade in the office interviewed two G-men (thinking they were volunteers) and asked them if they had military experience. (The G-men said "yes.")

One volunteer-enthusiast was seen reading the "Manual of Arms"—just brushing up on the military training he had received "gratis" as a result of the endeavors of supporters for required military training in the schools. "It's an ill wind—"

GEORGIA LEADS LYNCHERS

Thirteen people were lynched in the United States last year with the state of Georgia accounting for five of them, according to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Two of the victims were white men who had been murdered by the Black Legion in Michigan.

Win WPA 'Sit-Down' At Toledo

Firm Demonstration Of Solidarity Forces Reinstatement

TOLEDO. — When the workers mean business they get what they're after.

One month ago, assignments for 4200 WPA workers were discontinued until the conservation department concluded a "biological survey."

Now, WPA clerical workers are rapidly writing assignments and the biological survey has been shelved. And WPA workers are congratulating themselves over their victory.

The change of heart wasn't accomplished by the good will of the Roosevelt Administration nor by the humanitarianism of the WPA. It took the organized backing of the labor movement, with the Workers Alliance as the spearhead, to effect the shift of sentiment. It took the unceasing vigil of 200 Workers Alliance members, who for three days and two nights held down the WPA headquarters, to convince WPA officials that Toledo labor can't be tampered with.

With the demand that projects be immediately approved and the 4200 be hired, WPA members moved in on the WPA headquarters when the executive committee of the downtown branch of the Workers Alliance gathered for their regular meeting they took over the finely-polished, swiveled-chair private office of Administrator Schmuhl. While Schmuhl impatiently waited outside, the committee transacted their order of business. The Workers Alliance was in the saddle and the WPA Administrator was outside looking in.

To entertain the strikers, the Yipsels adjourned their meeting to WPA headquarters and conducted a labor-sing, raising their lusty voices in "Solidarity Forever," "On the Picket Line" and other labor songs.

"BE PRACTICAL"

Or, How to Scab on the American Youth Act—In One Easy Lesson

Provisions of American Youth Act as proposed by YPSL for inclusion in California Youth Bill.

No less than \$15 per week salary and \$2.00 per week for each dependent.

In colleges, student-workers to be paid no less than \$25 per month.

In high-schools students shall receive no less than \$15 per month.

Money to be raised by a tax levied on inheritance, gifts, and individual and corporate incomes of \$5.00 or more.

Provisions of California Youth Bill (supported by the YCL) as adopted by Northern California Youth Assembly.

No less than \$30.00 per month plus three dollars weekly for each dependent.

In colleges student-workers to be paid no less than \$20 per month.

In high schools students shall receive no less than \$10 per month.

Money to be raised by an appropriation by the state legislature of \$10,000,000, out of funds not otherwise appropriated. No provision for taxation.

World War Veterans, Members of Workers' Organizations Register

Roosevelt Is Aiding Fascists Says Socialist Secretary

CHICAGO.—President Roosevelt is aiding the fascist rebellion in Spain by his investigation of the enlistment of American anti-fascists to defeat fascism in Spain and by his so-called neutrality act which would forbid Americans to ship any war materials to the democratically elected Spanish government," declared Roy E. Burt, national executive secretary of the Socialist Party, last night.

He said further, "Roosevelt shows his colors. Those who called him a bulwark against fascism and a force for progress and democracy now can clearly see what Roosevelt does when he is actually faced with the struggle against fascism. At the demand of the President, Congress has taken its first action—the passage of a bill making it illegal for Americans to ship any war materials to the democratically elected Spanish government fighting against a fascist rebellion. This is called neutrality. But in actual practice this action constitutes direct aid to the forces of Franco, and Italian and German fascism.

"The New York and San Francisco offices of the Socialist Party are now being investigated by the government because they have aided men who wanted to enlist on the side of the Spanish workers and peasants.

"Hearst is more frank than Roosevelt. He openly champions the cause of the fascists; he condemns the Socialist party and other working class forces for their attempt to aid the enlistment of a force of 500 technicians to give direct aid to the Spanish working class forces.

"Hearst's attempt to invoke a law 119 years old against this recruiting is hypocritical. Hearst who so loves to laud our American traditions conveniently forgets that the great struggle of America for independence from the British empire was aided by the French Lafayette and the Polish Kosciuszko and their troops.

"Roosevelt and Hearst are attempting to stop aid to Spain's struggle against fascism. But this will not stop the Socialist party and the militant working people of America. We will exert every effort to mobilize a tremendous force against the party vicious and partly misguided action of Congress.

"We will continue to exert every effort to render aid to the workers of Spain, confident that the solidarity of the workers of the world will be the only path for defeating Franco and insuring class victory in Spain.

"We call on all workers in America to join with us in fighting fascism wherever it rears its ugly head, and for a worker's world."

More Than 250 En- rolled for Debs Column in N. Y.

Four days after the announcement in Labor Action that volunteers would be interviewed at the San Francisco Socialist Headquarters at 236 Van Ness Avenue for the Western Division of the Debs Column of the International Workers' Brigade to aid the Spanish workers, 96 men had come in to the office to offer the services, ranging in age from 21 to 65.

Headquarters have been set up in San Francisco and New York to make possible a thorough check on all volunteers who wish to go under the working-class banner to Spain. Volunteers are being questioned thoroughly to determine whether they have the necessary qualifications to be of service to ensure a working-class victory against Fascism, and whether they are sincerely sympathetic with the workers' cause and not just adventurers. The Socialist Party is not recruiting any army. No one is being induced or paid to go. Anyone interested merely in getting into a "scrap" and getting paid for it will not be assisted in any way by the Socialist Party.

HUNDREDS VOLUNTEER

More than 250 volunteers in New York City alone were interviewed the first week, and as many more wrote in to that office to apply. Volunteers are still streaming into the San Francisco office at 236 Van Ness Avenue. The first group were called for second interviews with a full committee to judge their qualifications during this past week.

On Sunday evening, January 10, the Socialist Party of San Francisco held an emergency mass meeting to start the fund-raising campaign. Hans Amle, first volunteer for the Western Division of the Debs Column, and brother to Congressman Thomas Amle (of Wisconsin) spoke to the two hundred workers gathered at the meeting. Humberto Rivas addressed the meeting in Spanish, and James P. Cannon, Editor of Labor Action, discussed the background of the present conflict in Spain and explained why the Socialist Party is making every effort to send aid to the Spanish workers.

"FRIENDS OF DEBS COLUMN"

The committee in New York is organizing the Friends of the Debs Column to raise the necessary money, and the local committee is active appealing to labor and liberal organizations for assistance in the project. As many men will be sent as money can be raised and as quickly as possible after their qualifications are judged by the committee.

Veterans of the World War, men with from two to twelve years' training in the United States Army and Navy, infantrymen, chemical technicians and engineers have applied. Members of various maritime unions, carpenters' union, Alaska Cannery Workers' Union, I.W.O., Socialist Party, and Communist Party have asked to be considered as volunteers.

The Socialist Party is in dead earnest to make it possible for these volunteers to go. The number we send will depend on the amount of support we receive from readers of Labor Action and any friends or organizations they can contact for financial support. All donations should be sent to the central office, care of Glen Trimble, State Secretary for the Socialist Party of California, 236 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. Send in your dollars, checks or money orders quickly.

Locals in California are rapidly organizing for the campaign to raise the necessary funds and check on qualifications of local volunteers. Headquarters in Berkeley are at 2533 Telegraph Avenue, in Los Angeles at 116½ West Ninth Street.

Showdown Near As Thousands Strike In GM Auto Plants

Auto Workers Buck Bosses, Injunction and Threats of Craft Union Scabbery As Epic Struggle Unfolds

The struggle between the United Automobile Workers' Union and the General Motors Company is rapidly approaching a showdown with thousands of workers on strike in many plants and with the vital "feeder" industries being tied up by strikes.

Violence has already broken out in Flint, and labor spies, thugs, and Pinkertons are being imported into the

affected areas in wholesale numbers. General Motors has obtained a sweeping injunction against the sit-down strikers in the Flint Fisher Body division of GM which even prohibited peaceful picketing. The injunction was issued by Circuit Judge Edward D. Black.

The position of General Motors was summed up in a bulletin posted in all plants which read in part, "General Motors will not recognize any union as the sole bargaining agency for its workers, to the exclusion of all others. General Motors will continue to recognize, for the purpose of collective bargaining, the representatives of its workers, whether union or non-union."

UNION DEMANDS

The United Automobile Workers, a CIO affiliate, have presented the following demands to General Motors as the alternative for a general strike affecting all GM plants.

1. A national conference between representatives of General Motors and the union to discuss systems of pay and the adoption of a straight hourly rate.
2. Thirty hour week and six hour day with time and one-half for overtime over the basic work day and work-week.
3. Establishment of a minimum

Maritime Labor And The Government

1. NEW STOOGES FOR "IMPROVED" COPELAND BILLS

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blacklisting Copeland "discharge book," which swept spontaneously over every coast and enlisted the support of other sections of the labor movement, momentarily stunned the administration because it was unexpected. Roosevelt and the shipowners had reckoned without the rank and file.

The inherent sound militancy of the maritime workers, and their canny ability to see through demagogic appeals from Labor Department "friends," also effectively blocked the attempt to railroad the unions into a treacherous arbitration of all issues including those fundamental to the very life of unionism.

As a result of this splendid demonstration of determined fighting spirit from the democratic maritime unions, the Government withdrew somewhat from the picture in order not to expose its hand. During the election it was counting on labor's support, and it still wants to retain labor's "good will" so as the more easily to accomplish its dirty work. In fact the present appeal from Merriam, Rossi, and others for Roosevelt's clear-cut intervention is actually embarrassing to the Administration. It would like to wait a little longer until the "cat is put in the bag"—which it hopes the present session of Congress will accomplish.

Since the old labor fakery have passed out of use the Government has been looking about for new and more useful elements with influence among the union membership. The Stalinite Communist Party, since its new right-wing turn, fits the bill to a T. The Stalinites were known for their militancy in 1934, and many workers are still unable to see the reactionary role they are now playing because they still "talk left" on occasions. But that is only camouflage. The Stalinists are already spreading the word up and down the waterfront that "you can't strike against the Government," and "Roosevelt is with us." This is only preliminary to a more open campaign to get seamen to accept the Copeland "fink" book. The Stalinites will be the new stooges for the labor-strangling designs of the Administration.

The legislation of last June misfired—principally because its "liberal" clauses were veils too thin to deceive many workers, and because the fat subsidies to the shipowners were too big and fancy to be easily glossed over. The Government, therefore, as the agent of the shipowners, has worked out a drastic program for the immediate future. It has three main aspects: (1) the enactment of more effective strait-jacket legislation against maritime unions; (2) the extension of Government control beyond seafaring labor to include longshore labor as well; and (3) the "putting-across" of this legislation by means of high-sounding promises and minor concessions to the maritime unions.

Washington news reports have it that over a dozen bills affecting maritime workers are already announced for presentation to Congress. The most important of these is the plan to set up a permanent system of Government mediation and arbitration which has so viciously throttled the railroad workers since the War.

It is difficult to predict exactly what "concessions" to labor will be made and what "promises" given to union leaders. Whatever is done to obscure the real issues, however, a continuation of the fine militant actions of the rank and file maritime workers will effectively expose these new maneuvers and will rally the forces of all labor to checkmate these subtle but distinctly reactionary measures.

The danger lies in the confusion existing in the minds of some present leaders of maritime unions concerning the real significance of government intervention, which is a vastly more disastrous move than they have even suspected, and in the deliberate desire on the part of some other "leaders" to confuse the rank and file on this question.

Fostered by groups who do not have an honest interest in the welfare of the American workers, a dangerous tendency has developed in the maritime unions to a compromising attitude on government intervention, an attitude which is not consistent with the best interests of the unions.

For example, to urge that the Copeland fink book be "improved" by legislation is to ask the seamen and all other groups of workers in swift succession to kindly place their necks in a noose. A government discharge book, work book, identity card or what-have-you, is at best a measure which in critical periods will be used against the unions.

There is no compromise possible with the fink book. Any attempt to "amend away its bad features" will still leave the fink book in operation. And any individuals who purport to represent maritime workers cannot hope to meddle in any deals and compromises with agencies of the government in regard to this book without betraying the best interests of the workers. Such individuals ultimately will be decisively repudiated by the rank and file.

Maritime workers must be constantly vigilant during these next months and keep themselves well informed about the maritime legislation which is being introduced in Congress. Labor Action will keep on its toes to expose every move which threatens to bring in by a new back door legislation which the rank and file workers have so far very successfully combatted.

Music for Sit-downers

ANDERSON, Ind.—A new twist was given to sit-down strike technique when a 30 piece orchestra entertained 3000 strikers at the plant of the Guide Lamp Co., General Motors subsidiary. Among other diversions supplied the men were regular exercise and games periods. Meals were served by strikers' wives from a restaurant across the street.

Gas Pumps Run Dry

AKRON, Ohio.—Gasoline pumps here were running dry as a result of a strike by tank truck drivers led by the Tank Truck Drivers Union. All roads into Akron are being picketed by flying squadrons. The strike is directed against Cities Service Corporation which has been paying the drivers extremely low wages.

Cut Down California Youth Bill

(Continued from Page 1)

the assembly cut in half the demands made by millions of American youth in the American Youth Act and left the raising of funds to finance the act to the tender mercies of professional politicians in Sacramento.

Where the American Youth Act asks for \$15 per week for a minimum grant to unemployed young people, the Communist inspired California bill pleads for a measly \$30 per month. Where the American Youth Act demands a tax on corporate and private incomes over \$5000 to finance the bill, the California bill pleads for a grant of \$10,000,000 from funds, if any, "not otherwise appropriated."

A well-oiled and securely organized Young Communist League machine swept through the sessions arrogantly in a united front with liberals and reactionaries and successfully opposed all motions for extra-parliamentary activities on the behalf of the young workers, resigning the fight for the bill to the organized lobbies in Sacramento.

JUNIOR "PEOPLE'S FRONT"
After listening to harangues from a lot of liberals and down-right reactionaries the assembly settled down to listen to a two-hour speech on the plight of the younger generation which was delivered by Claudia Williams, representative of the Business Girls Club of the YWCA, and formerly identified with the Young Communist League. Mrs. Williams' speech abounded with such tidbits as quotations from President Roosevelt and his stooges in the National Youth Administration. She also made a great many allusions to the "suffering of youth" such as are mouthed by all milksop liberals.

Mr. Williams' talk was the keynote for the entire assembly. It was just another case of the Junior People's Front in action, with the Young Communist League outdoing the reactionary elements in their attempts to water down every proposal for just demands for the young workers and militant action to enforce these demands.

At the very outset of the first session of the proceedings an announcement was made by Mrs. Williams that no literature could be distributed or sold outside the building because the building authorities would object. This announcement was directed at members of the Socialist Party who were distributing handbills announcing a mass meeting to be held in order to recruit men for the Debs Column for service in Spain.

A protest by the Young People's Socialist League that such action by the assembly and by the authorities of the Jewish Community Center was in violation of all civil rights went unheeded.

"LET'S BE PRACTICAL"
The second session of the assembly consisted of round tables of religious, National Youth Administration, Trade Union, Racial Minority, and fraternal groups. There was also one session of legislative work which considered lobbying methods.

At all the round tables the YCL dominated majority stressed only one point—that the bill must be "practical" in order to pass through the legislature. On the ground of "practicality" the provisions of the American Youth Act were thoroughly emasculated and provisions set up that approximated those of the National Youth Administration, which are completely inadequate.

In the trade union round table Al Furth, delegate from Miscellaneous Union 110, put up a fight for a bill which would in some measure be adequate for the needs of youth. The opposition to this progressive action was led by Archie Brown, head of the YCL maritime fraction.

DELEGATES STEAMROLLED
At the opening session on the second day the Presiding Committee presented a draft bill which represented the correlated efforts of all the round table discussions. The provisions were so hopelessly inadequate that your correspondent took the floor to make amendments which would make the bill more reasonable and realistic from the standpoint of the working youth. Through parliamentary trickery he was ruled off the floor to a chorus of "question, question" from the YCL stooges on the floor.

The chair ruled that amendments could not be made and that opposition to the report of the presiding committee could not be heard. However order was not restored, due to protests against such high-handed proceedings, until the YCL railroaded through a motion suspending Robert's Rules of Order, the only way in which they could keep opposition motions off the floor.

The YPSL delegates and other delegates who were outraged by such undemocratic procedure withdrew to the lobby of the hall in order to discuss ways and means of continuing the struggle.

CHICAGO SOCIALIST NOTES

CHICAGO MASS MEETING ON MOSCOW TRIAL

CHICAGO.—A mass meeting on the subject of the right of asylum for Trotsky and the Moscow trials will be held February 14 at the Capitol Building, 159 North State Street. Speakers announced are Norman Thomas, James Farrell and others.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Chicago committee for the Defense of Trotsky which has already enrolled many prominent radicals and liberals, including professors of Northwestern and Chicago Universities.

Open Socialist Bookshop
The organization of a Socialist Bookshop for Chicago has been announced by the Cook County Socialist Party literature committee. The bookshop occupies a room opening on to the reception room of the Socialist offices at 35 Dearborn, and will be open from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. daily except Sundays.

Included in the stock will be all Socialist periodicals, Marxist classics, works of current social interest, and literature published by the Socialist Party or publishing houses close to it, such as the League for Industrial Democracy and Pioneer Publishers.

Books of any publisher which may not happen to be on hand may be ordered through the bookshop.

Special Notice

The dinner and reception to national secretaries, Roy Burt and Frank Trager, originally scheduled for January 23, is being postponed.

Young Socialist National Conference Notes Progress

CHICAGO.—Young steel workers and students, New Yorkers and Californians, Negro and white, youthful "veterans" and "tenderfeet"—all of them leading members of the Young People's Socialist League—met here to note the gains and discuss the problems of the American Socialist youth movement in a three-day national conference.

The first session, presided over by Irving Barshop of New York, heard an account of the political and organizational problems of the League from Ernest Erber, national chairman, and Ben Fischer, national secretary of the organization. Then followed a series of reports from attending delegates of the growth of the YPSL in their localities.

The reports and discussion stressed preparations for intensified industrial work, whose concrete results were demonstrated by Bill Monroe of Los Angeles in his report on the gains made by the YPSL in his state.

PAINTERS STAND FIRMLY BEHIND MARITIME STRIKE

The regular membership meeting of Painters Local No. 158, which took place on January 8, 1936, unanimously repudiated the action of the Joint District Council of Painters in the sending of a telegram to the President, asking his intervention in the Maritime Strike.

The sentiment of the membership, as expressed on the floor, was that this unauthorized action of the delegates of the Local was a bad mistake which seemed to place the painters in line with reactionary forces hostile to the Maritime Strike.

The motion carried, was to send a letter to the press and to the Maritime Federation, expressing the true sentiment of the membership, which is in full support of the strikers.

for a bill which had some "meat." The discussion had barely begun when Frank Carlson, state secretary of the Young Communist League appeared and inquired if the Young People's Socialist League was withdrawing from the assembly. He was informed that unless the YPSL could get the floor to state its case it was useless for their delegates to remain. Carlson, who has consistently denied that the Young Communist League dominated the assembly, rushed to the platform and after a whispered conversation with the chairman returned to inform the minority group that they could have the floor to present their resolutions.

This of course was conclusive proof that unless one was "in" with the top leadership of the YCL that there was no hope that they could put up any sort of struggle on the floor.

SOCIALIST PROGRAM
Bill Millia took the platform for about 15 minutes and presented the motion of the YPSL which is contained elsewhere in this issue. It is interesting also, to note that a provision that no recipient of the benefits of the CIA be required to take military training was deleted from the motion of the presiding committee and was only included after a protest by a delegate from the Emergency Peace Campaign.

to February 14. The new address will be announced shortly.

To Hold Raffle for Spain

A special affair and raffle for the benefit of the Spanish Solidarity Fund will be held February 20 at 1241 North California by the 7th Congressional District branch of the Chicago Socialist Party. The Gillespie, Illinois branch of the Party recently raised \$72.00 single-handed for the fund.

Co-Op. Shares Ready

Every member of the Chicago Socialist Co-operative House at 6120 Dorchester will also be an owner of it, according to a plan just being released by the residence. The "Co-op," which has just been renovated and redecorated and is in the process of being refurnished, will issue shares to be purchased by each tenant as an initiation fee, and which may be resold to the house when moving out.

The shares, according to a mimeographed announcement, "will be prevented from becoming capitalistic acquisitions by the most advanced principles of co-operation," and will not be dividend-paying or interest-bearing, will have a fixed price, will permit one vote per shareholder rather than per share, and no absentee control by non-residents.

The experiment is being watched with interest by Socialist co-operative houses in other cities, which may join in the same shareholding association if it proves successful. The Chicago house announced that it still had a single and a double room vacant. It can be reached by telephoning DORechester 6120, the same number as the address.

Freedom Of 4 Miners Is Still Sought

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 30.—Refusal by Gov. A. B. Chandler of Kentucky to free the four Harlan-county miners serving life-terms despite strong new evidence that they were framed up by anti-union coal interests has given new momentum to the fight for their liberation.

Chandler's decision came at the end of a two-hour hearing on Dec. 24, at which liberation of the prisoners was urged by two key witnesses, labor leaders, state legislators, and defense representatives. Testimony by the witnesses corroborated the defense contention that these men were unjustly convicted. But the Governor said "not enough evidence" was presented to convince him.

"As far as the record goes, I can't grant your request," Chandler stated. "I don't feel that I would be justified now. Bolster up your record and I will consider it further. I'm sorry I can't do anything now."

"I'll appeal to the Maker of my soul to guide me in making a final decision when the record has been completed. I would rather let these men out than keep them there. I hate to deny a father the joy of being with his family on Christmas, but on what record you have presented, I cannot grant your request. . . . Because I haven't given a pardon to any one yet doesn't mean that I won't. I probably will."

PRESENT NEW EVIDENCE

Immediate steps will be taken to assemble additional evidence of the innocence of the prisoners, and to arrange for its presentation to the Governor, according to Herbert Mahler, secretary of the Kentucky Miners' Defense.

"To meet the difficult requirements of Gov. Chandler," said Mahler, "we will be compelled to carry on extensive further investigation. Work on this task will be started at once. One encouraging factor is the fine spirit of co-operation established between the trade unions of Kentucky and the Kentucky Miners' Defense."

"This unity of action was largely responsible for the splendid showing at the Frankfort hearing. In advising us to 'bolster up the record,' we consider that Mr. Chandler conceded an open doubt that the conviction of the Harlan men was justified."

BRUNSWICK, Maine. — 900 workers were affected when weavers struck against doubling the amount of looms per worker at the cotton mill of the Cabot Manufacturing.

Farmer-Labor Party Stabs At Spanish Labor

By CARL PEMBLE

ST. PAUL.—The swift blocking of large shipments of war materials to the Spanish Government today brought into sharp relief the consequence of such "neutrality" legislation as that introduced by Senator Pittman and rushed through specifically to block the shipments to the Spanish workers.

In this matter, the Fourth congressional district central committee of the Farmer-Labor Association played a completely reactionary role. This Ramsey County committee unanimously voted to support this "neutrality" legislation.

Without putting forth any reason other than the fact that such legislation already exists as far as war between nations is concerned, the committee resolved "That the central committee of the Ramsey County Farmer-Labor Association instruct its secretary to immediately communicate with all Farmer-Labor members of congress and urge their cooperation in amending the national neutrality act to prohibit the exportation of arms, ammunition and other armaments from the United States to any foreign power, corporation or individual either engaged in warfare of any kind or in the business of supplying armaments to nations or factions engaged in warfare."

This action was reported in the St. Paul Union Advocate. However, the INS reports an attempt by Rep. John T. Bernard, Minn. Farmer Laborite to block passage of the bill.

Get-Together Frolic

For Socialist Party, YPSL Members and Their Friends

SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 16TH

at

INTERNATIONAL HALL

236 Van Ness Ave.

Games - Dancing - Refreshments

General Merry-Making.

ADMISSION 10 CENTS

The Action Army

By FRANK STERN

The most encouraging thing that happened to us last week was a visit from our old grade A booster Bill of Stanford U. Bill rested his feet comfortably on the bummed a smoke, and confided to us that he was going to turn in 25 subs in the next week. And when Com Millis says he's going to do something he just goes and does it. The rest of you Action Armyites take note get on your toes.

King Case Attorneys To Appeal

Undeterred in their fight to expose the conviction of three members of the Marine Firemen's Union for the murder of George Alberts as a vicious frameup concocted by District Attorney Earl Warren, the defense attorneys moved immediately for a new trial.

Despite the testimony of two witnesses who accused George Wallace, co-defendant and star prosecution witness, of the actual crime, a jury of six women and six men chose to believe the conflicting and contradictory "evidence" introduced by the State, and found Earl King, Ernest G. Ramsay and Frank J. Conner, along with Wallace, guilty of second-degree murder.

A decisive factor influencing the jury's choice was the final charge given by Superior Judge Frank M. Ogden.

PREJUDICED JUDGE

In effect, his charge, traditionally supposed to be an impartial statement of the duties of the jury, became a directed verdict of guilt against the defendants, and pointed out that in his opinion, only the prosecution's evidence was valid.

Organized labor is aware that once more workers' lives are in danger because they dare fight to improve the working conditions of their brothers. This is apparent in the vigorous campaign for a new trial for these men. Protests from labor against the verdict are coming from all over the nation.

The move for a new trial, placed as it is within the framework of a legal system that has only too often displayed its true character, must be reinforced by the mass pressure and action by the labor movement as a whole. All labor must rally to the task of freeing Earl King, Ernest G. Ramsay and Frank J. Conner, the latest victims of capitalist justice.

Enroll For The Debs Column At Rochester

The Socialist Party, Rochester Local, has opened a recruiting office for the Eugene V. Debs Column which the Socialist Party is sending to help the Spanish people.

Many eager recruits applied at the office at 62 State Street, where John Dwyer, Regional State Organizer, enrolled them in the column. The U. S. Army Reserve Corps has started an investigation as to the legality of the move on the part of the Socialist Party. Several officers have tried to enroll at the office and to put the Socialist Party in an embarrassing position but their attempts have met with failure.

The Socialist Party is proceeding with the enrollment of men in spite of the investigation and reports that 50 men have signed up to date. The men who are enlisting are anxious to go to Spain to fight against the Fascist butchers that are slaughtering the Spanish people. Many more are expected in the next few days.

John Dwyer expects to go to Buffalo soon where he will open the Socialist Party office there for recruiting.

Ernest Erber will speak at a meeting held in Rochester on Monday, January 11, to raise funds to send the Eugene V. Debs column to Spain. Erber, who has just returned from Europe and a visit to Spain, will speak in Buffalo on Sunday, January 10.

The Rochester local of the Socialist Party passed a resolution calling on every local of the Socialist Party to follow their example in setting up recruiting stations throughout the country to enlist men for the Eugene V. Debs column.

Only by showing the American workers the necessity of helping the workers of Spain to obtain food, clothing, arms and men, can we hope to show them the necessity of fighting Fascism with every weapon at our disposal.

Says the January issue of the "Teamsters' International Bulletin": "No central body or State Federation of Labor has the right to go against the policy of the A. F. of L. and pass resolutions for industrial unionism."

First place this week goes to female comrade . . . which a mention time that has happened in two weeks. This time Comrade Ina White of Chicago who makes the grade and her choice of any of the girls of Carlo's cartoons . . . have appeared in Labor Action. Nice work Ina. Remember both used to be in the Jackson Park branch in Chicago.

Second place goes to Dunne of Minneapolis who through with an even four, accompanied by a pair from Dexter of the same territory. Vince, pick your print of our cartoons and we'll ship you PDQ.

We don't want to leave a comrade without saying "hello" to Chester K. Johnson who has been doing a splendid job of Labor Action agent. (He paid bundle order bills on time.)

No column is complete without the mention of Ernest Perle of Los Angeles who has the all-time record for sub-getting. He things going with a pair of this week and a promise to lot better next week. As Ernie.

The Berkeley Yipsels keep running with a sizeable check a couple of subs from Labor agent Ida Bear. We'll hear from the wrong side of the from now on.

Last week we said quite about our sustaining fund, response was not what it should be. Labor Action operates on a deficit as does every Socialist action. The only source of to offset that deficit is our own and sympathizers.

In the last couple of weeks incurred heavy expenses in ing and outfitting our office. The only way we can up for that expenditure through regular contributions. These contributions must from you who are close to cause of Socialism.

Send in your bit this matter how small it is. Come a member of our fund so that we can count for a monthly contribution.

It is important that Labor be kept on a firm financial. Do your part with subscriptions to the sustaining fund.

And now some comments our readers—which only our point. Gordon Haskell Angeles—"I think the paper fine work. . . . I'm glad what I can."

From Milt Cohen, New Yipsel industrial director the following, "Lots of truly fine paper. May the last movement from Coast duplicate such forerunners new Socialist journalism as Action."

And Bob Ontell of Los Angeles, "A Labor Action Brigade has been organized group of active comrades to spend every Sunday in vassing for Labor Action and subs from house to house. Watch our steam." That's what we call active support.

Let's really go to town on the sustaining fund drive.

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The Notebook of an Agitator

The Champion from Far Away; Frame-ups and Build-ups; The Great Leaders and the Great Whoosis

Since coming to San Francisco I have been watching these range the "build-up" of a new Stalinite labor leader, a transparent mediocrity who was unknown yesterday and will be forgotten tomorrow—and I keep thinking of the story Ben Hecht once wrote about the wrestling champion and the way its phoney.

The story, I remember correctly, was "The Champion from Far Away" and it had to do with a champion who became a champion while without ceasing to be a champion.

The champion from far away, who was originally a digger in a metropolitan area, there, equipped with tools of his trade—a "sharp" pick and a No. 2—performed his not too complicated tasks and, in his own way, was happy in his lot and day in and day out he went about his practiced one-two motions like a natural-born stick artist, with never a change in his thick, hard head of possible change in the routine, in the normal course of events, surviving fellow-crafts would one day dig a grave and plant him underneath.

God proposes—and the promoters of the wrestling racket try to suit themselves. One of destiny's couple of decisions happened in on the day where our hero worked, when one of the outstanding figures in the racket had a score or so machine guns in a private dispute with the boys, and the two promoters had turned out to the end to pay their last respects to the fallen comrade and make at the same time that he put away for keeps.

When the big grave-digger swung his shovel in the earth, needing a new champion, decided then and there he was it. He appeared to all the specifications they required. He came from a distant land that gave him novelty, mystery and color. He was big and powerful-looking—what the public expects in a champion. And he was dumb—which would make him easy to handle. All in all, he was like a "natural" to the promoters. They signed him up on the spot while his loose mouth would open in wonderment and him away like a captive on a new short life of manufacture and glory as the greatest wrestler the world had ever seen.

His promoters gave the grave-digger the "build up." His non-existent merits were bally-hoed and wide. Sports writers, seeing on the payroll of the promoter, wrote learnedly and objectively about his new and mysterious technique, his "color" and his mysterious origin in a far-off land. Fixed matches were arranged and the erstwhile shovel-wielding champion triumphantly across the country, pushing over setups and left. Honest, but innocent sports commentators fell for the general ballyhoo and the clod-hoppers' impressive string of alleged victories, and they also tried to beat the drums for the champion from Far Away. The public was worked up to a latter of admiration for the unbeaten and unbeatable champion.

The grave-digger himself, that's the saddest part of the story—began to believe the build-up. He began to believe he was really out-wrestling trained setups who rolled on their backs and played dead at the appointed moments. The promoter took the counterfeit of the promoters for the champion.

It was too bad, for it wasn't long after that the house of cards collapsed. Through some of the arrangements, the champion from Far Away got into one night with an opponent who knew how to wrestle and wasn't fixed to fall.

He was mean and tough and he put the manufactured champion through an agony of hammerlocks, half-nelsons and holds which made him feel the old simple life in the land and to wonder why his highly-touted "technique" didn't seem to work any more. The champion kept after him, using vicious, gouging and when he got a chance and he began to have a better chance than he was coming. He became utterly convinced that the wrestling racket was a fraud which were not so.

When the referee was out the other way, the rough champion who hadn't been fixed, threw his elbow with a vicious, hammer thrust into the belly of the champion from Far Away. It was his turn to roll over and dead, like so many of

INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Anglo-French Imperialism and Spain

The "plan" for British imperialism to intervene in the Spanish situation and to solve the crisis there met with an acceptance in principle not only on the part of Moscow diplomacy, but also by

and in the West of all places.

I saw the Great Whoosis finally get his "rising ovation," but the whole thing was too transparent a fake to impress me. Here was an organized clique down front, rising in unison as though in response to a signal, and waving and motioning to others to get up. Then one could see individuals milling around at strategic points in the crowd, like cowboys around a herd of cattle, motioning for everybody to get up. Finally, as though anxious to get the thing over with, about half of the crowd slowly stood up and quickly sat down again.

Demonstrations, Real and Phony

It was all organized, perfunctory, like taking off your hat in a court room when his honor, the judge, comes in. There was nothing spontaneous about it—and what is a demonstration worth to a self-respecting man, if it isn't spontaneous? The very fact that a "leader" will stand for such a shoddy tribute earmarks him as a base pretender.

In my time I have heard Debs speak, and I can remember yet the hearty, joyous shouts of affection and comradeship with which the great agitator was greeted as he entered the hall. But there was no formal rising when he began to speak. For one thing, Debs was too eager to plunge into his speech and always deprecated unnecessary demonstrations.

I have heard Haywood speak in the heat of bitter struggle to strikers who adored him, but there was none of this formal, organized rising, like serfs greeting the feudal lord. Big Bill would have been mortally offended by such cut-and-dried horseplay. When Haywood was on the platform he made the workers feel that here was a comrade and fellow-worker, one of their very own. That was one of the secrets of the real power of real leaders of the workers like Debs and Haywood.

I have even heard Lenin speak—at the Fourth Congress of the Communist International in 1922. I must confess that I really wanted to rise to my feet on that memorable occasion. The whole Congress rose as one man, in spontaneous, heartfelt acclaim for the leader of the Russian revolution, and we didn't need any claque down front to set the example, nor any cowboys running through the aisles to whip us into line. There were ushers and they served another purpose. They asked us to please sit down because the "Old Man" was not feeling very well, and he didn't like formal demonstrations anyway!

Frame-ups and Build-ups

The real leaders of the working class could dispense with all the empty fakery of capitalist advertising, ballyhoo and "build-up" because their merits were genuine and they honestly and truly represented the cause of the workers. They were tried and tested over a long period of time. Their deeds spoke for them and they had no need of press agents, lackeys, sycophants and organized hand-clappers. They grew, with deep roots in the workers' movement, and did not require artificial props.

It is precisely because they lack these qualities, because they play a game of deception and fraud under a hypocritical pretense of radicalism, that the Stalinists require entirely different methods borrowed from the shadiest fringes of the capitalist world.

The system of Stalinism has no use or place for honest militants of tested character and ability and independent opinions. It needs pliable nonentities, parvenues and careerists on the make. Against the former it employs the frame-up; for the latter it provides the build-up. This is the whole sum and substance of the attitude of Stalinism to leaders of the labor movement, the real and the counterfeit.

But the whole strategy of the Stalinists, like that of their prototypes in the wrestling racket, is founded on an illusion and is doomed to explode. Lincoln was right: You can't fool all the people all the time; and the truth, slowly moving at the start, will eventually catch up with the lie. And built-up Champions from Far Away, in the labor movement as well as in the ring, eventually encounter opponents who do not believe the ballyhoo.

This is bad news for the Great Whoosis, who like the ill-starred hero of Ben Hecht's story, is beginning to take his own phoney build-up seriously and is beginning to strut and pose like a real champion. But it's the truth never hurt anybody that was on the level.—J.R.Q.

Largo Caballero, the Premier of the present Madrid Government. Labor Action has carried rather a detailed analysis of what is behind this plan. As an illuminating commentary on the imperialist plans behind the British proposals, we print below an extract from a long article in the Manchester Weekly Guardian for December 24, 1936:

"It is understood that the British Government does not regard a plebiscite as a practical possibility. What then has it in view? According to one account, 'a more likely suggestion is that each side should hold and administer the territory occupied by it on the cessation of hostilities.' Since the rebels now claim to control two-thirds of Spain that is an extraordinary suggestion. . . . Nevertheless one cannot but notice the allegation recently made by M. Achille Fould before the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French Chamber that, but for France's protests, a recognition of two governments in Spain by us would have taken place a long time ago."

The French "protest" over the proposed action of Britain was motivated not by any love for democracy but solely by considerations of French imperialist interests that are endangered by the possibility of either Germany or Italy gaining a strong foothold on the Iberian peninsula. Le Temps, the authoritative organ of the French bourgeoisie, makes this quite clear in a number of editorials that it has written on Spain. In an editorial on December 13, 1936, Le Temps said: "The truth is that the military reaction, which had the support of all the moderate, conservative and traditionalist elements, arose for the sake of doing away with the threat of a social revolution, and the plunge into communism and anarchy. Had the coupe de force succeeded in Madrid and Barcelona, the crisis would have doubtless remained a matter of purely internal order for Spain alone."

Le Temps makes it quite clear, that Franco's failure was due not to the lack of the support of all capitalist elements, but to the militant action of the Spanish workers and their militias. It was Franco's failure, that made the intervention of Mussolini and Hitler "easily understandable." While Le Temps makes it quite clear that if France could not tolerate any strong influence on Spain exerted by Germany, it nevertheless piously goes on record for a peaceful solution along the lines proposed in Britain to avert any further development of the crisis which has reached a stage by "far the most dangerous for the peace of Europe."

"Workers' Militia"

The Stalinists have been and remain the most consistent and frenzied opponents of the slogan of "Workers' Militia." They opposed it as a provocation in Spain months prior to Franco's uprising. They continued to label it as a "provocation" in France, while the French Francos are making all the necessary preparations for riding roughshod over the working class in France. But they have come out in favor of a "workers' militia" in Mexico. For what purpose? To prevent Trotsky from setting foot on Mexican soil!

Le Temps for December 11, 1936.

The New Deal Works Out Like the Old Deal

By ALFRED BAKER LEWIS
Conclusive evidence that the New Deal is working out like the Old Deal is furnished by the Production chart made up from the government's figures on wages, employment and output in manufacturing.

Taking the average of the three years from 1923, 1924 and 1925 as the base, or 100, the index number for output in manufacturing climbed in December to 113, but employment was only 95 per cent as much. This was despite the fact that the population has gone up about 13 per cent in that period, so that manufacturing should be giving employment to 12 per cent more people if it were pulling its oar and doing its full share in our national economy. Actually, however, only 95 per cent as many people had jobs in manufacturing at the end of 1936 as in three normal good years before the depression. Yet, the 5 per cent fewer people turned out 13 per cent more product.

PAYROLLS DOWN

The wage figures are still worse. Payrolls were only 91 per cent as large at the end of 1936 as during the three normal pre-depression years.

This situation represents a very substantial spread between a large increase in output on the one hand, and a considerable decrease in employment with a still greater decrease in pay on the other.

These figures are especially significant when compared with the government's own figures prove it.

carries the following telegram from Moscow:

"The Mexican Communist Party has decided to make impossible any proposed stay of M. Trotsky in Mexico, by resorting to every means possible, even, if need be, to direct action and the mobilization of workers' militias."

China and the Stalinists

The arrival of L'Humanite, French Communist Daily, to this country enables us to verify the fact that in France, as in the United States, the original reaction of the Stalinist editors to the capture of Chiang Kai-shek was just the opposite of the position they assumed on the next day, upon the instructions from Moscow. On December 14, Marcel Cachin writing in L'Humanite was even more outspoken and delirious about the capture than was our native Harry Gannes. Cachin hailed the Chinese Red Army and the Chinese C. P. for the signal victory gained.

Is this "mistake" repeated on one and the same day in Paris and in New York due to mere coincidence? Is it merely a case of great minds working in the same direction, until a greater mind in the Kremlin has the chance to correct them? There is a much more prosaic explanation. Far from being an exhibition of initiative on the part of either Gannes or Cachin, both of these faithful scribes merely consulted the latest instructions available on the subject, which, indeed, were quite clear: Chang-Kai-shek—"butcher."

Neither Paris nor New York had yet been advised that the "butcher" of yesterday had already become a trusty ally, one of the main pillars of the Chinese People's Front against Japanese imperialism.

It is Dangerous to Train Men In the Art of War

By CRARY TRIMBLE

We've said a lot of nasty things about capitalist governments, and we don't give them credit for much intelligence. We're not eating any words either. But we'd like to remind "the boys" that there are times when things they require in the interests of preserving capitalism (such as military training in schools and an occasional capitalist war) act as a boomerang and can be used in the interests of specific working class victories.

In the few brief days since it was announced that volunteers for the Debs Column of the International Workers' Brigade would be interviewed in San Francisco for the purpose of making it possible for them to join their brothers from other parts of this country and the world, World War veterans and ex-army and navy men with thorough military training have come in to the office and asked to be among those selected to go to Spain.

Assisting men with military training to get to Spain where they can fight shoulder to shoulder with their international class brothers against the onslaught of international Fascism, does not change the position of the Socialist Party one iota on the subject of capitalist international warfare. The volunteers who will be sent are men who learned from the bitter experience of the last world conflict of capitalist nations that there must be an end to capitalism which breeds international warfare. A victory for Fascism in Spain would strengthen a decadent capitalism in every nation in Europe and of the world. A victory for the workers and the setting up of a workers' government in Spain will mean one more step in the inevitable march toward international socialism for the end of oppression, the end of the warfare between capitalist interests of one country and those of another.

We're wondering how the "boys" in Washington are feeling these days. They should think twice before they leap into another international war in which the working stiff who are drafted to fight battles for the bankers stand to gain from such wars. Every lesson learned in such a war, combined with the military experience that these workers get, means that many more workers trained to defend themselves and their class against Fascism in their own as well as other countries.

PUT TRAINING TO USE

In spite of the goose-stepping discipline which is part of the whole army machine, some of the fellows come through that training with an ability to think for themselves. They "know what the score is." They come from the working class, and if they have left the army or navy they have taken up their life as workers. A thorough patriotic training cannot keep them from understanding the meaning of the class struggle if they have attempted to better their condition as workers by organizing into unions. A good many of these ex-army and navy boys who want to put their training to the service of the Spanish workers have felt the blows of the police during the strikes. Many of them have drifted from city to city in search of merely the right to work and live. Denied that right, they have begun to learn that they have "nothing to lose but their chains, and a whole world to gain," by helping their class brothers win the struggle in Spain.

The capitalist class in country after country has chosen the weapons when the power of the workers was pitted against the power of the owning class. Our capitalist government, in preparation for such developments in this country, has enforced military training in our schools. It is their choice. We still reserve the right to choose how that training shall be put into service. The fact that such military training can and will be used to make an end of capitalist exploitation and capitalist wars is no doubt embarrassing to the military mugs. Let them console themselves with the memory of the numerous Socialist and other radical students who have been expelled for opposing just such military training in the schools. Far be it from us to fail to make the best of a bad bargain. If capitalist government insists on military training, we're glad that some of the boys know how to use it when use becomes necessary.

Neither New Deal nor Old Deal capitalism provides security and justice for the working class. The government's own figures prove it.

lars of the Chinese People's Front against Japanese imperialism. Hence they faithfully hewed to the line. However, when informed of a slight change in the line, they effected without any difficulty, a similar change in their own attitude.

Moscow and the P.O.U.M.

The recent developments in Catalonia have brought sharply to the fore the question of the extent of the Stalinist influence there. The charge made by the P.O.U.M. that it was Moscow that forced them out of the Catalan Government has been fully borne out by a dispatch in Izvestia, official organ of the Soviet Government, for Dec. 15, 1936.

According to this dispatch, Comorera, the leader of the United Socialist Party (recently formed by a merger of the Catalan C. P. and S. P.), published a declaration in Trebal, pointing out that on November 24, the U.G.T. had sent a letter to the C.N.T. stressing that "the advance of the rebels on Madrid, the attempt to blockade Catalonia, the recognition of the Burgos government by Italy and Germany made indispensable a change in policy and the establishment of a government capable of maintaining discipline and winning the war. It is necessary to give wide powers to the counsellors of the government (the Ministers) and to eliminate the Trotskyists from the government." (Our emphasis). In other words, the present change in policy in Barcelona and the elimination of the P.O.U.M.—the so-called Trotskyists—are the fruits of a campaign launched more than a month before.

The Party At Work

East Bay

Erich Rix, German Trade Unionist who spent two years in a German concentration camp, will be the speaker at a mass meeting under the auspices of the Socialist Party of East Bay at Carpenters' Hall in Oakland, Sunday evening, January 17, at 8 a. m. At this meeting, which is open to the public, the speaker will discuss the effect of German Nazism on the working class of Germany.

San Francisco

The regular Sunday evening Forum series under the auspices of the Socialist Party of San Francisco, at International Hall, 236 Van Ness Avenue, at 8 p. m., will begin Sunday evening, January 17. A sensational expose of a campaign on the part of the California growers to make it impossible for agricultural workers to organize will be given by the speaker, Walter Cowan, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor. Brother Cowan

Los Angeles

In celebration of Comrade Leon Trotsky's safe arrival in Mexico where he has been granted political asylum, the Los Angeles Forum Committee dedicated its last Sunday evening Forum to a discussion of the principles for which Trotsky stands and the force of the recent Moscow trials.

Western States Federation Of the Socialist Party

The Western Division of the Debs Column. This was done to facilitate the check on qualifications of volunteers so that they would truly represent the spirit of the working-class leader, Eugene Victor Debs, and would be of some specific service to the Spanish workers.

Already volunteers have been heard from in the northwest, in addition to the San Francisco area and throughout California. The Federation Secretary recommends that state and local organizations throughout the west get in touch with New York for full details (or with the San Francisco office) for the purpose of checking locally on applicants and assisting in the fund-raising campaign to send these men across.

Red Special On Its Way to New Mexico

The Red Special has been doing intensive work in various parts of Texas. As it passed through the streets of Houston, a bystander—caught by the bright red color of the truck—looked again and saw the Socialist Party name printed on its side. He waved to the little family on the truck and shouted "Hurrah for Socialism!"

Between January 1 and January 7 the Red Special visited Reisel, Georgetown, Austin, Houston, Galveston and San Antonio, Texas, with a meeting in a Methodist Church in Austin and four meetings at various classes, forums, and chapel in the Southwestern University at Georgetown, with discussion on religion, the class struggle, and prospects for youth. A public meeting was held in Houston.

The major work in this area is detail work with individual party members and locals for reorganization of Socialist Party work. Organization possibilities are reported to be generally good, if the enthusiasm aroused by the Red Special is maintained by the local comrades.

By the time this issue of Labor Action reaches western readers, the Red Special will be in New Mexico where plans have been under way to make full use of the tour.

Western Division Debs Column

Because immediate aid to the Spanish Workers is necessary, the Socialist Party through Labor Action issued an invitation to volunteers in the west to apply through the State Office of California at 236 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, for the purpose of making it possible for them to join their brothers from other parts of this country and the world, World War veterans and ex-army and navy men with thorough military training have come in to the office and asked to be among those selected to go to Spain.

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Meanwhile, the December and even the January Bulletin have been delayed because of the rush of work involved in this project. Local and state organizations can help the Federation Secretary considerably if they will send at once any material they wish mailed to the organizations in the west with the Bulletin which will be issued within the next ten days.

Berkeley Finnish Branch

The Berkeley Finnish Branch of the Socialist Party participated in a joint benefit entertainment, for the striking maritime workers, at the Finnish Brotherhood Hall in Berkeley on January 2, 1937. This entertainment was arranged by a joint committee representing the Berkeley Lodge of the Finnish Brotherhoods on the Pacific Coast, the Finnish Workers' Association of Berkeley, the Berkeley Finnish Workers' Educational Club, and the Finnish Branch of the Socialist Party in San Francisco.

Cowan To Expose Conspiracy Against Agricultural Labor

Walter Cowan, vice president of the State Federation of Labor, will be the first speaker, starting the Open Forum season of the San Francisco Local of the Socialist Party on Sunday evening, January 17th at International Hall, 236 Van Ness Avenue.

The subject of Cowan's forum address will be a Sensational Expose of the California Growers' plot against the agricultural workers. Brother Cowan, who was in charge of the State Federation of Labor's organization campaign at Salinas during the recent lettuce strike, has some extraordinary facts and documentary proof to present in his exposed.

He will show how the growers are organizing a campaign of discrimination against agricultural workers, six months before the season opens. This plot against the workers is being organized by a government official, and if successful, is to be followed by similar attempts in other fields.

IMPORTANT FACTS

The facts which Cowan has to present are therefore of vital and immediate concern of all workers and all friends of labor.

At the end of Cowan's address the floor will be thrown open for questions and discussion, giving the audience an opportunity to participate in the question at issue.

Those differing with the speaker's point of view will be given an opportunity to express their opinions. This custom will be followed at each Sunday night forum of the Socialist Party.

The following Sunday, January 24th, Erich Rix, a German refugee, will speak. Comrade Rix was a trade unionist for twenty years in Germany. He spent two years in Hitler's concentration camps. Watch the columns of Labor Action for further announcement of this meeting.

Twin Cities Organize For Trotsky Defense

MINNEAPOLIS—The Twin City branch of the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky is now taking form. The first steps in the formation of the local committee are materializing as a broad, non-partisan committee of labor leaders, intellectuals and liberal citizens of prominence. Collection of funds will begin immediately, and a mass meeting will be addressed by Albert Goldman, well-known Chicago labor attorney, V. R. Dunne and others.

The unquestionable jeopardy to Leon Trotsky's life in Mexico is now recognized even by the capitalist press. Time magazine com-

has documentary evidence of plans to organize the growers and the "law enforcement officials" into a solid front against organized labor in the agricultural fields. Admission to the Forum will be 15c. Unemployed will be admitted free.

The second meeting of the forum series will take place the following Sunday, January 24, at which time Erich Rix, himself a victim of German Nazism, will discuss Fascism—how it comes, how it acts, how it looks from the outside.

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He will show how the growers are organizing a campaign of discrimination against agricultural workers, six months before the season opens. This plot against the workers is being organized by a government official, and if successful, is to be followed by similar attempts in other fields.

IMPORTANT FACTS

The facts which Cowan has to present are therefore of vital and immediate concern of all workers and all friends of labor.

At the end of Cowan's address the floor will be thrown open for questions and discussion, giving the audience an opportunity to participate in the question at issue.

Those differing with the speaker's point of view will be given an opportunity to express their opinions. This custom will be followed at each Sunday night forum of the Socialist Party.

The following Sunday, January 24th, Erich Rix, a German refugee, will speak. Comrade Rix was a trade unionist for twenty years in Germany. He spent two years in Hitler's concentration camps. Watch the columns of Labor Action for further announcement of this meeting.

Twin Cities Organize For Trotsky Defense

MINNEAPOLIS—The Twin City branch of the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky is now taking form. The first steps in the formation of the local committee are materializing as a broad, non-partisan committee of labor leaders, intellectuals and liberal citizens of prominence. Collection of funds will begin immediately, and a mass meeting will be addressed by Albert Goldman, well-known Chicago labor attorney, V. R. Dunne and others.

The unquestionable jeopardy to Leon Trotsky's life in Mexico is now recognized even by the capitalist press. Time magazine com-

DESK WANTED

WANTED—One desk (gift or loan) preferably large, any condition, for use of Workers' Defense League. Address Defense Committee, 236 Van Ness, Telephone HEMlock 7963.

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The Name of Debs

The two significant actions being undertaken by the Socialist Party at the present time—the move to give aid to the fighting forces of the Spanish workers and the campaign to organize and extend the general activities of the party—gain momentum and inspiration by the wise decision to associate both actions with the name of Debs.

Now, more than a decade after the death of the grand old militant, the example of his life has a meaning of exceptional importance. Debs personified the spirit of uncompromising devotion to the cause of the working class. His name will be forever identified with the socialist struggle against imperialist war.

Today, with Spain already a bloody battleground of the international class war, and with the whole world quivering on the brink of a new 1914, the young generation of Socialist militants need the memory and the name of Debs.

It is entirely fitting and profoundly symbolic of the new spirit animating the Socialist Party, that the column of proletarian soldiers which the Socialist Party is sending from America to Spain will march under the banner of Debs. The great agitator, who was always ready to "come a thousand miles to fan the flames of the proletarian revolution," would have been the first to endorse the bold move of the New York socialist organization to send men to Spain to fight for Socialism.

When the reactionaries of the west attempted thirty years ago to take the lives of Moyer and Haywood, Debs called for the workers to fight in their defense, if necessary, with arms in their hands. How much more readily would he have seen the need of answering the murdering hordes of fascism with something more than words and resolutions.

Let pacifist muddle-heads and Old Guard traitors sniff the air and sneer against the Debs column. The young socialists who mean business, who take socialism seriously as a philosophy and an ideal, will go right ahead.

Let the Roosevelt administration suddenly discover the merits of "neutrality" as soon as it can be invoked against the Spanish workers. We never expected anything else from the counterfeit "friend of labor."

Let the Daily Worker, likewise, join the Old Guard betrayers and the Roosevelt Administration in denouncing the Debs Column. We expected nothing different from

that source either.

The tradition of Woodrow Wilson and the traitor socialists is with the enemies and opponents of the Debs Column. The tradition of Debs is with the Socialist militants who proudly carry on their struggle in his name. There is a place for everything and everything is in the right place.

More prosaic, but hardly less important, is the campaign now being conducted to finance party activities by the Debs Organization Campaign. The editors of Labor Action are glad to serve on the special committee directing this campaign under the chairmanship of Norman Thomas.

Socialist victories will not fall from the sky. Socialist organizations work, for which there is such a crying need in every field, will not finance itself. And it is becoming clearer every day that if we really mean to build a revolutionary party we must infuse our ranks with the spirit of sacrifice required by every great cause.

Here again, the spirit of the socialist pioneers must be appealed to. Debs, who represented and symbolize the thousands of Jimmie Higginses who found the meaning of life in the struggle for socialism, is by right the honorary, if absent, chairman of the Debs Organization Campaign. Socialists and sympathizers who purchase the Debs Fund stamps to the measure of their ability help the Socialist movement in the most practical way and honor themselves by this practical association with the great Socialist work unfolding.

Socialists and War

"Socialists recruiting for the Spanish workers will plunge the United States into war!"

This is the wail of Hearst and of senators and congressmen on capitol hill. The same cry is picked up and echoed by liberals, who, because they are liberals, know no better.

The United States Government has picked its own wars for more than a hundred years. It was dollars, territory, and commercial "rights" that plunged American workers into the wars with Mexico, Spain and the German Entente. Every military expert knows that the United States will not be forced into a war it does not want to fight—no other great power will invite that much trouble.

This is not to say that the United States Government will not enter war—and that only too soon. It is to say that the war the Government enters will be chosen by American financiers who today have "interests" in every corner of the globe.

It is for just that reason that American Socialists do not want and will oppose with all their strength the war-making moves of the United States Government, whether in Spain or anywhere else.

The government's war purposes will always and everywhere be the protection and strengthening of American and world capitalism. Volunteers risk their lives for a working-class victory in Spain, and the Socialist Party which is endeavoring to make it possible for them to join with the volunteers in the International Workers' Brigade, do not give approval to war declared by a capitalist government.

Wait For Baby!

By Carlo



Problems Before Party Convention

Our Movement Faces a Year of Opportunity

By GLEN TRIMBLE

Note: This is the first of a series of articles on issues confronting the March convention of the Socialist Party. They are intended as a basis for local and branch pre-convention discussion. We are sure that non-party readers will also find them interesting and educational. Labor Action will welcome articles submitted by party members on all subjects to be considered at the Socialist National Convention.—Editor.

The Socialist Party will meet in national convention at Chicago the last week in March. The problems both inside and outside the party make this decision of the National Executive Committee a vitally important one.

Nationally and internationally, 1937 will be a year of tremendous opportunity and responsibility for the Socialist movement. Here at home labor is embarked on a shown-down campaign in the mass production industries which old-line A. F. of L. leaders ignored or failed to penetrate in the post-war years. Autos, steel, rubber, textiles, land and marine transport are in the midst or on the threshold of the most significant organization drive in labor history. On the political field the "people's front" for Roosevelt is already cracking from its own contradictions. More and more surely Roosevelt is indicating that his second administration will be more conservative than his first.

This swing has already begun to discredit the "left" supporters of Roosevelt in labor, social-democrat, and Communist camps. The only genuine and consistent alternative to "New Deal" capitalism is the revolutionary program of the Socialist Party. That program turned into action in every immediate struggle of the working class will make the Socialists the rallying center for all class-conscious, militant workers.

New Hope From Spanish Struggle

The past ten years of defeat and pessimism in the international field has been checked by the heroic fight of the Spanish workers. The hope of world revolution has again, as in 1917, become a matter of immediate concern to the best and most militant elements in the labor and socialist movement of the world.

In this crisis, the officials of the labor and socialist and Communist Internationals have lagged far behind and even acted in direct contradiction to the spirit of the workers. Their trust in "democratic" capitalist governments, their legalistic and purely defensive measures against rising fascism and their hostility to revolutionary socialist groups and individuals (including candidates

and platform of the Socialist Party of the United States) have all served to make them hindrances rather than aids in the march to world Socialism.

Yet in spite of these obstacles, the march goes on. Nationally and internationally the revolutionary Socialist movement is gaining force. Our own party is gradually swinging into the main line of this march. In contrast to past inaction and ineffectiveness, party progress is tremendous, but in contrast to the needs of our times, we are still moving at a snail's pace.

Conclusion From Old Guard Break

This fact is partly a consequence of the recent internal history of the Party. The Cleveland convention of May, 1936 was too close to the decisive break with the ultra-reformist Old Guard leaders for the delegates to clearly foresee the political and organizational conclusions from the break.

Today these conclusions are accepted among Socialists. We are no longer a party exclusively devoted to election and legislative campaigns. We no longer accept the view that the trade union conduct of our members is a purely private affair. The inferiority complex which led many American Socialists to regard trade unions, rival working-class political organizations and the social-democratic parties of Europe with such awe that they chose to "ignore" their internal weaknesses has been largely overcome. We now recognize that the Socialist analysis and the Socialist program are the only trustworthy weapons for cutting the chains that bind all workers to an outworn system, and that the Socialist Party is the only party that can truly represent the interests of the workers.

Yet we have only partially reached this recognition into action. We have been hampered by indecision, a hang-over of out-dated decisions, and an insufficiency of forthright, decisive leadership. The March convention presents an opportunity to correct these faults and prepare for the work ahead.

Convention Has Full Power

The convention call outlines certain matters for consideration, including trade union policy, our relations with other organizations, provision of adequate party machinery, creation of a party press, finances, constitutional revision, and anti-war and anti-fascist activity.

The party membership should recognize that the limitations of the call are not binding upon the convention delegates. The convention, not the N.E.C., is the

higher Party authority and always has full power to determine its own rules and agenda. Consequently, there are certain additional matters which will be considered in these pre-convention articles and, in all probability, by the convention itself.

Among these are a comprehensive plan for organization in the south and west; recommendations for the most effective utilization of new recruits, particularly the increasing number of trained and experienced Marxists being won from other sections of the radical movement; provisions for encouraging and systematizing the fullest and freest possible discussion of Socialist problems. Surely, also, if the N.E.C. is of the opinion that the party machinery should be re-organized to carry out our "new emphasis," that same new emphasis should require a revision of our declaration of principles. For that matter, the Executive Committee itself should stand for re-election, and be chosen on a basis of convention policy.

Issues Clearly Defined

Beside these matters omitted from the agenda, some of its provisions are so broad as to give little guidance. "The relationship of the Socialist Party to other organizations," for instance, takes in the whole world. Beside "the other organizations" mentioned specifically in the report (labor parties and trade unions), our attitude toward the Communist Party, the Communist International, and the Soviet Union, toward the Social-Democratic Federation, the Labor and Socialist International and its component parties, and toward the Spanish Government in the existing civil war—all required careful definition.

These questions will be discussed in detail in subsequent articles, but this review of convention problems should make the reasons for one immediate recommendation obvious. The three days allotted for the convention are totally inadequate. Lack of time will force over-hasty and slipshod decisions on matters vital to the future of our Party. Members and local and state organizations should act at once to urge that the N.E.C. extend the convention time to at least five days and preferably to a full week.

FOOLING THE PEOPLE

CHICAGO, Ill.—In a talk before the American Sociological Society, Prof. Emory Bogardus of the University of Southern California, said that "most speeches in the last presidential campaign represented efforts to fool the people through the use of social-psychological techniques."

SIDELINES

By JONATHAN DOE

If Winter Comes

Followers of the Cultural Front will remember that in our account of the Western Writers' Congress, printed in the first issue of LABOR ACTION, we reported that the Congress had got slightly out of hand—that is the Communist Party hand—and had failed to endorse the Pacific Weekly as its official organ—as per schedule. However, there is no keeping a good Party fraction down, whether it is on the cultural or the water front. In view of the fact that the Congress itself had become too "broad" to work up any enthusiasm for the Pacific Weekly—the issue was not forced by the fellow-travelers. Since the adjournment of the Congress, however, the comrades have been active. The Pacific Weekly which was supposed to have quietly expired a few weeks ago, is now to be revived, given a new name and a new format and to be issued as the official organ of the Western Congress. In short, the fellow-travelers are in the saddle.

New slogan for the California cultural front: If Ella Winter comes, can the Party be far behind?

Making of a Hero

The hue and cry raised over the action of the Socialist Party in calling for recruits to fight Fascism in Spain has its amusing aspects.

In the eyes of our "patriots," Lafayette, of course, is a great national hero because he came here in 1777 and fought for American independence.

Incidentally, the King and all the big-wigs of France condemned his "wild scheme" and had him arrested on the eve of his departure. Lafayette escaped to America in disguise.

Those European idealists who came here in the 1860's to fight against Negro slavery were heroes too if we can believe what we read in our history text-books—the very ones which are considered 100% American by organizations such as the American Legion and the D. A. R.

And we have always been led to believe that those Americans who volunteered for service in France with the English, Canadian and French armies before our entry into the World War (when we were officially "neutral") were also of the stuff of which heroes are made.

But to enlist on the side of the Spanish working class in a life and death struggle with Fascism seems different somehow. It's "un-American," "ignoble" and "in violation of our traditional and sacred policy of neutrality."

In short, it's heroic for Americans and their brave comrades across the sea to kill Hitler, men, fellow Americans with the disfigure, and the Hun. But don't touch Franco, his Christian-spirited Moors are spreading civilization, bombs over Madrid.

New Angle On War

Our "patriots" and "pacifists" are up in arms, they claim, American fighting in the Debs' Brigade. Spain may drag this country into war. Yes, I'm sure we are concerned over the lives of Americans mentioned above, had enlisted in the French and Canadian armies, anybody says it was American financiers and munition manufacturers who were deep on the side of the Allies, they could not afford to lose them, he is just as meanie and "a dirty red."

Kiss Me Again

A dispatch from Moscow news of the latest craze in Asia. Intoxicating kisses. The Soviets have developed a lip-stick which can be used with alcohol—"anything champagne to claret-cup," never did believe in the old which denied the beautiful place of honor in Soviet and placed only those who comrades on pedestals with shiny noses and wore the equivalent of our Groundskeepers. But shades of Louis and decadent French court! Kisses!

Death On Saturday Night

After every great air disaster the publicity departments of big commercial airlines get busy. As a result, the papers and news broadcasts, which are first full of gory details of crash, are soon crammed with statistics about the number of flown, the comparative safety air versus auto travel, etc. This goes on until simplified people like ourselves, unable to propagate, are afraid to stay on the ground, we're in one hell of a present. We have become convinced somehow that people die annually from the sides of bathtubs than dashing their brains out of tairlines through the media luxurious air liners gone. The outcome of this, of course is a decidedly unhealthy situation in our home.

Ryan's Thugs Attack Rolling Strike Kitchen

NEW YORK.—The Socialist Rolling Kitchen that was initiated here by Young Socialists was attacked early this morning on the waterfront by a group of eight men, identified as J. P. Ryan's "Goon Squad." Ryan, who is president of the International Longshoremen's Union, has been trying to break the strike of the Atlantic and Gulf seamen, by hiring plug uglies and thugs to "dump" pickets along the waterfront. The attack came early this morning, when the crew left the "Kitchen" temporarily to warm up at Strike Headquarters.

Strikers, noticing the attack, immediately jumped into the fray, to rescue the "Kitchen" from further damage. Before the attack could be driven off, two strikers suffered severe injury that they had to be taken to a nearby hospital. However, the thugs took a receipt with them also, before fleeing.

The damage to the "Kitchen" consisted of having the two signs, bearing the inscription, "Rolling Strike Relief Kitchen," "Industrial Dept. Young People's Socialist League" completely destroyed, the tires punctured beyond repair, and the motor badly damaged.

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The Committee in charge of the "Rolling Kitchen" has issued a statement in which it asks all Socialists and trade unionists to come to its aid, financially, in maintaining the "Kitchen," which is in great danger of being discontinued because of a desperate lack of funds.

The statement said in part:

"The picketing seamen who keep the midnight watch are depending on the Socialist Rolling Kitchen. Every night for the past eight weeks the 'Kitchen' has gone out with its load of coffee and sandwiches. This nightly 'feed' has become habitual with the strikers, and has been a great force in maintaining the morale of the pickets. It would be nothing less than tragic, when at this time, with the great national maritime strike bearing down for the final conflict, that the Kitchen should have to suspend. Every Socialist, both young and old, every trade unionist, every friend of the labor movement, who wants to see the seamen receive a most deserving victory from their long and heroic struggle

PEARLS FROM THE PRESS

By CARL O'SHEA

Chicago news item: Some 22,000 youngsters in Illinois are looking forward to a big Christmas without toy pistols or small rifles. The children have signed pledges expressing the thought that playing with toy guns teaches disrespect for the lives of men and animals, contempt for law and results in crime and murder.

What about the grown-up children who play with real guns in the armies of the world?

The Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers claims that this is a way to prevent crime.

Another good way would be to give everyone sufficient food, clothing and shelter. For the cause of crime is poverty, and if everyone was assured security, crime would melt away like the snows under the live rays of the sun.

Washington news item: As President Roosevelt returned from the Buenos Aires conference to make the Western Hemisphere safe for democracy and peace, he received a recommendation for drastic increases in the military establishment of the United States from Secretary of War Woodring.

Our experience with Wilson should have taught us that when anyone talks about making anything Safe for Democracy, that means that democracy is going to get another stab in the back.

Geneva news item: The International Labor Office study estimated the world depression from 1930 to 1934 cost at least \$149 billion dollars. This is more than seven times as much money as there is in the U. S. today.

Just charge it up to world capitalism, which cannot exist without wars and depressions.

New York news item: Coopers

tion from regular officials of the International Seamen's Union, who regard the strike as illegal and unauthorized, was held responsible for the success of the steamship companies in keeping their floating equipment moving—C. S. Monitor.

That, boys and girls, is what is called "union scabbing." It is inevitable under the craft union set-up. How do you like it?

James Farley sez: For the best interests of this country, it is important that the Republican Party should be strong . . . but not too strong.

Just strong enough to make the people continue to believe that there is a real difference between the two parties.

Headline in C. S. Monitor: PEACE AND GOOD WILL DECLARED WINNING IN BATTLE WITH WAR.

It can't be this world they are talking about. It must be the next.

Toronto news item: A super-carburetor, claimed to be capable of driving an automobile 160 miles to the gallon of gasoline, is about ready to go into commercial production, according to Charles Pogue, Winnipeg inventor.

5 gets you 10 we never see that carburetor. Not under capitalism, at any rate. For if the carburetor is as good as it is claimed, the Standard Oil Company would of course buy it up and lock it away. For today that is the fate of all such scientific discoveries.

Dr. Grayson, dean of the Wharton School of Finance: The business cycle theory is based on the economists' belief that a new crop of fools comes along every twenty years.