

Voice Of
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The West

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Workers Of
The World
Unite!

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AUTO WORKERS CRACK GENERAL MOTORS

Act To Crush Militant Labor Group In Spain

Import "Moscow Trial" Technique To Split
Workers' Ranks and Slaughter
Revolutionists

Another ghastly chapter in the world-wide campaign to "liquidate" the struggle for socialism is now being written in Spain.

As predicted in the last issue of Labor Action, the campaign of incitement against the forces struggling for workers' rule in Spain has now become a campaign of bloody suppression.

At Madrid press reports carry the news of the suppression of the radio station and the daily newspaper of the Workers' Party of Marxist Unity (P.O.U.M.) and the arrest of the P.O.U.M. leaders. Previously the daily newspaper "C.N.T.," official organ of the syndicalist labor federation, had been suppressed for five days.

The C.N.T. headquarters near Barcelona were seized in an attempt to provoke an armed struggle which could lead to the bloody extermination of the syndicalist forces. Fighting has already taken place in this sector.

THE INSTIGATORS
The direct instigators of these provocations are the representatives in Spain of the Stalin of the P.O.U.M. and the C.N.T. the condition for material assistance from the U.S.S.R.

The charge against the Marxists and the syndicalists is the same as in the frame-up trials and executions in the Soviet Union: The victims are accused of being agents of fascism!

The truth is the C.N.T. and the P.O.U.M. have been the most valiant and effective fighters against the fascists. The crushing defeat of the fascist revolt in Barcelona, where these organizations have their stronghold, testifies to this fact.

THE REAL CRIME
The real crime of the syndicalists and the Marxists is their refusal to abandon the slogan of a workers' Spain as the goal of the struggle against the fascists. The C.N.T. and the P.O.U.M. are being made the victims of a gigantic frame-up. The horrible spectacle of the "Moscow trials" is to be repeated in Spain!

The campaign against the P. O. U. M. is conducted under the well-known formula of "Trotskyism." The fact is that the P. O. U. M., like the victims in the Russian trials, is and has been in no way connected with Trotsky and disagrees with his ideas on many important questions. The C.N.T. is known to all the world as a militant syndicalist movement (not Marxist and, therefore, not "Trotskyist"). But these

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Los Angeles Bosses Feel Power Of C.I.O. Drive

With the addition of representatives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, local 270, the Shipyard Workers Industrial Union, San Pedro, and other organizations, the group of union men who are leading an organization drive of the C.I.O. unions in and around Los Angeles, moved forward to the realization of the slogan "Make Los Angeles a Union Town."

With local 188, Auto Workers Union acting as the organizational center the drive in autos and aircraft has already resulted in the creation of locals at Willys Overland, General Motors, and Douglas Aircraft. Application for charters are going in this week for locals at Chrysler, Studebaker, and Northrop Aviation.

This upsurge of unionization in the automobile and aviation industries has given encouragement to the union men in rubber, and other mass production industries.

STEEL THREAT MET
The threat of the steel barons of the East and the northern part

San Diego Farm Strike Is Crushed

"Popular Front" Engineers
Fatal Truce Which
Smashes Celery Strike

By DICK FRASER

The pathetic end of the San Diego celery strike is another picture of betrayal and deception reminiscent of Orange County. It is a picture of a Mexican Consul, some local politicians and their stooges and a couple of incompetent labor leaders who helped these agents of the employers to maneuver the striking unions into calling a two day "truce" in picketing just as the Shipper-Growers were beginning to feel the pressure of the strike, thus breaking the back-bone of the workers' offensive.

The picture was painted by the Farmers' Protective Assn., framed by its agents within the Unions, and nicely glassed in by a clique of Stalinists.

The Unions of San Diego County up until a week ago were the pride of the state, the shining light of unionism in agriculture; today they are nothing but another menacing blot, marking the spot where another strike was broken, and this one without a struggle. Six months ago the San Diego Unions boasted of good contractual relations with the growers; their perspectives sound; their ranks were filled with militant union men; they have given to the labor movement such men as Jose Espinoza.

But such events as the Orange County Citrus strike, Los Angeles, Salinas, etc., had long ago planned a firm determination in the Shipper-Grower Associations

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Anti-Picket Ordinance On Skids

Organized labor in San Francisco has swung solidly into support of the repeal of the vicious anti-picketing ordinance that has been in effect in this city since the day of feverish patriotism and violent oppression of labor in 1916, when U. S. imperialism was girding itself for war. The vote will take place Tuesday, March 9th.

John F. Shelley, president of the Central Labor Council, reports that 75,000 trade unionists and their families have pledged their support for the repeal of the ordinance, and 41 organizations, including several district improvement associations, have gone on record as being opposed to the anti-picket statute.

The law is deliberately phrased to make any kind of picketing illegal, depriving workers of a right that has been upheld even by the Supreme Court, and inviting police brutality against any group of workers that dare protest against abominable working conditions and wages. The complete gag nature of the ordinance is revealed in its official description:

TEXT OF LAW

"An Ordinance Prohibiting Loitering, Picketing, Carrying or Displaying Banners, Badges, Signs or Transparencies, or Speaking in Public Streets, Sidewalks, Alleys or Other Public Places in a Loud or Unusual Tone, for Certain Purposes Therein Named, and Providing a Penalty for any Violation Thereof."

Despite the obvious design of the ordinance to protect greedy employers from being exposed by organized labor, a group of owners, under the guise of a Civic Welfare League, are opening a campaign to keep the ordinance in force, using the slogan, "Play Safe—Prevent Violent Picketing."

In a widely distributed leaflet this "welfare" bunch emphasizes "intimidating, threatening and coercing"—three words seized from the body of the ordinance. The question of labor's elementary right to picket is obscured and distorted by an unscrupulous attempt to claim that repeal means unlimited license for violence on the picket line.

Despite the provocation of the existing gag law, the actual invitation to police interference with peaceful picketing, persons responsible for the leaflet claim that the ordinance has prevented violence on the picket line. According to their short memories, during the twenty years of the ordinance "instances of physical violence in labor disputes have been few and far between."

To counter such propaganda and to actively push for the repeal of the anti-picketing ordinance, a General Campaign Committee has been set up, with offices in Room 410, Grant Bldg., San Francisco.

San Diego Labor Sees Unity Hope

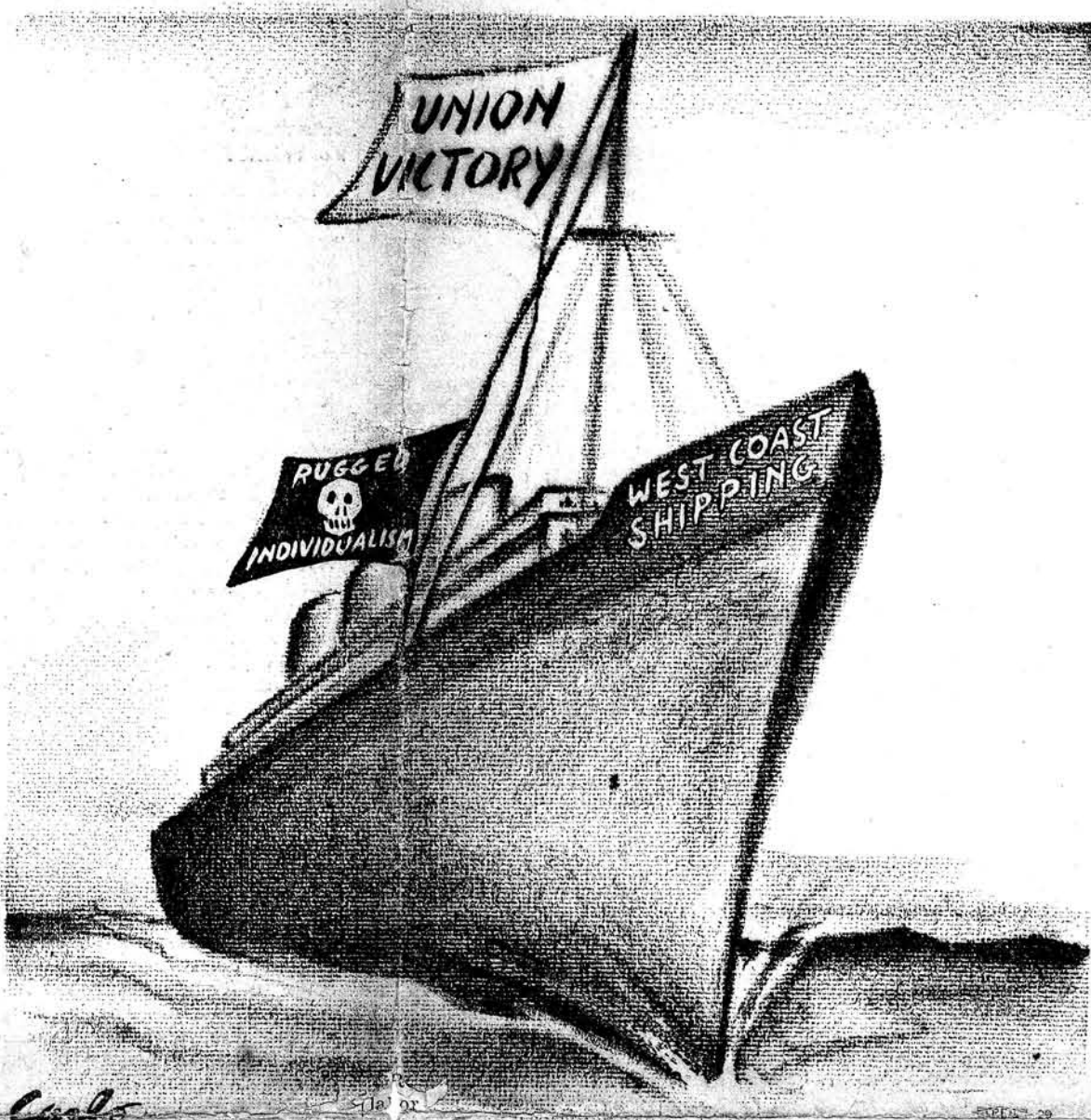
SAN DIEGO—After months of division and internal dissension which resulted in the expulsion of the majority of progressive unions from the local Federated Trades Council, a move is under way for re-unification of the labor movement here.

All unions unaffiliated have been invited to return to the Council. Back pay capita tax is to be waived and the unions are promised readmission on payment of their per capita for the present month.

A statement signed by Walter R. Stutz, president of the San Diego Federated Trades and Labor Council, urges unity and states that "the unaffiliated organizations may seek a new election under the Constitution and By-laws of the local body."

If this statement is made in good faith, it indicates an end to the virtual dictatorship over local labor affairs forced some months ago by William Green through his "personal representative" Mr. Casey.

Flying The Right Flag - - By Carlo



Unions In Six-Hour Day Move

The Building Trades Take
Referendum Vote
on Proposal

A movement to establish the six-hour day in the San Francisco building trades has gained considerable headway with the submission of the question by the Building Trades Council to a referendum vote of all affiliated organizations.

Eleven unions have already endorsed the resolution. They are: Carpenters Local No. 22, Carpenters and Pile Drivers No. 34, Lumber Clerks and Handlers No. 2559, Felt and Composition Roofers No. 40, Varnish and Paint-makers, Hod Carriers No. 36, Millmen No. 42, Construction and General Laborers No. 261, Ornamental Plasterers No. 460, Plasterers No. 66, and Painters No. 1158.

CONFERENCE FORMED

The driving force behind the campaign is "The Six Hour Building Trades Conference Committee," a delegated body from the unions initiating the proposal. J. A. Murphy, Business Agent of Hod Carriers Local No. 36, is chairman of the conference and J. A. MacDonald, a member of Carpenters Local No. 34, is secretary.

In a leaflet issued by the conference the six-hour day is advocated as a "practical and realizable proposition for the building trades."

A.F.L. ENDORSEMENT CITED
The endorsement of the six-hour day by the conventions of the A. F. of L. is cited and it is pointed out that five unions in the San Francisco building trades, namely, the Hod Carriers, Plasterers, Ornamental Plasterers, Lathers, and Bricklayers.

The conference, declaring its sole task to be "to aid the Building Trades Council in popularizing the six-hour program and mobilizing the rank and file behind the B.T.C. in order to get complete unity of action," urges all unions to endorse the resolution and send delegates to the conference.

Call Conference To Form State-Wide Agricultural Union

California State Federation Calls Sixty
Local Unions Together for
Concerted Action

The California Federation of Labor has sent out a call to all federal and independent agricultural unions and all central labor unions in the state of California for a conference to be held in San Francisco on February 27th and 28th at the Labor Temple. The purpose of the conference is the formation of a state-wide industrial union of agricultural workers to displace the dozens of small and weak federal and independent unions now struggling for existence.

WIDE REPRESENTATION

Acknowledging to Walter Cowan, vice-president of the California Federation of Labor in charge of agricultural organization work, 30 A. F. of L. federal agricultural unions and a similar number of independent unions will be represented at this conference with two delegates each.

Central Labor bodies throughout the state have signified their intentions of sending delegates and of aiding in every possible way to make the conference a success.

Outside of bona-fide agricultural unions and central labor bodies, no organizations will have a voice in establishing policy and in setting up the new union. This precaution is intended to remove the possibility of a "packed" convention which would take the problem of agricultural organization out of the hands of the workers themselves.

The great growing and shipping combines in the state are already

BULLETIN

Ernest Erber, National Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League, who has recently returned from Spain, will give a first-hand report on the Spanish situation, Sunday night, Feb. 21, at 8 o'clock, at International Hall, 236 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

C.I.O. Union's Victory Begins Wide Advance

National Industrial Agreement and Six
Month Recognition Strengthens Entire
C.I.O. Campaign In Basic Industries

General Motors has signed its first national agreement with an industrial union. This fact represents a real victory for the auto workers and for the forces of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The first major breach in the iron front of the open shop mass production industries has been made.

Definite gains involved in the settlement were: first,

establishment of the principal of national bargaining between national officers of the company and of the United Auto Workers of America. General Motors officials fought throughout the 44-day strike for separate negotiations in each plant. On this point they were forced to complete surrender.

RECOGNITION
Second, recognition of the union as the sole bargaining agent in seventeen strike bound plants for a period of six months. This phase of the agreement is made in a round-about signed pledge to Governor Murphy, but the face-saving dodge does not alter the essential gain for the Auto Workers.

Third, recognition of the union's right to speak for its members in all GM plants, together with an unequivocal pledge against anti-union discrimination. The "merit clause," "auto labor board," and rigged elections which the A. F. of L. allowed to wipe out union strength in 1934 are absent in the present settlement.

Fourth, the sit-down strike is by inference recognized as a legitimate weapon since it is mentioned in the terms of settlement and the corporation agrees to withdraw all court action based on plant occupation and now pending against the union.

SITTING KOSHER
Fifth, General Motors pledges to negotiate, again on a national, industrial scale, on all questions of wages, hours and working conditions, beginning Tuesday, February 16. Points of negotiation include union demands for abolition of piece work pay, 30 hour week and 6 hour day, time and a half for overtime, wage increases, and a slowing down of the murderous auto speed up.

WON IN PLANTS
Major credit for these gains goes to the militant and finely disciplined auto workers whose determination to hold the plants from "now to Christmas" spoke louder than any honeyed words in the conference chambers. As

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Every person hoping that the forces of fascism throughout the world will receive a crushing blow in Spain should support the Friends of the Debs Column.

Fink Book Blocked By Fight Of Unions

Repeated attempts to force the Copeland fink book on the Seamen in the West Coast ports during the past week were frustrated by the firm resistance of the unions of the unlicensed personnel, the Sailors, Firemen and Cooks and Stewards.

Orders and counter-orders from Washington kept the port of San Francisco in turmoil. Some ships were delayed in sailing when the categorical orders of Daniel Roper, Secretary of Commerce, to force the fink books on the crews ran squarely up against the refusal of the workers to accept them.

The stalemate was finally broken, for the time being, by the granting of a court injunction restraining the U. S. shipping commissioner from enforcing the provisions of the Copeland Act at this time.

There is no doubt that hopes were entertained in certain circles at Washington to take advantage of the general eagerness to resume west coast shipping in order to slip the dog-collar around the necks of the seamen. Definite promises had been made to the unions that enforcement of the

Copeland Act would be postponed till Congress could consider the matter further. This promise was disregarded—a clean double-cross of the seamen.

If the unions had weakened for a moment during the tense days of the past week the fight would have been over and the Copeland fink book in operation.

The three unions of the unlicensed seamen fought a great battle for the entire labor movement in defeating these treacherous maneuvers. The fight is not over yet, not by a long shot. But the determined and militant policy carried out by the sailors, firemen and cooks and stewards, clearly shows the way to ultimate victory.

The way to defeat the Copeland fink book is to refuse to accept it!

COLONEL WOOD ON MOSCOW TRIAL

Noted Lawyer and Liberal Explains Why He Defends Trotsky's Right Of Asylum

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

State Party Hits Farmer-Labor Votes

The Socialist Party of Minnesota has issued a statement criticizing the support given by all save one Farmer-Labor senator and congressman to Roosevelt's "neutrality" legislation.

The statement, in part, follows: "This is called neutrality. In actual practice such action constitutes direct aid to the forces of Franco, and Italian and German fascism.

"Sincere intelligent representatives of the workers of Minnesota would never have behaved in this manner. Instead, they would have used the halls of Congress as a forum from which to expose before the workers of America the rotten hypocrisy of Roosevelt's 'neutrality' measures. Naturally, no one expects Roosevelt or the class he represents to give aid to Spain's anti-fascist fighters. But we Socialists do expect representatives of the Farmer-Labor Party to act as a bloc in condemning and exposing such neutrality measures, and in vigorously fighting to preserve the right of the masses in America to assist in every way their Spanish brothers locked in a death-struggle with fascism.

"The argument that to resist and defeat the 'neutrality' measure would have meant to provoke the fascists and reactionaries in America is too weak to even consider. Did the rulers of a country EVER permit their hands to be tied when it was a case of fighting to preserve their world-system against the international working class? NO! Class-conscious workers everywhere must draw the true lessons from this fact."

Printing Trades Win

In a four-day strike which ended last Thursday, the workers of the Typographical, Pressmen and Assistants, Bookbinders, Stereotypers, Electrotypers, Lithographers, and Photo Engravers, won their demands which included wage increases and a closed shop agreement.

The solidarity displayed by the unions involved was the main factor for the strike's success. For example, the help given by the Central Drivers' Union, Local No. 544, proved invaluable. This union was negotiating with the printing bosses for a renewal of the agreement covering wage and working conditions of printing drivers and helpers. The union agreed not to sign any agreement with the printing bosses unless the bosses signed also with the printing crafts unions, and the latter group of unions agreed to do likewise. Thereupon, when the bosses refused to negotiate, the unions sent their pickets to the plant of the Jensen Printing Company, one of the "Big Four" printing establishments in the

city, and proceeded to shut off entries and exits. Even Jensen was denied access to his office, and even more important, all deliveries to the plant were halted by the co-operative Drivers' Union. Four days of this resulted in ink, coal, and other necessary supplies running out or dangerously low, which forced the bosses to reconsider their "firm and unalterable" decision to not arbitrate or negotiate with the unions.

With its present solidarity, the Minneapolis labor movement is invincible, as has been proved by innumerable strikes since 1934. There arises in the minds of many, the question: If the workers of one city unite and secure the results attained to date in Minneapolis, what would be the case if the workers took Karl Marx's advice and united on a world-wide scale?

Electrical Locals Merge

A further cohesiveness of the Minneapolis labor movement will no doubt follow the merger of the electrical workers locals of this city, in which local 292, of the Electrical Workers' Union, and local 160, composed of the employees of the Northern States Power Company, are united in one union.

The new union, which will remain as local 292, has already begun laying the ground work for an intensive organization drive among the remaining unorganized electrical workers of Minneapolis. The drive will be under the supervision of the combined executive boards of the two former locals, headed by Business Agent Hackett of 292 and Assistant Agent Schultz of former local 160.

Schactman To Speak On Moscow Trials

Max Schactman, outstanding Socialist and the American editor of the literary works of Leon Trotsky, world renowned leader of the Russian Revolution, will address a series of meetings in Minneapolis Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 23 and 24. The meetings will be held under the auspices of the Twin City Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky. The first will take place at the Pioneer Hall, in the Lumber Exchange Building, Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. All persons interested in seeing that justice is done should attend this meeting. Other meetings addressed by Mr. Schactman will be announced later. Phone Main 7781 for additional information.

Schactman will be remembered for his able assistance to the General Drivers Union during the 1934 strikes of this union. At that time he was ordered out of town by the reactionary city administration who feared the power of this man's tongue and pen which has so ably served the cause of the working class.

Auto Workers' Victory Launches C. I. O. Drive

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In these columns, the battle was really won in the factories. The guarding of that victory while moving on to strengthened organization and greater gains will continue to depend on the intelligent militancy of the auto workers themselves.

SOCIALIST AID

Socialist trade unionists contributed largely to the effectiveness of the strike. In the crucial "battle of Flint" it was Genora Johnson, 23 year old leader of the Women's Emergency Brigade, who seized the union sound truck "mike" and rallied the workers and shouted at the police "Cowards! Cowards! Shooting unarmed and defenseless men!" and then in appeal, "Women of Flint! This is your fight! Join the picket line! Defend your jobs, your husband's jobs and your children's homes!"

It was again Socialist leadership which inspired and led the "capture" of Chevrolet Plant No. 4 at a time when the strike seemed to be petering out in futile Washington maneuvers. The taking of the plant revived union militancy in Flint and served notice on the corporation that stalling wouldn't stop the auto workers.

HONOR ROLL

Kermit and Genora Johnson, Vic and Ray Ruether, B. J. Widdick, editor of the Rubber Worker and William Carney, militant rubber workers' organizer, were among the worker-generals who along with an aroused rank and file defeated the police, despite gun and gas fire which wounded 20 class conscious workers including party-member and bus strike leader, Fred Stevens, Jack Monarch, with volunteer organizer's credentials, Powers Hap-

good, NEC member and C.I.O. organizer, Phil Wise, Sr., sit-down strike leader in Fisher Body Plant No. 2, are among the Socialists who carried the industrial union line of the party to the Flint battle-front.

In Detroit Walter Ruether and Alan Strachan worked on the publicity and education staff of the U.A.W.A. In Cleveland, Ed Simpson was an officer and picket leader.

WAR AHEAD

The strike is but one battle in a far ranging war. Indication that employers are well aware of this fact came with the announcement on the same day of the settlement, that Carnegie Steel was attempting to hold its "employee representatives" in line by granting a \$5 a day minimum wage, an 80c a day increase and a 40 hour week in all Carnegie steel mills.

SOUR GRAPES

This commentary on the auto settlement carries far more weight than William Green's "sour grapes" press release charging Lewis with "surrender." Green's action was an inexcusable attack which met with no favor among sincere labor men even in the craft union camp. The statement is discussed editorially in this issue, but one sidelight deserves notice here. Bill Green's own International Labor News Service comments favorably on the settlement and says the UAWA "had its way" in winning recognition.

N credits the Senate Civil Liberties Committee's revelation that GM had paid \$107,000 to the Pinkerton Spy Agency in 1935 and a nearly half a million to the same outfit in less than three years with a share in "weakening the company's resistance."

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If all those confessions, signed and under seal, were brought forward as evidence against Trotsky in any civilized country of the world, whether it takes its jurisprudence from the praetors of Rome or from the English Common Law and its development, they would not be admitted—not a word of them could be read.—If the whole Stalin government stood ready to swear that they were true reports and true in fact—they would not be allowed to open their mouths.

Why not?—Because none of this is competent evidence against Trotsky. Well, think a minute: If some conspirators trapped in Finland swore they were in a conspiracy to murder Sibelius, which conspiracy was directed by Earl Browder in the United States—would that confession be evidence against Earl Browder? If it were true still it would not be evidence against Earl Browder. Why not? Turn to the poor old Constitution of the United States and you will see that every man accused of a crime must be lawfully indicted by an indictment clearly and specifically setting forth the essential acts of his offense. Also he must be brought to trial in open court and must be confronted with the witnesses against him.

That is, he must be given every opportunity for cross-examination in the presence of the accused, and for the jury to view the witness and his demeanor. The confessing conspirators waived all this for their own part by confession. Trotsky has never confessed but vehemently denies everything and by every principle of civilized law is entitled to have his day in court—to cross-examine witnesses and to put in his defense.

Our constitution also says the accused must have every assistance to get his evidence and compel the attendance of the witnesses he desires to have present in court. Our constitution is outworn in many respects—but not in these protections to life and liberty—What is set down there is centuries old and has saved many innocent lives. It is more sacred in the preservation of human beings from being railroaded to the gallows than is the code handed down by Jehovah to Moses on Sinai.

You American Communists had better be a little careful how you brush these safeguards away. You may need them sometime. I know what I am saying is useless, for I am

writing against prejudice and emotion; two things quite incapable of appreciating reason. But let us go on:

Trotsky has not been charged of conspiring to assassinate. Whoever says so makes himself a laughing-stock in the civilized world. To convict by the confession of the accused in the settled law of civilized tries, simply ridiculous, from such conviction no is safe. This may be made under dictatorships. They can do anything. It is not the law of the United States, England, France or any other civilized country.

So, whether you like it or not, my young enthusiasts, Trotsky is not convicted by the law of the United States or by the law of any other Democratic civilized government: only by the say-so of some men in danger of their lives, and not in Trotsky's presence nor subject to cross-examination.

Trotsky may be guilty. Trotsky may some day be proved guilty.

But not yet. Trotsky must have his day in court.

Of course, it is not necessary for the country granting asylum to give reasons for ending the protection. As a sovereign country she can end it at will: for no reason at all. But with Americans it is different. They are bound to respect the legal code of this country and should really be considerate of the same uniform code in all countries except the dictatorships and the African tribes.

Don't Discard Life-Preserver

Then, my young friends, Self-preservation is the first law of Nature. Don't be in a hurry to throw away your life-preservers. Fascism and dictatorship may come here also.

If the class has no objection we will take up the next age-old protection to the helpless: Every man is presumed to be innocent till proved guilty. Trotsky by our law and all civilized law must be presumed innocent till proved guilty. He has not been proved guilty. He has not had his day in court.

Of course I can see the smug on the pretty faces of my national young revolutionists: "Presumed to be innocent till proved guilty?—He is proved guilty by the confessions of the conspirators."—So we go round and round the sawdust ring while the emotional young revolutionist in green tulle skirts uses what brains she has

to whack her spotted charger and leap through the hoop, shouting "Get up, Dobbin! Trotsky is guilty. The conspirators have confessed it. And Mr. Browder says so. What more do you want?"

—Only this. Read the Constitution of the country which country shelters you.

"Shall be confronted with the witnesses against him."

—Is that plain? Can you really comprehend its meaning? It is not schoolboy oratory. It is not only our own "Supreme Law"—It is the crystallization of the thought of centuries—crystallized in revolutionary combat with tyrants and autocratic governments—and not to be lightly erased to suit the convenience of Moscow and the emotions of the young American acolytes.—Please use your brains.

Traitor—To What?

In the campaign against Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce, we went into bivouac one evening in a hot, rocky canyon, alive with rattlesnakes. After a general slaughter of snakes, we had our meagre supper and went to bed. Soon afterward I thought I heard a rattle in the blankets of my Captain, Colonel Robert Pollock, a Civil War veteran, of more than two hundred pounds weight, by whose side I was sleeping. I called to him—"Colonel, I hear a rattle in your blankets," and heard a very drowsy answer—"I kin stand it if he kin."

I am suddenly now a "Traitor"—Traitor to what is not clear to me. I never swore allegiance to the Russian government. I never was a Communist and am not likely to be from the specimens I see about me. I do not confess.

Before these young enthusiasts were out of diapers, long before the Russian revolution, I was preaching the basic principles of that cosmic event: "No special privileges or monopolies, natural or social, in private ownership."—So were many other "Enemies of Society." Russia has no copyright on the idea, but she was the first in human history to put it into practice. Read what I

in my book, "Too much Government," pages 56-57, "I look to Russia as the Dawn," etc. "Traitor"—No; it is bad English—and I will not confess. Please also read—"Heavenly Discourse," "Satan Asks for Help," pp. 297.

One young emotionalist whom I dearly love, says in effect

that in joining the Trotsky Defense Committee I have destroyed the work of the Russian Revolution and blocked civilization. I did not think I or Trotsky was so important, nor the Russian Revolution so weak.—I think it would go on if we were all blotted out. But she also says, what is more important, to me, that I have broken her heart and lost my own soul.

I still refuse to confess, except to the last. But I lost my soul years ago, and am used to it. I have lost it many times. When all else fails I may join a vaudeville circuit as "The Man Without a Soul"—I only hope they will not mistake me for the Publisher of the chain-gang of newspapers which print all the news not fit to print. Other than this I will not confess—but I will explain.—I have not joined Trotsky. As to him I have no opinion.

But I have heard the voice of "Justice" and have signed for his defense. All I have done I have done for the Eternal Spirit—regardless of mortal names.—I would do the same again, were the name Stalin, Trotsky, or Judas Iscariot.

Testimony of John Reed

There was a boy; a playmate and classmate of my younger sons, who came much to our home in Portland, Oregon, until he went away to college. But when the Russian Revolution shook the world, he hurried there and went through it. When the Revolution was established and things had quieted down a bit, he returned to this country and to his home in Portland. One day he came to my sick bed and said he was going back to Russia, but did not care to have it generally known. He said he might never return and he could not go without saying goodbye to me.

Then he told me, very simply, that I had been a great influence in his life, though he did not appreciate it at the time, but only as he grew older and began to remember my views and utterances. I was surprised at this and the almost emotional though very quiet feeling with which it was said. When he had written me from college he did not write anything of this kind. Usually he asked questions about writing poetry and sometimes submitted verses for criticism.

So we parted. I never saw him again. He lies in the Kremlin, by the side of Lenin.

—CHARLES ERSKINE SCOTT WOOD.

CELERY STRIKE LOST IN SAN DIEGO

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to wipe out the existing unions in agriculture and the Unions in San Diego in particular.

ATTACK LEADERS

The first and most important line of strategy followed by the growers agents in the Unions was to undermine the authentic leadership of the Mexican Union with a vicious campaign of lies and slanders so that by the time of the strike all of the stable and militant leaders of the Union were either discredited or entirely out of the ranks of the Union.

One principal reason for the former stability of the Union was the fact that its leadership never permitted the Communist Party to get a foothold. This time the Stalinists took the cue from the employers' attacks upon the union and started one of their famous "build-ups" around a second-rate demagogic politician. He turned out to be an ideal stooge for either the bosses or the Stalinists, being absolutely ignorant of the meaning of the labor movement in any of its forms except perhaps as a sublimation of religious experience.

At the same time a vile campaign against Jose Espinoza was initiated, and to make it sure, just before the strike was to begin Jose was thrown in jail in Orange County on his old vagrancy charge along with Velarde of the CUCOM. The united front of the bosses and the Communies (is this the People's Front in action?), then forced out Lillian Monroe and Castillo, leaders of last year's successful strike along with Espinoza.

Thus the Unions entered the strike with the membership considerably demoralized by the recent turn-over of militants and little confidence in the leadership. Nevertheless, after a very fair walk out on January 27th a militant picket-line succeeded in tying up considerable of the celery crop.

The idea that under the best conditions these Unions might have been able to deal with the Celery Growers' Association as a whole (tributary to the Farmers' Protective Assn.) is at best over-optimistic. A good chance for partial victory lay, however, in

concentration of the workers forces in such a way as to enable the Unions to break off one after another several Shipper-Growers from the Association.

The sixth day of the strike found the Ass'n. in the agony of a sure split as a result of well concentrated workers' forces. The powerful apparatus of the bosses, both inside and outside the unions sprang into immediate action. The County Supervisors threatened to pass an anti-picketing law effective in "all unincorporated districts" (the agricultural areas) of the county. Without consultation with the Central Strike Committee a meeting was hastily prepared wherein a supervisor was to present a "plan" for "settling" the strike.

So the puppet-stage was set and the puppets under the puppet mastership of Chet Moore jerked on their strings, and the strike was in the hands of the bosses.

The politician, Bellon, smiled and ogled and told how workers must use "strategy" in order to win. This strategy, said the politician, consists in removing your picket line for two days in order to save us poor politicians the embarrassment of passing an anti-picketing law at the insistence of the Farmers' Protective Ass'n. No one was taken in at first, some of the workers actually laughed in his face, but the stage was well set. At Bellon's right sat our two-bit, build-up leader and his trusty Stalinite builder-upper, also two local nit-wits, stooging for the politician, and a representative of the San Diego County Building Trades Council. They were all pleading for the Agricultural workers to help them fight the anti-picketing law, directed at the Celery Strike—by removing the pickets from the celery fields. At Bellon's right sat the crafty Mexican consul giving silent but effective support.

"Discussion" started and the Stalinists yelled "charge" while beating a hasty retreat to the protective shelter of impotence. Stalinite Roscoe (AIWUA) yelled that "we are not afraid to make a sacrifice." Delgado called upon his fellow workers to show that agricultural workers can "dis-

cipline" themselves, and urged them on to break their own strike!

The Mexican Consul (Castro) blandly said that he was glad that the workers were "doing the right thing." The politician and the boys had a few uncomfortable moments when the present writer spoke but the stage was too well set and the militants were caught unawares going home heavy hearted and with a choking feeling in their throats, knowing that their strike had been sold out.

Three days later the men began to feel the fruits of militant struggle gradually melting away and the strike slipping through their fingers. In a last great reflex the pickets attempted to return to life and sweep like a hurricane through the county, clearing fields from which the green gold was being taken. Disorganized and frantic the picketing finally petered out, its leaders were arrested and that was all. The fields filled up as quickly as they were cleared. Another flare-up occurred the next day but by this time the leadership had lost sight of everything but saving its own face. The picket lines dwindled away and died.

However, the overwhelming majority of the striking men stayed out of the fields faithfully awaiting the decision of the Union although all realized that to carry on further would be folly.

The question then took perspective: here had been a good strike situation, a militant picket-line and a healthy spirit in the unions—but the strike is lost. All at once it occurs to the leaders of the fiasco, to the politicians, to the Stalinites and stool-pigeons, to the Mexican Consul, to everyone who had a hand in the sell-out: where to dump the responsibility? So on the night when the strike was formally to be called off another frame-up was staged.

The Stalinite-boss combination went to elaborate pains in order to shift responsibility to one individual against whom all the anti-labor forces in and out of the Unions could unite. They had a well-drilled cheering sec-

tion supplemented by some misguided workers plied with liquor until they were rolling drunk and quite irresponsible. The best Stalinite provocateurs were available. One member of the cheering section was unfortunately placed near me and admitted that he did not know who, nor where the "traitor" was nor what he had done. After attacking him as a "microbe" with all weapons, doing everything in their power to create a good witch-burning spirit among the workers, those who originally sold out the strike were able to muster only 27 votes out of 300 strikers present for expulsion of the present writer from the meeting. This alone is a final condemnation of their entire course and an indication that the victory of the forces of reaction within the union will be short lived.

The path of the California agricultural workers in the state has constantly been beset by betrayals of this same character. The local American Union is small and young and could not be expected to stand up alone under heavy pressure, but it will take more than the nonsensical yapping of the Stalinists to explain how the proud Independent (Mexican) Union of Laborers & Field Workers of San Diego County could, with one small puff of a politician's sugary breath, fold up like a tent in a gale and permit itself completely and utterly to be seduced by its own leaders into selling its own strike.

In the first place it must be recognized that these unions were fighting a state-wide organization, whereas every tendency to attempt to localize the problem was played up by the employers, the Stalinites, and the politicians, so that the membership and the leadership of the unions was kept from a correct understanding of the nature of the enemy. The bosses had an intelligent machine working in and about the union that time after time succeeded in blocking a correct position. The Communist Party clique dove-tailed exactly into the machine of the employers. This vicious combination succeeded in isolating the workers from their

The Action Army

By Frank Stern

Last week Labor Action missed an issue because of a shortage of finances. That means that the Action Army has been laying down on the job. Just one month ago the special trial subscription drive was announced in order to add a thousand new subscribers for Labor Action, and in order to raise funds without forcing the membership to contribute beyond their means.

To date 409 sub cards have been sold—and most of these have been in the San Francisco Bay area. This drive is the most important Labor Action has had since its establishment more than three months ago. Unless this drive is successful the regular appearance of Labor Action will be jeopardized.

Now is the time to send in money for your sub cards. It is not hard to sell a three month subscription for 25c—all it needs is a little application. If one comrade in Oakland can dispose of 80 of these cards, certainly it should not be difficult for any comrade to dispose of four or eight weekly.

The missing of an issue is a graphic reminder of the precarious financial position of Labor Action. Thus far there has been no wide-spread western appeal for funds. Our present financial situation makes such an appeal imperative. You can give in more ways than one. First, by direct contributions to the sustaining fund; secondly by taking and paying for a weekly bundle; and thirdly by getting active in our drive for 1,000 new subscribers.

Action is required now—immediately. We must assure the regular appearance of Labor Action. This is no time for retreat. Sacrifices must be made if necessary. Extraordinary efforts must be put forth to build Labor Action and widen its support.

Take this matter up at your branch meeting. Arrange an affair for Labor Action. Arrange red Sundays and visiting campaigns to build circulation. Check up on the membership and make sure they subscribe. Sell copies at your union meetings and at party mass meetings and forums. See that copies are put in all prominent bookstores and news stands. Appoint a responsible comrade as Labor Action agent to continually boost sales and circulation.

We are listing those who have come through thus far on the two-bit sub drive. If your name is not listed you are not doing your part. You still have a chance to come through. Join the vanguard of the Action Army!

Tom Kerry, Oakland.....	80
Minneapolis S. P.....	80
Los Angeles S. P.....	50
Flo Wyle, San Francisco.....	20
R. Marie Hansen, Billings.....	20
Milen Dempster, Stockton.....	20
Dave Bers, Berkeley.....	20
Marjorie Kerrigan, San Diego.....	16
Norman Henderson, Berkeley.....	14
Harry M. Lux, Lincoln, Nebraska.....	14
Charlie Beckett, Chicago.....	12
D. T. Burbank, St. Louis, Mo.....	12
John Brum, San Francisco.....	8
Joe Bowen, San Francisco.....	8
Eloise Booth, San Francisco.....	8
Glen Trimble, San Francisco.....	8
A. C. Doughty, Los Angeles.....	8
Stuart G. Brown.....	8
H. Goldenberg, Montreal.....	8
Chas. P. Fischer, Kansas City.....	8
E. A. Kulpis, San Francisco.....	4
A. B. Ellis.....	4
L. E. Graham.....	4
Ida Bear, Berkeley.....	4
A. Ferguson, Vancouver.....	4
J. A. Fox.....	4
B. Kasser, San Francisco.....	4
Jan Koblik, San Francisco.....	2
Al Furth, San Francisco.....	2
Raoul Leon, San Francisco.....	2

"Socialist Builder"

CHICAGO.—The first issue of "The Socialist Builder" for Socialist members of the Workers' Alliance of America has been issued by the national unemployment committee of the Socialist party.

The object of this bulletin is to coordinate and advance the work of Socialists in the W.A.A. and in other organizations of W.P.A. workers. It will serve two purposes: 1. To improve and advance the interests of the masses of workers who are now members of or eligible to affiliation with the W.A.A. 2. To act as a medium of information and discussion of Socialist policy. Similar bulletins will be issued shortly for Socialists in other fields of activity.

Stoolpigeon Profits

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Corporations Auxiliary Co. stoolpigeon outfit, made \$1,750,019 between January 1, 1933 and November 1, 1936, evidence presented to the La Follette civil liberties committee shows.

Fisher Hits Distortion Of Speech

Illinois Chairman Calls Daily Worker To Order For False Report

John Fisher, Illinois Socialist state chairman and president of Local No. 1 of the Progressive Miners of America at Gillespie, which alone has raised \$2,000 in cash from its members for the Spanish workers, writes in to protest against deliberate distortion in the Daily Worker of his remarks as chairman of a meeting for the Spanish Young People's Delegation in Gillespie, where more than \$600 was raised for aid.

Comrade Fisher's statement follows:

"I have a copy of the Daily Worker which quotes me as saying the issue in Spain is between democracy and fascism. I deny this statement as an untruth. More of their double-crossing misquoting and distorting truths. Here is what I said: 'That the government of Spain was a legal government elected by a large majority, and pledged to carry out certain reforms, and among them the land question.'

"I also quoted wages before the present government was returned to power, drew a parallel of what the government of February was trying to do, when Hitler and Mussolini stepped in and aided the reactionary forces of Spain to declare a war on the legal government elected by the people. Also said that Hitler Germany wanted Spain for raw materials and food stuffs.

"I never mentioned Democracy versus Fascism, but said aid should be given to help defeat fascism, and stop it spreading over Europe. I know more than to defend capitalist democracy. I still believe the issue, not only in Spain but the world, is whether we are going to go forward with the Cooperative Commonwealth of mankind or backward with the democracy which the Communists proclaim Status Quo Capitalism—reform private ownership, become respectable, legal and good folks, and defend good Capitalism against bad Capitalism, support good wars against bad wars.

"No, I have not sunk to such low levels as to become like the Communist Party—the bridegroom for the bride Capitalism. I still maintain the issue is for the toiling masses the question of Socialism versus Capitalism. Socialism with its program of security, peace and plenty or capitalism with its war, insecurity and want.

Defending capitalist democracy is misleading. It holds no hope or promise for the future. Democracy will be abolished by the owning class when it stands in the way of those who gave it birth, the owning and ruling class. They championed democracy when it furthered their cause—the destruction of the feudal system—and they will destroy it when it no longer serves their purposes.

"I am no fool. The democracy which the Communists defend is built on sinking sand. I want the Socialist freedom of a full and happy life, when every man will be a king as far as plenty, peace and freedom is concerned. I deny again the Daily Worker's statement."

legitimate leaders and projecting them into a strike helpless as a ship without a rudder. These Unions are isolated from the main body of organized labor in the state and must depend upon their own resources in any situation. These resources are very meager. Local politicians and labor fakirs find in these Independent Unions easy prey, in that they stand and fall alone and cannot rally to their support their legitimate allies in the ranks of organized labor.

The salvation of these unions rests on a State organization for agriculture in the A.F. of L., and it is with hope that these workers receive from the State Federation of Labor a conference call sent to all Agricultural Unions for the purpose of beginning the unification of Unionism in Agriculture on a sound basis.

New SUBSCRIBERS are needed to build LABOR ACTION and to sustain it financially.

Every reader is urged to get behind the drive. Send in for sub-cards now!

The Notebook of an Agitator

After the Maritime Strike—Main Aspects of the Victory—Two Conceptions of Trade Union Policy

The more thoroughly the result of the 99-day maritime strike is considered the more convincingly does the victory of the unions stand out. The gains of the workers have two aspects. The immediate material benefits in the form of increased wages and cash payment for overtime are worth the struggle and suffering which the workers had to pay for them. The shortening of the working day of the Cooks and Stewards—even if it fell short of the 8-hour objective—is a benefit which the workers involved will enjoy every day they are at sea. The general movement of labor for better wages and shorter hours is greatly stimulated by the tangible concessions won by the maritime workers in these respects.

But, in my opinion, the outstanding and most important result of the strike was the unquestionable strengthening of the individual unions, and of the Maritime Federation as a whole. That is the safeguard and the promise of better things to come.

The 1934 strike, with all its heavy cost of struggle and sacrifice, laid the foundation for all the advances of maritime labor in the past two and a half years. But it left the question of the stability of the unions still undetermined. The sea-faring crafts had to fight every inch of the way by means of job action—the only recourse left to them—to wrest the recognition and the consideration denied them in formal agreements. The attempt to wreck the Sailors Union in connection with the revocation of its charter showed that the stability and strength of this militant organization was doubted by labor fakery as well as by shipowners. Finally, the arrogance of the shipowners last fall only demonstrated their underestimation of the stability of the Federation as a whole. They had to be convinced by the strike that maritime unionism is no passing phenomenon.

The unions survived this test of a drawn-out struggle and came out of it stronger than before—and consequently with more confidence in themselves.

The results of the strike are the vindication of the strike. Who could argue now—in the face of the results—that the strike should have been postponed and stalled off indefinitely until Washington came to the rescue of the workers? All the Roosevelt administration ever offered to the maritime workers is the Copeland Book. It is clear now, or ought to be, that the strike was a necessity.

The prevailing policy in the strike was, in the main, a policy of militancy. That accounts for the victory. But this policy made its way and prevailed at times in a peculiar, indirect way—from the bottom upward rather than from the top down. The maritime rank and file are fighters. They are strongly influenced by militant traditions. That is the real secret, if there is a secret, of the strength of the Federation and its affiliated unions, not some new inventions in the line of strategy. The maritime workers FEEL the class struggle, and instinctively act accordingly. That is why they were right every time they blocked policies inspired by a different conception of capital-labor relations.

Some very erroneous conceptions were entertained in some of the leading circles of the Federation. At times they were even put forward as official decisions, but fortunately they were not carried out and therefore were not so harmful as they might have been.

Among them the following stood out most prominently: (1) The policy of stalling off the strike so as "not to embarrass President Roosevelt"; (2) The decision to move "perishable cargo" from the strike-bound ships; (3) The tendency to make a fetish of the "Public"; (4) The conciliatory attitude toward government interference; (5) Most dangerous of all—The proposals to "accept the Copeland flunk book and protest afterward."

There was really nothing new in any or all of these erroneous proposals. The argument against them is not new either. It consists simply in an explanation that a conflict between workers and employers is not a mere misunderstanding between two elements who have a common general interest. On the contrary it springs from an irreconcilable conflict of interest; it is an expression of a ruthless class struggle wherein power alone decides the issue.

Viewed in this light, a dispute between workers and employers cannot be settled fairly by the government; the government is an instrument of one of the parties to the dispute—in this case the capitalists. The class conflict cannot be handed over to the "Public" to decide; the "Public" is itself divided into classes, with

different interests and different sympathies regulated primarily by these interests. The polemics of Karl Marx against the conservative labor leaders of his day answered all these questions. All the experience of the labor movement since that time, including the recent West Coast strike, speaks for the position of Marx and against all conceptions which overlook the class struggle.

In the strike the Maritime Federation of the Pacific went through its first real test. The results show that this formation was an aid to solidarity. The federation proved its superiority over the system of every craft for itself. The habit of co-operation between the crafts and the practice of solidarity, through the federation, tested in the strike, will undoubtedly bind the federation together more cohesively.

But for all its unquestionable superiority to the isolated system, the federation should be regarded as a transitional form of organization. The organizational goal of militant labor is industrial unionism. The militants should begin to consider this problem more concretely and to devise steps to advance its solution.—J. P. C.

SITDOWN IN STEEL

CHICAGO—The first sitdown in steel in this area was successful when the Amalgamated Assn. of Iron, Steel & Tin Workers forced the Hamilton Steel Co. to rehire three men.

The company, which employs 200 men and girls, all members of the union, was forced to recognize the grievance committee as representing the workers and to answer by February 4 a request of the union regarding a pay increase.

Glass Workers Win Increase

TOLEDO—The striking workers at Libbey-Owens-Ford have received an 8-cent hourly raise. After holding out for 6 cents an hour for several days, the glass company agreed to the same hourly wage increase recently won by the Federation of Flat Glass Workers from Pittsburgh Plate Glass, the other big producer in the industry.

PRAVDA'S "REPLY" TO ANDRE GIDE

The long overdue Stalinist reply to Andre Gide is contained in a long article in Pravda, entitled, December 3, 1936, entitled, "The Laughter and Tears of Andre Gide." To put it mildly, it is a piece of journalistic blackmail, a thinly veiled threat to unleash a campaign of defamation against Gide, if he does not recant. The only charge that Pravda "still forebears to make" is that Gide is a paid agent of the Gestapo. That is still held in abeyance.

Gide, you see, has always been: "unstable emotionally." Hence his sudden change. Says Pravda: "We are ready to ascribe this sudden and mysterious change to the emotional instability of Andre Gide. Assuredly, stability was never a virtue of the writer." On top of that, Gide is an old man. Add senility and instability and you get a man who easily "falls prey to the skillful anti-Soviet sharpshooters." Senility, instability, plus gullibility gives you a Stalinist portrait of Gide: "He is neither a blond nor a brunette but a sort of a piebald mongrel cross between an old French writer and a frisky Russian White Guard." From Gide's mouth issues cackles of idiot laughter, his eyes drip rheumy tears, and all the while his lips drool spittle—"poisonous anti-Soviet saliva"—which is seized upon and smeared over the pages of the "German and Polish Fascist press." Such is the psychological leitmotif of the article.

The only thing lacking to this psychological study, is a "sociological foundation." We spare neither our readers nor ourselves, here it is verbatim:

"He was and remains a true offspring of the French petty bourgeoisie. Andre Gide belongs, by his social origin, his entire education, and his personal ties to the bourgeoisie. . . . Virtually throughout his entire literary life, Andre Gide remained alien to broad social ideas and ideals. He is a typical representative of the decaying bourgeois intelligentsia, an individualist in love with himself. One of the most 'exquisite' writers in France, he is one of those who find special beauty in perversion. He rose up in mutiny allegedly against bourgeois morality. It is the very commonplace and extremely cheap mutiny of the petty bourgeois intel-

Ohio Alliance Back Militants

TOLEDO.—The Socialist Party won a smashing victory for the policies of its members within the Workers Alliance when the state executive board of the Ohio Workers Alliance, after a 14-hour hearing in this city, Sunday, January 31, cleared Ted Selander, National Executive Board member of the WAA, and Art Preis, chairman of the powerful Lucas County Workers Alliance, of all charges brought against them by Communist Party elements in the local organization.

Pries and Selander have played a leading role in building one of the most powerful locals of the Workers Alliance in the country and recently led a WPA sit-in strike which won 4,200 new WPA jobs.

After nearly six hours of totally unsubstantiated slander against Pries and Selander, Communist members on the state executive board attempted to railroad a motion through to discontinue the hearing without permitting the accused an opportunity to testify in their defense. Socialists and non-partisan members of the board successfully defeated this motion.

The accused answered the charges by proving from the records of the organization and the results of their policies that the charges were a deliberate attempt by the Communist clique to frame them up.

By a majority vote, the state board approved the recommendations of the accused for the establishment of their policy of organization within the county local.

Paul Rasmussen, general organizer of the WAA; Nelson Meagley, national executive member and Ohio WAA executive secretary, and Lee Morgan, Ohio WAA vice-chairman, participated in the meeting and hearing, and played an influential part in establishing a militant policy in the matter of pressing for adequate flood relief legislation.

AIRCRAFT WORKERS' DANCE

LOS ANGELES—Aircraft workers in and around Los Angeles are getting together Saturday, February 20, at a dance sponsored by the Aircraft Workers' Organizing Committee and Local 188 of the Auto Workers' Union. The dance will be held at 1400 1/2 East Florence Ave., near Compton, in Los Angeles. The recent C.I.O. organization drive has brought many workers into the union in one of the most important large-scale industries—aircraft. This dance will be the first social affair at which workers in this industry will get together for informal acquaintance and sociability.

Moving To Crush Militant Workers' Groups In Spain

(Continued from Page 1) two organizations have this in common with Trotsky and all other revolutionary forces: They fight, according to their own ideas and by their own methods, for a Workers' Spain.

THE REAL ISSUE They are the symbols of the idea of socialism in the Spanish struggle.

The C. P. daily proclaims that it is "hoarse from repeating that we are not engaged in a proletarian revolution; this war leads to the bourgeois-democratic revolution, and it is those solutions, not those of proletarian revolution, which must be envisaged."

As against that the C.N.T. and the P.O.U.M. declare: "The choice is between Fascism and Revolution."

That is the real issue of the bloody drama unfolding behind the lines of the anti-fascist forces in Spain.

As the revolutionary vanguard

State-Wide Union For Farm Labor Sought

(Continued from Page 1) to function on a state-wide basis and "pick their spots," catching the labor movement unprepared. Lack of funds also seriously hampered unions in isolated spots from carrying on isolated struggles.

STATE FEDERATION HELP The necessity of state-wide industrial organization in agriculture was forcefully brought home to the entire labor movement in California when the Salinas lettuce strike, marked by even more police violence than is the rule in

Guild Members Pass No Picket Lines

NEW YORK.—The refusal of 11 members of the Newspaper Guild to pass through a picket line posted by typographical workers was unanimously approved as the New York Newspaper Guild's representative assembly voted to authorize a strike against the North Shore Daily Journal, Flushing, L. I.

The action made official a joint strike of pressmen, typographical and editorial workers against the Long Island daily.

of the Spanish workers, interpreting the real desires of the Spanish masses, the P.O.U.M. and the C.N.T. must be "liquidated" by force in the name of "bourgeois democracy."

This is what France and England want as a guarantee of no socialism in Spain. This is the demand of the Stalin bureaucracy which has long ago turned its back on the workers' revolution everywhere.

SOUND THE ALARM! The revolutionary workers of Spain cry to the labor movement of the world for help in exposing the foul conspiracy against them. Let the truth be known!

Let the workers movement everywhere, which has supported the anti-fascist struggle in Spain with such unanimity, raise a mighty demand for unity and workers' democracy in Spain!

Let the uncorrupted labor movement of the world proclaim in thundering tones: "No ghastly 'Moscow Trials' in Spain!"

field workers' struggles, broke out during the holding of the annual convention of the California Federation of Labor last year. The convention immediately took action to prevent re-occurrence of what happened in Salinas by adopting a resolution to finance organization of agricultural workers and to fight for the establishment of a state-wide industrial union of agricultural unions.

The conference called for this month is the result of this resolution.

Textile Workers Approve Sit-Downs

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Wholehearted approval of the "sit-down" technique as well as the "lie-down" method employed by strikers at the Berkshire Knitting Mills in Reading, Pa., was voiced by the 26th convention of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers here.

Resolutions were passed urging by unions to form credit unions, protesting WPA staff dismissals and demanding white collar educational projects be taken over by a permanent government agency.

Party Group Meets To Aid Negro Work

NEW YORK.—The national Negro work sub-committee of the Socialist Party met here and received reports of the growth of Socialist sentiment among Negro workers. The meeting was attended by Elizabeth Gilman of Baltimore, Eloise O. Fickland of Philadelphia, Alfred Baker Lewis and Ralph M. Harlow of Massachusetts, and Margaret Lamont, Norman Taylor, Frank R. Crosswaith and Noah C. A. Walters of New York.

Chairman A. Philip Randolph of the committee could not be present because he is in the midst of conducting collective bargaining negotiations for the pullman porters of which union he is international president.

The committee decided: Locals and branches should again be urged to appoint Negro work committees;

Socialist trade unionists should work for the passage of the Randolph resolution at the American Federation of Labor convention against race discrimination in the unions;

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to be supported in any effort they make for justice to Negro workers;

The question of the National Negro Congress is referred to the national convention of the party; Three issues of the Negro Labor News Service are to be issued before the national convention;

It will undertake to reprint Norman Thomas' article in "The Crisis" as a 2-cent pamphlet;

Locals and branches are urged to call conferences of labor organizations. Negro groups and others to get moral and financial support for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union;

Local Negro work committees could be valuable in stimulating the organization among colored people of tenant leagues and encouraging union organization and unemployed organization through the Workers' Alliance as well.

Another meeting of the committee will be held in Chicago in March.

It was reported that members of the committee have been busy addressing forums and meetings. Attempts will be made to secure a field organizer to coordinate the work of local committees.

Standard Oil's Spy Still Lying

LOS ANGELES—James Scruder, chief prosecution witness in the Modesto Standard Oil frameup, told a State Assembly investigating committee he "lied" when he confessed his trial testimony was perjured.

Scruder insisted he testified truthfully at the trial in 1935, saying his confession was made to mislead questioners. The confession was recorded on dictaphone records in the home of William Briggs, film studio employee.

In the confession, which led to the Assembly investigation, Scruder admitted that eight maritime union men convicted in Modesto of reckless possession of dynamite were framed.

He told the investigating committee, however, that he was "suspicious" of Briggs and others who were asking him questions, and "lied to lead them on."

But he admitted receiving \$600 from Standard Oil after the trial, plus a \$54-a-day job. He admitted also he is being guarded by a private detective, W. J. Gordon. The latter acknowledged that Standard Oil hired him to "protect" Scruder.

The investigation will resume in San Francisco, where Scruder and another prosecution witness, Harold Marchant, were acting as "under-cover men" for Standard Oil during the 1935 tanker strike, when the Modesto case broke.

Members of the investigating committee are Assemblymen Jack B. Tenney, Ingleswood; John G. Clark and Kent H. Redwine, Los Angeles; Paul A. Richie, San Diego, and Seth Millington, Gridley.

Costa Rican Aryans Wait Hitler's O.K.

The international character of fascism, regardless of its nationalistic forms, was again demonstrated when President Leon Cortes and his cabinet became honor guests at a luncheon aboard the German Nazi warship Schleswig-Holstein while it was engaged in "maneuvers" at sea, off San Jose, Costa Rica, Thursday, January 23.

Anti-Nazi demonstrations, while the officers and crew visited for a week in San Jose, resulted in five arrests. The government has promised that if the prisoners are convicted, it will grant "clemency"—provided such clemency is specifically requested by Chancellor Adolf Hitler. Thus is demonstrated the blood-brotherhood between one "Nordic" nation and another, or isn't that the answer? And, by the way, has anybody seen the Monroe Doctrine lately?

The Party At Work

State Convention In San Francisco

Forty delegates will meet at 236 Van Ness Avenue at 1 p. m. for a three-day convention of the Socialist Party of California, annually held in February.

Reports of the year's work will be given by the State Secretary of the Socialist Party and the District Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League. Delegates will consider resolutions on policy and lay down the basis for organization work and party activity for the coming year. A new State Executive Committee will be elected to serve until the next convention.

Recommendations regarding national policy will also be considered as a guide to delegates for the special National Convention which will be held in Chicago March 20-23.

Fresno Local Reorganized

With a newly established central headquarters at 2044 Marioposa Street and the return of some members who have been away from Fresno for several months, the local has re-organized for active Party and YPSL work. Regular meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday evenings.

California Behind On Debs Fund Drive

Although California went over the top of its quota for the United Fund Drive during the campaign and stood among the first twelve states (along with ten other western states) in performance, the record is not so good on the Debs Organization Fund Drive.

Only \$3.00 has been sent to the National Office so far from California! This is a very poor showing, particularly in view of not only the need for money, but of the very fair assessment schedule prepared by the National Office. If every individual member (members-at-large as well as those in organized locals) would buy stamps on the income assessment basis, the fund for the pre-convention period would be raised without throwing the whole burden on the local few who are often those who can least afford it.

Western Federation Of the Socialist Party

New Mexico

The Socialist Party of New Mexico suffered a heavy loss January 28 in the death, after several weeks' illness, of their State Chairman, Comrade Claude B. Blackburn. He was a man loved and respected by people who knew him, and had been for many years a faithful worker for the cause of Socialism.

Red Special Federation Plans

Because of snow and flood conditions further north, and the short time between now and the convention, the Red Special will remain in California until time for delegates to go to Chicago for the National Convention in March.

The rest of the Western Federation Red Special tour is expected to start immediately after the convention when the Red Special will start west again through Kansas, Colorado, Utah, on up into Washington and back through the northwest.

Western Caravan To Convention

Inasmuch as there will be no national allotment to states for delegate expenses this year, some of the California delegates will travel in the Red Special. The Federation Secretary suggests to other states on the route eastward that they co-operate in the formation of a caravan for delegates, headed by the Red Special, and that plans be made in advance for meetings along the way to raise money for traveling expenses. State secretaries are requested to write immediately to the Federation Secretary to plan these arrangements.

Federat'n Conference At Convention

Several members of the Western Federation Executive Committee have suggested the advisability of western delegates gathering a day or so ahead of the convention in Chicago for the purpose of holding a Western Federation conference. Important matters, other than the planning of the rest of the Red Special tour, should be discussed for the purpose of making the Federation a more effective means for promoting Socialist organization and education throughout the west. State Secretaries and Federation Executive Committee members are requested to write immediately to the Federation Secretary

The assessment schedule calls for purchase of only one 25c Debs stamp by those earning \$10 per week. From \$10 to \$20 weekly wages are assessed fifty cents (for two stamps). Four stamps should be bought by those earning \$20 to \$30 a week; eight stamps between \$30 and \$40; sixteen between \$40 and \$50. Those earning \$50 and more are asked to buy thirty-two of the 25c stamps—a reasonable demand for the cause of Socialism!

The Socialist Party has no Federal Agents or tax collectors. Individual members are expected to realize their Socialist obligations and voluntarily step forward with the money for the stamps. Local secretaries should approach every member of the local if they fail to purchase their stamps. Members-at-large should order at once from the State Office as many stamps as are due on their income. Anyone who wishes to act in the spirit, as well as the letter, of the assessment plan can buy more than the assessed number and thereby help California go over the top again in support of the National Office!

Red Truck Schedule

Unmistakable in purpose—with "Socialist Party of the U. S. A. Organization Car Number One" inscribed on its panels—the Red Special sound truck has been visiting Socialist locals, members-at-large in outlying districts, and contacts since its arrival in this state January 26. From San Diego the truck went to Los Angeles for three days, visiting contacts as far out as San Bernardino, and then continued up the valley, stopping at Bakersfield, Fresno, and Stockton.

On Friday, February 12, Comrade Anderson, National Organizer who brought the Red Special across the southwestern states into California, left for Marin County, accompanied on the Red Special by Howard Rosen, District Secretary of the YPSL. There will be a meeting of Socialist sympathizers in Yuba City on Tuesday, February 16. The Red Special will return to the Bay area to assist in publicizing the Erber meetings, after stopping a day in Sacramento on the way down from Yuba City.

Colorado Notes

Socialists of Denver Local, and of locals immediately surrounding the state capital, heard Comrade Ernest Erber, national chairman YPSL, at Grace Community Church on Tuesday, February 9, speak on a program under auspices of Local Denver Spanish Solidarity Committee. Comrade Erber talked on, "What I Saw in Spain." Comrade Simon Bloom acted as chairman of the meeting. Comrade Marjorie McCormick is chairman of the Solidarity Committee. Other speakers on the platform, besides Comrades Erber and Bloom, were Comrades John Maley, J. Austin Beasley and Harley Murray.

At the meeting of the SEC, Sunday, January 23, Comrade Jean Rudd was appointed State Secretary to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Comrade Paul McCormick, who has moved to Thermopolis, Wyoming. Comrade McCormick retains his membership in Local Denver, but suggested that a new secretary be appointed due to his inability to attend SEC meetings and take care of state business. Comrade Rudd has been assistant state secretary for some time past. Her appointment is for the interim between now and the meeting of the State convention.

Colorado State Headquarters, Room 205, 1026 Seventeenth St., Denver, will be kept open at least until after the state convention, according to action of the SEC. Local Denver will assist in keeping headquarters open by renting the room for regular weekly meetings and through voluntary pledges.

Colorado will have a State Organizer—some day. At the meeting of the SEC recently appointment of an organizer was deferred until after the national convention but members of the committee displayed an "up-and-coming" spirit toward thorough and complete organization of the state that will undoubtedly result in a state organizer being put in the field during the summer months. This will be welcome news to Colorado locals whose membership is apathetic, and to members at large who feel a local should be established in their communities.

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on the responsibility of the authors.

VOL. 1, No. 12 SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1937

Labor Action

In our last issue the following editorial
statement appeared:

**Labor Action will be faced with the ne-
cessity of retrenchment until the rallying
of the fighting Socialist forces in the West
can be accomplished. Unless this necessary
awakening is immediate we must resort to
bi-monthly instead of weekly publication."**

You did not receive last week's Labor
Action. All subscribers will, of course, have
their subscriptions extended to cover this
omission. With today we are back on regu-
lar weekly schedule and we hope to carry
on on that basis, come hell or high-water.
Realistically, however, the decision is
YOURS, not ours. Bills and obligations
must be paid every week. Your bundle or-
ders, sub-hustling and sustaining contribu-
tions will tell the story. Like the Flint
workers, we pledge to "Hold the Fort" but
you must supply the food and ammunition
for the battles ahead.

The Forgotten Man

Mr. William Green, president of the
American Federation of Labor, rushed into
print on the day of the auto settlement to
declare that the whole labor movement had
been "injured" and that the settlement
represented a "complete surrender" of all
major demands.

"As regards the closed shop principle,
the defeat is complete," says Mr. Green.

It would be hard to find any person in
the entire range of American life who is
less entitled to criticize the auto agree-
ment. It was Mr. Green's A. F. of L. which
accepted the infamous 1934 auto labor
board and agreed to elections in the in-
dividual plants which rivalled Hitler's best
efforts. The consequence of that complete
surrender was very nearly fatal to the
young and struggling auto workers' union.

It was again Mr. Green's organization
which maintained a virtual dictatorship
over the auto workers, refusing for many
months to allow them to have any voice in
the selection of their own officers or their
own policies. The result was a steadily
dwindling union and the creation of doz-
ens of independent and company unions
in the industry. Still Mr. Green has the
gall to talk of "the need of solidarity of
all labor in America."

Throughout the present strike, Green has
pulled every string and violated every fun-
damental of labor ethics to weaken, and if
possible destroy organized labor's support
of the militant auto workers. General Mo-
tor's chief argument against the "closed
shop principle" was that they must deal
with minorities among their employees. Al-
though Green's craft unions have never
made any headway in the auto industry,
he publicly seconded every corporation
statement with a demand that craft
"rights" be protected. This is the Green
version of solidarity.

Protection of an aristocracy of labor at
the expense of the working class as a
whole leads inevitably to anti-labor strik-
breaking tactics. While the CIO throws
its whole power into the most vital eco-
nomic campaign that American labor has
ever undertaken—the organization of the
mass production industries; the work of

Green and his little group of craft reaction-
aries is reduced to mud-slinging press
statements.

The capitalist press still gives these
statements space, but in the real struggles
of the working class there is no room for
William Green.

Teapot Tempest

Roosevelt's ultra-mild suggestions for re-
tiring supreme court judges on old age pen-
sions has created a sizeable tempest in the
capitalist teapot.

The judiciary branch of national govern-
ment is the one farthest removed from any
possibility of democratic control. It is logi-
cal, therefore, that reaction which is un-
democratic to the core should prefer that
that branch have final and complete pow-
ers.

Roosevelt's proposal makes no material
change in this happy arrangement. Young-
er judges might give less evidence of
senility but they would offset this by a
more vigorous and timely defense of
"American system" of private enterprise,
private profit and private property—for
the few.

The popular notion that the supreme
court is the defender of a written constitu-
tion is a favorite myth of the capitalist
courts. Supreme court precedent, interpre-
tation and downright distortion has writ-
ten and rewritten all meaning out of the
original document.

Men, not words, are the constitution; and
the men appointed by Roosevelt, or any
other capitalist executive, will defend the
system which guarantees their privilege.

The absurdity of the tempest can be seen
in the one fairly certain appointee when,
and if, the court modification gets congres-
sional O. K. The man is Joseph T. Robin-
son, senate floor leader from Arkansas,
generally known as "Greasy Joe" for his
slick political record and his faithful serv-
ice to big business.

"New blood" on the supreme court bench
will not solve the workers' life and death
problems—exploitation, insecurity, war
and fascism. Only a new order which
sweeps out the whole rotten debris of a de-
caying system offers real hope.

Why?

Georgyi Piatakov and 12 other defend-
ants in the recent Moscow trial were shot
twenty-four hours after an official an-
nouncement was made in Oslo proving Pia-
takov's "confession" was false.

Five days before the executions, while
the trial was still in progress, Trotsky pub-
licly asked for factual verification of Pia-
takov's decisive testimony concerning his
airplane trip to Oslo. He listed 13 specific
points, which could be checked and coun-
ter-checked with Piatakov and with offi-
cials and others in Norway. He asked that
this check be made before Piatakov was
shot.

Acting on their own initiative the Oslo
authorities conducted an investigation of
their own and announced to the world that
**no such airplane as that described by
Piatakov in his "confession" ever came to
Oslo.**

This information was officially wired to
Andrey Vishinsky, the Soviet prosecutor,
on January 31.

**Nevertheless on February 1 Piatakov and
the others were shot!**

What did the Moscow prosecutors fear?
The day before the executions the Ameri-
can Committee for the Defense of Leon
Trotsky wired to Stalin himself asking for
a stay of sentence for the accused "pend-
ing investigation by an impartial commis-
sion of inquiry composed of genuine friends
of the Soviet Union." This appeal too went
unheeded.

We repeat: What are the Moscow au-
thorities afraid of?

Why do they hasten to shoot men al-
though the most serious doubt has been
raised as to the validity of their testimony?

**These questions can only be answered
when all the evidence has been studied and
sifted by a group of men in whom world
public opinion can put its unquestioning
trust. This means the creation of an IM-
PARTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY!**

Nevada Ratifies

The Nevada State Legislature is
the twenty-sixth to ratify the Child
Labor Amendment. Only ten more
states are needed to add this
amendment to the Constitution.

Next state in line seems to be
New York where Senate approval
has already been gained, and fa-
vorable House action seems likely.

**STABILIZE LABOR
ACTION... GET
NEW SUBSCRIBERS**

**Trial subs to LABOR
ACTION are 25c for 13
weeks.**

come Erber gathering. Interna-
tional Hall, 236 Van Ness Ave.

San Francisco—Feb. 21, 8 p. m.
Mass Meeting at 236 Van Ness
Ave. Admission 15c. Unemployed
free. Subject: "Spanish Workers
Cause in Danger."

Berkeley—Feb. 23, 12 noon,
Mass Open Air Meeting at Uni-
versity Sather Gate.

Oakland—Feb. 23, 8 p. m., Mass
Meeting.

Further information is avail-
able at 236 Van Ness Ave., San
Francisco; UNDERhill 9296.

Socialist Policy In The Trade Unions

C.I.O. Support and Methods of Union Work

By GLEN TRIMBLE

NOTE: This is the fifth of a
series of articles on issues con-
fronting the March convention of
the Socialist Party. They are in-
tended as a basis for local and
branch pre-convention discussion.
We are sure that non-party read-
ers 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 Na-
tional Convention.—Editor.

The answer to the major politi-
cal and economic question of our
day—Socialism or Fascism—lies in
the basic mass production indus-
tries. These are the keys to con-
trol of the life of the nation, they
can open the door to peace and
plenty under workers' rule, or an-
other door into war, fascism, and
trebled exploitation of the working
class.

That is the reason why the drive
of the Committee for Industrial Or-
ganization commands the support
of every Socialist worker. Old line
A. F. of L. craft unionism in fifty
years of effort failed to penetrate
more than the outer fringe of the
key industries. Not only did craft
unionism fail to win the overwhelm-
ing majority of workers, it did not
even begin to organize the most im-
portant section of the American
working class. The American labor
movement will have no serious sig-
nificance, either political or eco-
nomic, until it gains firm foothold
in the basic industries.

**Capitalists See
Threat To Power**

The capitalist class is fully aware
of this and of the potential menace
to their power inherent in the
C.I.O. drive. That is the reason
why the auto strike, although in
numbers, duration, or violence it
was not extraordinary, has com-
manded the attention of the entire
class government and press. The
sit-down strike, foreign to the
"business methods" of craft union-
ism, is a logical tactic of industrial
unionism. By its very nature, in-
dustrial unionism implies the strug-
gle for power between all workers
and all owners.

That capitalists recognize this is
not to say that all workers or that
present C.I.O. leaders have a
such revolutionary vision. For the
most part they share the "pure and
simple" philosophy and the bar-
gaining-around-the-table tactics of
the bulk of A. F. of L. officials.
They are but temporary and almost
accidental actors on a stage far too
big for their narrow talents.

This fact and the responsibility
which it places upon genuine pro-
gressive and Socialist union work-
ers is graphically expressed in a
section of the "Road Ahead" pro-
gram offered for the consideration

Plans Drafted For Socialist C. I. O. Work

The first of a series of Indus-
trial Conferences for comrades in
Mass Production industries, ac-
tive trade unionists and members
of Workers' Alliance was held at
South Bend, Indiana on February
6th and 7th. Comrades present
came from Elkhart, Indianapolis,
Indiana Harbor, Michigan City,
Hammond, and South Bend, Indi-
ana; Toledo and Akron, Ohio;
Illinois; Austin and Minneapolis,
Minnesota; representatives from
Flint and Detroit, Michigan were
not present due to strike in Auto
industry but submitted a report.

The object of the conference
was to formulate a concrete pro-
gram of activity to further So-
cialist co-ordination in C. I. O.
organization campaigns. There
were definite programs worked
out and agreed upon after re-
ports and discussions in the fol-
lowing fields: Auto, Steel, Pack-
ing; the role of craft unionists
and Central Labor Union dele-
gates and their relations to the
C. I. O. organization drive; and
the Workers' Alliance.

Each report included an analy-
sis of the present situation within
the industry and the union, sug-
gested a policy for the future in
view of the present situation, and
the possible party machinery for
best carrying into effect the sug-
gested policy.

Reporters to the conference
were: B. J. Widick of United
Rubber Workers' Union, Harold
Rasmussen of Amalgamated As-
sociation of Iron, Steel and Tin
Workers, Hyman Schneid and
Marianne Alfonso of the Amalga-
mated Clothing Workers of Amer-
ica, Arthur McDowell, delegate to
Chicago Federation of Labor, Paul
Rasmussen of Workers Alliance
of America, Ardell Nemitz of In-
dependent Union of All Workers
(Packing House Section), Vincent
R. Dunne of General Drivers' Union,
and Roy Burt and Frank Tra-
ger for the national organization.

of the Party by a number of ex-
perienced Socialists, many of them
active leaders in the trade union
field.

**Lewis No
Cure-All**

"It must be remembered that the
officials of the C.I.O. cannot at all
be relied upon to provide correct
leadership for the progressive
forces in the trade unions. An ac-
cident of history brought it about
that Lewis and his associates have
appeared temporarily as nominal
representatives of these progres-
sive forces by advocating what are
under present circumstances pro-
gressive policies. But this accident
is not at all permanent. Socialists
naturally support industrial union-
ism and organization of the mass
production industries, but Lewis
cannot be relied on even to carry
through his own avowed plans,
much less to continue in a pro-
gressive direction. His whole past
career, the way in which he runs
his own union, his social philoso-
phy and his political role, the
character of current negotiations
and the handling of the steel drive,
all prove this clearly enough.

"The real progressive wing of
the trade unions will have to be
built under independent revolu-
tionary Socialist leadership, or it
will not be built at all. The fact
that the Communist party in the
unions has altogether abandoned
any fight against class-collabora-
tionism—which, as always, is the
key question in trade union policy
—is an additional demonstration of
the necessity for Socialist lead-
ership of the progressive forces; and,
furthermore, leaves the road free
and open for the assumption of that
leadership. The Communist party
in the unions, neglecting the fight
for economic demands and the re-
sultant sharpening of the class
struggle, more and more uses its
influence in the unions merely to
serve its People's Front perspec-
tive, to slide into favor in reform-
ist political movements, and to
supply delegates to its swarm of
"League" and "Congress"es."

**Decision On
The Spot**

Disciplined trade union work
raises some problems and many
boogies. The boogies have to do with
the horrible example of the Com-
munist Party's trade union policy
which is both arbitrarily dictatorial
and almost totally unrelated to the
real interests of the workers di-
rectly concerned. Socialist policy
is an opposite one. Its general out-
line was given in my article of
February 6th—an uncompromising
work for industrial, militant, demo-
cratic, class struggle unionism,
solidarity of all workers, clean-cut
workers' education and independent
workers' political action—these are
the essentials. Their application to
the day-to-day problems of a par-
ticular union should be decided
democratically by the Socialist
trade unionists who are, by active
membership in the union, best fitted
to make these decisions. Similarly
in national unions, state federa-
tions, city central bodies, depart-
ments or federations of unions, So-
cialists should arrange the neces-
sary contact and exchange of in-
formation and opinion to guarantee
uniformity of action on the best
possible basis of judgment.

The function of the national,
state, and local parties and party
officers should be to cooperate in
the routine work of these arrange-
ments and to give all possible aid
and cooperation to labor's organi-
zation and campaigns, but not to
dictate or interfere in the problems
of its union members except in
cases where their decision is in
conflict with the essentials of So-
cialist trade union policy listed
above.

**C. I. O. vs.
A. F. of L.**

How would this policy apply to
the present vital C.I.O.-A.F. of L.
controversy? Socialists favor the
solidarity of labor, the unity of the
labor movement, but at the same
time we believe that only indus-
trial unionism can win the unorga-
nized workers and unionize the
basic industries. We stand, too, for
democratic trade unionism and the
attack of Green and the Executive
Council on the C.I.O. has been car-
ried on in such a way as to destroy
or hinder democratic labor action
at every turn.

As against Green and the Ex-
ecutive Council our sympathies are
all with the C.I.O. The former rep-
resents an outworn philosophy and
tactics which gained a little for a
handful of "labor aristocrats" at the
expense of the majority of the
workers and the unity of the work-
ing class. The C.I.O. tendency,
given increasingly clear-headed and
progressive leadership, can accom-
plish an inclusive unity of all
American workers.

**Special Problems
Need Solution**

Now how, practically, should So-
cialist trade unionists act to make
their support of the C.I.O. effec-
tive? We have Socialists in every
union from the most progressive to
the most reactionary. The prob-

lem for each union, local and na-
tional, is a special one. One thing
however, should be obvious—noth-
ing can be solved without a clear
general policy and application to
special circumstances by the or-
ganized Socialists and progressives
in each union.

Without violating my own argu-
ment by attempting to dictate tac-
tical details, there are certain sug-
gestions which can be made. Al-
ready the suspension by the Ex-
ecutive Council has been largely
nullified by the refusal of state and
local bodies to break up labor unity.
Already strong progressive move-
ments within unions led by reac-
tionaries have succeeded in forc-
ing C.I.O. support or, at least, in
forcing their officers to modify
their opposition. Instances such as
Green's vicious attacks on the auto
strike and settlement are justified
opportunity for rallying every pro-
gressive trade unionist for protest.
There are many other ways in
which Socialist trade unionists can
gain support on this issue. But no
fight, small or large, is won with-
out organization.

From the details of local policy
to the smashing of labor's greatest
enemy—capitalism, with the war
and fascism it guarantees—Social-
ist trade unionists must organize to
lead the way.

**Amle Denounces
U. S. "Hypocrisy"**

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"I am
tired of this hypocrisy of respon-
sible people saying here that no
one is going to be permitted to be
left in want," declared Congress-
man Amle (Wis. Prog.) as he told
of receiving ten death certificates
from a single Colorado county giv-
ing starvation as the cause of death.

Nevertheless, Democratic con-
gressmen, functioning smoothly,
approved the \$650,000,000 adminis-
tration appropriation to carry WPA
and resettlement through the fiscal
year. This amount will make ne-
cessary the elimination of 600,000
from WPA, according to Adminis-
trator Harry L. Hopkins.

Garment Workers Gain

DALLAS, Tex.—Moving ahead
in their campaign to unionize the
dress-making industry here, the
International Ladies' Garment
Workers' Union signed closed
shop agreements with three
plants. The drive to clean up
this open shop center is proceed-
ing steadily.

Steel Front Cracking

CHICAGO.—A lockout by the
Hamilton Steel plant was trans-
formed into a victorious strike
when the men thrown out of
work turned to the Amalgamated
Iron, Steel and Tin Workers union
for organization. Wage increases
of as much as 33 per cent were
gained, and the company signed
an agreement with the union.

They Took a Day Off

TOLEDO.—Members of the
United Auto Workers of America
in this city piled into their cars
and hurried to Flint when the
crisis in the General Motors
strike seemed to be near. 500
auto workers took a day off from
the City Auto Stamping Co. and
drove their cars into Michigan to
front a hand.

Alabama Fears Sit-Down

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—A bill
outlawing sit-down strikes and
providing liability for unions en-
couraging them, has been favor-
ably reported by a state senate
committee. This latest attempt
of owners to make Alabama safe
for union-hating industries is be-
ing combated by the Alabama
Federation of Labor.

West Likes Lynching!

NEW YORK.—In a poll con-
ducted by the American Institute
of Public Opinion 70 per cent of
the vote favored a federal anti-
lynching law. Greatest opposition
came from the Pacific Coast,
while the southern states found
65 per cent of the voters in favor
of the proposed law. The great-
est support came from the east
and central states.

**Colorado Discusses
Party Convention**

Resolution for and against,
and up and down both sides of
the national agenda are flying
thick and fast in Colorado locals,
especially in Local Denver, where
resolutions have been introduced
covering practically every phase
of the agenda called for by the
NEC. The argument is good for
local attendance, which is gain-
ing steadily, and is chock full of
interesting material to be used
by SEC for a state-wide referen-
dum on questions of policy to be
submitted to the national conven-
tion by state delegates.

The Slacker

A True Story of Germany

By ERICH RIX

No one really took him serious-
ly. In the first place he had an
unpronounceable name and since
no one could manage it they cal-
led him Kratschmarek. Besides
he had crooked legs, a piping
voice and for full measure a de-
fect of speech. All these quali-
ties tended to make him slight-
ly ridiculous.

When he came to us once and
told that the Nazis had attacked
him and that he had now pro-
cured a revolver because the Na-
zis were after his life, we all
listened attentively and after-
wards were greatly amused. "Man
alive! Imagine Kratschmarek
with a revolver!" Kratschmarek
is an example of the coming ar-
med mass resistance to the Nazi
terror. Was it because they didn't
take him seriously and there-
fore ignored him—or did he real-
ize that they would say no if he
asked to participate?

At any rate he was never
around when there was a ques-
tion of showing the Nazis a fist,
and was therefore rated as a
coward by some. Then he sud-
denly disappeared from our cir-
cle. Now and then he came
rushing on a bicycle with an im-
portant expression on his face
that amused us royally and then
disappeared again.

Once someone brought the news
"Kratschmarek is cell leader in
Eimsbuetel." But we gave him
the good advice to tell them out
there to find someone else for the
job or we would be sorry for the
anti-fascist front.

September 1933. Prison for in-
vestigation. In the yard goes a
detachment of prisoners walking
in single file five steps apart.
One of us stands guard at the
door to warn when someone is
coming. The rest of us take
turns at the grated window look-
ing for familiar faces. It is my
turn to look. Here is Fred—
here is Franz (life imprisonment)
—Heine (8 years prison) and
here—I hardly believe my eyes—
Kratschmarek!

At that instant he looks up,
sees me, and God! the man has
nerve. If the sentry had seen
that it would mean 14 days soli-
tary. I step off the sill to make
room for the next man and tell
them the incident about the fist.
"I must take a look at him," says
the one at the window. "Describe
him to me." "He has his cap in
his hand and walks behind a fat
well-dressed one." All at once
the man at the window becomes
excited. "Do you mean that one
with the crooked legs?" He waves
his hand through the window,
suddenly he jumps down. (The
guard is coming.) He is highly
excited. "You know him! You
know Kratschmarek. Then you
know the story of the raid!"

New Wrinkle In "Welfare"

Brings Jail To Worker

A new wrinkle in "welfare"
work on the part of the authori-
ties of Hennepin County, in which
is situated Minneapolis, is reveal-
ed in their latest tactics to perse-
cute and terrorize the relief cli-
ents under their charge. Last
week Frank Ross, of St. Louis
Park, a member of the Federal
Workers' Section of Local 544,
was sentenced to 90 days in the
workhouse, having been convicted
of "non-support" on charges
brought against him by Florence
Davis of the Hennepin County
Child Welfare Board.

TESTIMONY IGNORED
Despite the fact that Ross's
wife testified that Ross had al-
ways been willing to provide for
his family, the testimony of Mrs.
Davis carried more weight with
the reactionary judge and jury, so
Ross was sentenced although the
jury recommended clemency. Tes-
timony for Ross showed that he
had a good reputation in St. Louis
Park as a conscientious worker,
and that he was constantly seek-
ing work in private industry. Tes-
timony against Ross alleged that
he had failed to work out direct
relief orders issued by the relief
authorities, and that he was an
agitator.

It was shown by the defense
attorney, Gilbert Carlson of the
Workers' Defense League, that
Ross was the only WPA worker
in St. Louis Park who had been
asked to work out his relief or-
der. Proof was also given that
Ross had agreed to work out his
relief order if he were paid in
cash. This was refused, however.

PERSECUTION

It was brought out that later
on other WPA workers had been
forced to work out their relief
orders but that they had been
paid in cash and script. It was
clearly shown by Attorney Carl-
son that the reason behind the
persecution of Ross is to terror-
ize relief clients into accepting
whatever the relief authorities see
fit to hand the relief clients, and
above all, to strike viciously at
"agitators" who seek, as in the
case of Ross, to organize the
WPA workers.

The unemployed organization of

"Never heard of it. Let's have
it!" Kratschmarek, there's a
tough specimen! We should have
a dozen more like him.

You should have seen the send-
off he gave the Nazis when they
tried to pull off a raid in Feb-
ruary! The air was thick with
cheers for him. He lived with
his fiancée. The Nazis made
matchwood of her house. Then
they searched his mother's house
for him. They told everybody
if they found Kratschmarek they
would make mince meat of him.
All through this the guy had the
nerve to come into the neighbor-
hood almost every evening. Once
I met him and said to him, "You
had better make yourself scarce."
"Never mind," he said, "but
you could do me a favor and
bring me my 6:35." He told me
where to go and I got it for him.
But I knew they would catch him
some day. And that is what
happened. When they seized
him, on a Sunday I believe, they
wanted to know first of all where
his revolvers were kept. At first
he said he knew nothing. Then
they tortured him until he ad-
mitted he knew where they were
and what I'm telling you now is
from an eye-witness, a man who
lives in our building.

They shoved Kratschmarek
into an open car and drove to
the suburbs, a chauffeur and
three officials. At a certain place
they stopped. The fools got out
and began digging at a spot point-
ed out by Kratschmarek. A pack-
age became visible. They put it
in the car. They dug some more
found a second package, started
back to the car. When they were
still three paces distant Kratsch-
marek crouched "Hands up!" The
nits dropped the package,
raised their paws in the air, even
the chauffeur who really hadn't
seen what happened but had
heard the command and followed
the example of the others.

Kratschmarek made the chauff-
eur get out, ordered all four to
turn their backs, and took their
pistols. Then he told them not
to stir for five minutes and made
for the bushes. The officials
could hear that he was no longer
standing behind them. They
jumped into the car and dashed
through the park. On their way
they spread the alarm to a group
of S. A. cyclists who were doing
some kind of drilling. In a couple
of minutes the whole park was
surrounded. And so they got
Kratschmarek once more. Day
before yesterday they brought
him here from the hospital.

That's why I say if we had a
dozen Kratschmarek's things
would look different here. In 1935
I saw him once more. Fifteen
years prison for Kratschmarek,
the man who once had been a
laughing stock among us.

Erber Brings Message Of Spanish Revolution

Ernest Erber, National Chair-
man of the Young People's So-
cialist League, is at present tour-
ing California. He has recently
returned from Europe where he
represented the American Social-
ist Youth at the World Youth
Congress. Almost single-handed-
ly he championed the position of
Revolutionary Socialism as against
the chorus of patriotism and re-
formism that dominated the Con-
gress.

For two months he witnessed
at close range the Civil War
which is now raging in Spain. He
strengthened the ties between the
revolutionary Socialist section of
the Spanish Labor Movement and
the American Socialist Movement.
He discussed at length the pros-
pects of the Spanish Workers'
Revolution with various leaders
and members of trade-union and
political organizations. He lis-
tened to countless appeals for in-
ternational Workers aid and he
gave his pledge to the Spanish
Workers that upon his