

HOUSE VOTES PRICE BOOST!

This Wasn't Figured Into the Miners' Wage Contract

1114 Miners Killed in Coal Accidents This Year

The War Labor Board shed no tears! The filthy capitalist press and its hired editorial writers shed no tears! The coal operators shed no tears! The political lickspittles of big business shed no tears!

But the wives and children and families of 1,114 coal miners who were killed in mine accidents, nine times out of ten due to the negligence of the coal operators, have shed plenty of tears.

The coal diggers of America are among the hardest workers in the world, engaged in the second most dangerous of all occupations. They work for long hours underground; they swallow coal dust every minute of their working lives; they face death from the moment they enter a mine until they leave.

They are among the lowest paid of workers and in the light of their "profession" remain the lowest paid of all workers. When they asked for a pay raise they were only asking for what is rightfully theirs.

Instead, they got a lot of arguments about "inflation" from a bunch of greedy, profit-made operators, rich lawyers, wealthy publishers and politicians on the make with big business. Instead of a pay raise they were told a lot about "wage stabilization" and the "Little Steel formula." They had dimmed into their ears the story of how the boys in the foxholes were not able to strike for a pay increase.

Nothing, of course, was said about the merchants of death who are coming in profit. Nothing was said about the tremendous salaries which big business has set aside for itself,

all of the money drained off the immense war production made possible by the sweat and toil of the workers of this country. Nothing was said about the bosses' refusal to produce until guaranteed big profits and cost-plus contracts.

Instead, labor had to watch the spectacle of a mean and vicious WLB reject demand after demand made by the coal miners and their union. Labor watched this same WLB reject successive contracts agreed to, finally, between the union and the operators, only thereafter to accept a similar contract entered into between the government and the miners.

But in all these negotiations, in all the fierce attacks made on the miners and their union by the press, in all the denunciations coming from the open mouths of the professional politicians, none of them uttered one word about the work of the coal miners, the conditions under which they labored for a measly few dollars a week, or the death and injuries which are the reward of thousands of coal diggers every year.

Tens of thousands of coal miners are injured every year. Since the war began, the speed-up in production has raised the numbers injured by many more thousands. In this year, up to the month of September alone, 1,114 coal miners have been killed at a "peaceful, civilian occupation!"

In September alone, 120 miners were killed in mine accidents. Seven major mine disasters have already occurred in the first nine months of 1943. Five similar disasters took place in the same period in 1942.

But in all the lists of the thousands of miners who were injured or killed, we have seen no names of coal operators,

the president, vice-presidents and other officials who profit off the miners' toil.

In all the lists of injured and permanently maimed miners, we find no names of members of the WLB, the fat and self-satisfied lawyers who preach patriotism to the coal digger, who goes into the very bowels of the earth day after day to mine coal.

In the list of the dead and mutilated miners, we find no names of newspaper publishers who sit in their luxurious offices issuing directives to pen-slaves who write the lies demanded of them by their bosses. Nor can we find any names of big business leaders, their political servants and the whole anti-labor gang, from the Southern Bourbons to their Northern counterparts.

The miners not only get low wages, poor housing, high prices in company stores, and high rents in company houses, but they get more than their share in death, injuries and permanent mutilation. But these aren't figured in their wages. This has nothing to do with "stabilization." And such a "good" lawyer as the Honorable William Davis, chairman of the War Labor Board, has no measuring stick to determine what is the value of 1,114 dead miners, and more than 70,000 injured ones.

But from the blood and sweat and tears of these coal miners, the living and the dead, one can measure the riches of the mine owners, who sit in their offices counting up the profits which the coal diggers produce for them!

Labor Unions Start Drive For Increased Wage Rates

WASHINGTON — The action of the House in sending to the Senate the Commodity Credit Corporation Bill, calling for an end to the food subsidy program after December 31 of this year, carried by a vote of 278 to 117, will only aggravate the wage situation in the country. All forecasts are that the Senate will concur in the House action.

It is expected that Roosevelt will veto the bill, since his entire program for the wage freeze depends on subsidies given to the big food corporations as a means of keeping down prices. But prices of course have not been kept down, and the workers of the country are clamoring for higher wages.

The House action was carried out in behalf of the war profiteers, who stand to gain millions more through higher prices—unlimited prices. Roosevelt's fears that this will set the stage for widespread wage demands are based on the fact that even before the House action a number of unions have denounced the Little Steel formula and have demanded wage increases.

The CIO convention, in response to the pressure of the rank and file, formally went on record against the Little Steel formula. Since the convention, Murray's own union, the United Steel Workers of America, has gone on record to demand a wage increase.

Long before that, however, the railway workers were pressing for wage increases and the unions in that industry have been preparing to take a strike vote.

The miners' union set the stage; other unions are following suit. As the situation becomes more unbearable for the workers, more and more unions will join the cry for higher wages.

The War Department has now permitted the story to be told and the newspapers have published a number of facts surrounding the case.

Patton, it is reported, after a severe reprimand by his superior officer, General Eisenhower, apologized to the soldiers and officers of his army, as well as to the hospital commander, the nurse in the case and the soldier who was struck, but has retained his command.

A considerable stir has been caused in Congress and the press is now busy considering "all the aspects of the case."

Next week's issue of LABOR ACTION will review the whole incident.

The action of the WLB against miners' wages—small though the cut is—indicates the assurance already felt by labor's enemies because the miners' strike is behind them. Contrariwise, the action of the Senate sub-committee in favor of an increase in rail wages registers fear of a railroad strike on which a vote is now being taken.

Pointing a Moral
The moral of these latest developments on the wage front is obvious. Not that the miners lack militancy. Quite the contrary. They were the first workers to break out of the wage-refrigerator—and they have left the door wide open for all labor to follow suit. The point is this: the powers that be "relax" into their regular anti-labor practices as soon as labor lays down its "big stick."

One may say this point was also brought out by the flip-flop executed

(Continued on page 4)

The Facts in the Bedford Stuyvesant Grand Jury Hearings

"Civic" Leaders Provoke Anti-Negro Attacks

By EVERETT WESTON

The Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York's Little Harlem, is being maneuvered into a situation where it will need only a word to set off another race riot. In part, the Negroes are being used by Tammany, Republican and La Guardia supporters as a political club with which to hit one another. In part, certain elements are out to get the colored Brooklynites and, if possible, drive them out of the community.

To find the roots of the story, we have to go back at least as far as 1937. At that time one Summer A. Sirtl, president of a Midtown Civic League, declared he was going to "make things really uncomfortable for Negroes in Brooklyn." League members applied en masse for pistol permits.

In 1938 this same Sirtl testified before the State Temporary Commission that the Negroes in Brooklyn were creating a crime wave, that too many of them were on relief.

The cut in the budget last year by La Guardia and his Board of Estimate is also no small factor. The Board of Education had asked for extra funds for the Bureau of Child Guidance, for after-school athletic centers, for community centers and playgrounds. None of these were granted. On the contrary, there was a cut in the staff of the Juvenile Aid Bureau. Playgrounds had no supervisors.

It takes no master mind to know that wartime conditions breed juvenile delinquency. The great "liberal," La Guardia, prepared for such delinquency by cutting down all the agencies that combat it.

The latest phase of the Jim Crow fight against Brooklyn Negroes was set off by a report of the Kings County Grand Jury that "conditions of lawlessness existed in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section." How much these fine gentlemen are concerned with the law may be judged from their

really astonishing suggestion that policemen follow a "muss 'em up" procedure in combating hoodlums. This is illegal, but effective in keeping Negroes "in their place."

La Guardia's answer was to send a young army of policemen to Brooklyn. The first detachment was 420 men, sent to make a house-to-house survey of the district. Their snooping was called off after a few days, when it became obvious that Brooklynites were in no mood to co-operate in having their private affairs publicized.

Later, 1,000 more cops were sent

'Fed-Up' Men Go on Strike

There are a few strikes going on around the country. The Atlantic Fishermen's Union (AFL) has called a strike of Boston, New York and New Bedford fishermen. About 1,900 men are involved. The union says that the government ceilings on fish are, too low.

Philip Murray's steel workers at the Homestead plant of the Mesta Machine Company are striking about overtime pay. About 3,600 workers walked off the job last Saturday night.

Twenty-five hundred leather workers in thirty-two plants in Massachusetts were still out last Saturday despite an order from Washington to cease picketing and return to work.

Yarn dyers of the CIO Textile Workers Union voted last Saturday to strike the following Monday morning. They want more wages. The dyers reached an agreement with the employers for a ten per cent increase not to exceed seven and a half cents an hour. This was turned down by the WLB, which held fast to its ancient Little Steel formula.

into the district, so that one out of every sixty people in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section is a policeman. Entirely innocent gatherings are broken up, and there is an unofficial curfew. This is bringing law and order to the section.

Last Sunday afternoon the Brooklyn profascists held a meeting at which they called on Governor Dewey to remove the Mayor from office for "misfeasance." Speakers included Sirtl, who chaired the meeting; Joseph Goldsmith, president of the Taxpayers Union, a landlord's organization, who declared that "there is more law in a nightstick than in all the courts of the world"; the Rt. Rev. John L. Belford, pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of the Nativity, who spoke of the "deterioration"

of the community with the influx of Negroes. Henry E. Ashcroft, one of a half dozen Negroes present, asked for time to answer the charges. He was given five minutes, although no other speaker was limited, and was booted when he spoke. Malcolm Martin, representative of the local CIO Community Council, was denied the floor despite repeated requests.

The CIO Community Council and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are planning counter-meetings some time during the week. That they will attack Sirtl and the rest of the Jim Crow agitators is to be expected. But they can perform a real function in a ticklish situation if they attack in no less strong terms the Kings County Grand Jury and the La Guardia administration.

The New York City police force will never bring peace to Brooklyn. Some years ago the cops were investigated and it was found that large numbers were either members or sympathizers of the fascist Christian Front. These were not removed from the force, and their attitude toward Negroes remains unchanged—as was amply demonstrated during the riots in Harlem last summer.

What the Negroes need—in Brooklyn and everywhere else—is an even break, a chance to get a decent job, the right to live where they see fit, an adequate share of public welfare facilities. These are things they will get only with militant organizations and a struggle for their equality.

Enclosed find five dollar contribution for emergency action in the Al Levy case. Best of luck to you. Here in the Aleutians it is gratifying to know that you are, as they say in the Army, "on the ball."

(Signed) Private
The letter was passed by the Army censor.

Another letter released from a soldier at a Southern Army camp read: Enclosed please find \$1.00—please use in the Levy case.

I too question our war aims toward the people, when our own armed services deny those aims to our own people. Negroes are Americans—can't

the prejudiced see that?
We need hundreds of radio men, electricians and various other specialists, yet I have SEEN Negroes denied application blanks.

However, there is one branch of the service where discrimination does not exist and that is Officers Candidate School. I spent seventeen weeks there, observing how colored men lived, slept, played and prayed and studied with other men. No discrimination existed. Yet the Army says that the only reason why they do not allow whites to live with blacks is that it won't work. The Army's own OCS disproves that.

By its refusal to review the case, the Supreme Court has said that the defendants must serve out their sentence, since the only recourse is a presidential pardon.

We print alongside this article the statement of Albert Goldman, attorney for the SWP and one of the defendants in the case, on the action of the Supreme Court.

Without explanation, the Supreme Court of the United States has refused to review the case of the eight-member members of the Socialist Workers Party, convicted in Minneapolis in the first peacetime sedition trial in the history of the country.

The "Minneapolis case," as it is called, arose out of a dispute between the militant former leadership of Local 544, AFL Teamsters Union, and the reactionary officialdom led by Daniel Tobin. One of the means of driving the militant leadership out of this union was the case worked up against the SWP and some of its members active in the union.

On such evidence as the "Communist Manifesto," written by Karl Marx almost a hundred years ago, and whose ideas the defendants accepted, the Minneapolis court found them guilty under the "Smith Gag Act" and sentenced them to a year and a day to sixteen months in prison.

The case was appealed to the U. S. District Court of Appeals sitting in St. Louis. That court rejected the appeal and the case was thereafter presented to the Supreme Court. The attorneys for the SWP were confident that a review of the case by the highest court in the land would result in reversal of the lower courts' verdict. But the Supreme Court refused to review the case. This now means that the court has avoided

WDL Continues Fight to Vindicate Levy

Following closely on the release, five weeks early, of Private Alton Levy, labor organizer court-martialed for opposing illegal discrimination against Negro soldiers at Lincoln, Neb., Army Air Base, the Workers Defense League Committee on Discrimination announced that it would press vigorously for the continuation of its effort to secure vindication of Private Levy.

Declaring that the early release, coming despite General Duncan's statement to the press that the union organizer would have to serve his full term, "was certainly a partial victory for the thousands whose let-

ters and telegrams deluged the White House," the WDL announced it would press the fight for complete vindication. Levy was transferred to a Southern camp.

The League also announced its continued support of the case of Winfred Lynn, Negro draftee who is challenging the legality of Army Jim Crow by a court test.

The Workers Defense League also released letters from soldiers supporting the fight for Private Levy, as follows:

Dr. George S. Counts, Treasurer, Workers Defense League, 112 East 19th St., New York 3, N. Y.

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Court Refuses to Hear Minneapolis Case; Defense Attorney Goldman Issues Statement

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taking a position on the Smith Bill. By its refusal to review the case, the Supreme Court has said that the defendants must serve out their sentence, since the only recourse is a presidential pardon.

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Facts to Remember:

New San Francisco Mayor Is a Big War Profiteer!

Roger Lapham is the new mayor of San Francisco. A former industry member of the War Labor Board, he resigned from the board to run for office. To know what kind of candidate Lapham was, it is only necessary to list his chief supporters: the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Associated Farmers. The latter is not made up of working farmers, but is the murderous anti-labor vigilante organization of the canning and packing interests!

Back in March, the Congressional Merchant Marine Subcommittee disclosed that the American Hawaiian Steamship Company, owned principally by Lapham, was a war profiteer. It cited that the company owned:

"Ten vessels valued at \$478,532; ten voyages; charter hire, \$3,565,674; profit, \$3,096,749."

MASS ACTION

By David Coolidge

WLB Davis Pulls Another Fast One

The War Labor Board, under the lash of the little patent lawyer, William L. Davis, continues its sniping at the United Mine Workers. In a seven-to-five decision, according to the New York Times, the board "cuts mine pay in past thirty-one cents a week."

We don't pretend to understand what the WLB is talking about in its new decision announced in a letter to Ickes. It had to do with the method used for calculating overtime pay. It is claimed by the board that Ickes' method of calculating overtime pay was not in conformity with the "requirements of the stabilization program."

The board says that, in the Ickes agreement, overtime was based on the straight hourly rate of \$1.00 but that it should have been based on an hourly rate of 97.14 cents. This two cents-plus, it seems, if allowed to stand, would wreck the "stabilization program."

Davis told the reporters that the miners are "getting more money for more work, and we've always said they could do this." Davis went on to say that the miners "wanted \$2.00 extra pay for nothing!"

Furthermore, it is nothing new to say to workers that they can have more money if they put in longer hours. The bosses have always been for that: earn more by working longer. What we want under capitalism is more money and less work. Under capitalism that is the only wage slogan that makes sense.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

The Case of the White Collar Workers

By WALTER WEISS

The New York Times, tenderest friend of all workers with hand and brain, wept bitter tears last week for the white collar workers.

Labor Expert Louis Stark wrote two long front-page articles about fifteen million heads of families unable to get a pay raise because the War Labor Board does not hear the individual pleas of the unorganized, but only the requests of unions and of employers.

Secretary of Labor Perkins replied that there were only ten and a half million real white collar workers in all and that of these only four and a half million were heads of families. Of these, she said, many have received increases through applications of their employers, others by overtime pay now allowed federal employees, etc.

We are not too interested in the statistical dispute, although Stark and the Times had a purpose behind their exaggerated claim: to show that twelve million organized workers have been living off the fat of the land, while fifteen million unorganized suffer from rising prices and taxes.

The fact remains that many white collar workers are even worse off than the organized industrial workers. What would the simple answer seem to be? For the white collar workers: Organize! For the AFL and CIO: Organize them!

Congressmen Get Interested

Congressmen and Administration officials, interviewed by Stark, would not, of course, give this answer. For the most part they professed bafflement. The usually outspoken Senator Clark of Missouri said that if he knew what to do he would "shout it from the housetops."

Administration followers put in a plug for subsidies to keep prices down. Some arch-reactionaries switched quickly to their favorite subject, that truck drivers and concrete mixers are earning as much as, or more than, generals.

Feeling that these answers would not satisfy the sufferers, Arthur Krook, top Times man in Washington and a reactionary from way back, suggested that clerks and others might form organizations for dealing with the War Labor Board only—that is, unions, but yet not unions.

The editors of the Times themselves first took their bi-weekly crack at time and a half for overtime and the reckless extravagance

of the Little Steel formula. Then they ranted a bit against subsidies, which would help not only the neglected white collar workers but would also further increase the unmanageable fortunes of organized steel and rubber workers, not to mention Rockefeller and Morgan.

Finally, they came up with a solution. Look at Canada! "For every increase of one point in the cost of living index, workers receiving \$25 a week or less are allowed one per cent increase in wages. Workers receiving between \$25 a week and \$3,000 a year are allowed twenty-five cents a week bonus for each one per cent advance."

That's the way to handle the situation, say the editors of the Times, but hasten to add that it would be necessary to have a courageous tax program, that is, to take away all the increases allowed and some more, too, by higher taxes on the poorest sections of the population. There's

no courage involved in soaking the rich; it wouldn't hurt them. And the Times doesn't act where courage can't be shown!

Canadian Plan—Its Meaning

The whole story up to this point is one of disgusting fraud—a story of skinflints who want to set one group of workers against another. The Canadian proposal is the payoff.

Suppose a worker to be earning \$50 a week, not a huge sum in these days. If the cost of living went up by twenty-two points, as it has since 1941, even by the lying figures of the government, he would receive a wage boost of \$5.50 (twenty-five cents for every point of increase) instead of the \$11 that would represent twenty-two per cent. Besides, according to the Times, his taxes would be hiked way up. The \$20 workers would receive a full \$5.00—and higher taxes, too.

By comparison with this AUTO-

MATIC WAGE-CUTTING SCHEME the Little Steel formula appears generous. Remember, too, that at present a twenty-two per cent increase in pay is for OVERTIME HOURS, thirty-three per cent, at time and a half rates. Not so under the Times's scheme. No more than a flat twenty-five cents for a one-point rise in the cost of living.

Even the white collar workers couldn't want this bill of goods when, by joining a union, they would get at least what the Little Steel formula has to offer.

Our generous congressmen, administrators and newspaper editors further expose themselves by their attitude toward white collar raises which they could easily bring about. For example, did the Times recently hail with delight the attempt of New York City police and firemen to get a \$450 yearly bonus in the election referendum? For that matter, did the "ultra-liberal" newspaper, PM? You know the answer.

Does Congress raise the base rates of government employees or merely allow them to earn more by overtime work, in the hope of thus keeping them from running off to private industry? You know this answer, too.

Office Workers and Unions

Can the white collar workers be brought into unions? Don't they hate the thought? We seem to recall that when the unions were at their most lawless—in the sit-down days of blessed memory—the white collar lads and lassies simply flocked to join up. From coast to coast old lady clerks and young ten-cent-store girls and mild male shoe clerks began to sit down too or to stand up for their rights in some other way.

Let the unions show a bit of that old militancy, and the clerks will come flocking in too fast to handle. Even now they can, with a little effort, be organized. The phonies, such as the Times, reveal the shyster nature of their schemes with every word they utter. Unionism has something straightforward to offer.

The unions should act at once. The capitalist frauds may get smarter as time goes on. Already in the Times of November 21 there is an advertisement, signed Box P196, Times, for "successful and altruistic business and professional men" to create an organization, not a union, of white collar workers on a national scale.

Those with "labor or political" connections are warned to keep away. This is a sign of the times.

AMG Organizes 'Unions' in Sicily

Fascism by any other name remains the moral enemy of the working class. The Allied Military Government (AMG) in Italy and Sicily, under the guise of "liberators," is swapping the old labels for new ones. It changes the fascist names but enforces the fascist practices.

A decree passed by the AMG of Sicily has restored the Camera dei Lavora (Trade Union Center) in Palermo which had been replaced by the National Fascist Syndicates under Mussolini. This would, indeed, be a great step on the path to workers' liberation if... if it was more than a switch in labels.

Just examine this decree! The director and staff of the Trade Union Center are APPOINTED only with the approval of the head of the AMG. This director, who is responsible only to AMG, has complete power to settle labor disputes and pass whatever rules and regulations he finds necessary for his administration. Trade union democracy and freedom are pretty meaningless now, even as they were under Mussolini's camouflage corporatives.

The intolerable working conditions of the Sicilian worker and

peasant are not wiped out by this decree of the "liberators"—they are continued in full force. Article 4 reads: "Present contracts covering hours, wages and conditions of employment shall remain in force." The contracts negotiated by fascist employers and representatives of fake fascist unions are legalized, enforced by AMG.

Labor's strongest weapon—the strike—is denied the Sicilian worker. "Strikes and lockouts... are strictly forbidden and will be punished."

All public meetings remain banned by order of the AMG! Fascist officials are maintained in responsible offices!

"Sicilia Libertad," published in Palermo, after severely criticizing AMG's decree on the trade union centers, says:

"The situation demands the restoration of democratic rights, freedom of speech, press and assembly and above all the removal of all fascists from positions of responsibility."

But the Sicilian's lot remains as before—a miserably impoverished one. His country is plastered over with the labels of liberty, but he knows better—he drinks of the old wine.

WMC Does Dirty Job for Seattle Bosses

The Ten-Hour Day At Bell Aircraft

The Bell Aircraft Corporation has decided not to initiate two ten-hour shifts in place of the present three-shift system. The company says that the plan "seems impracticable."

Labor has known this for over a hundred years. That's why we began the struggle against the sunrise-to-sunset day in the early days of the nineteenth century.

That's why we began the militant struggles for the eight-hour day in the eighties of the last century. And that is why we began thinking of the six-hour day and the thirty-hour week. Labor demanded successively: twelve hours pay for a ten-hour day, ten hours pay for an eight-hour day. Now we have to think again about eight hours' pay for a six-hour day!

We have to do this because employers all over the country are scheming to get back to the sunrise-to-sunset day. That is really what a ten-hour day is right now. Or, more precisely, in the winter, it is a dark-to-dark day.

We don't know by what means the Bell Corporation discovered the impracticability of the ten-hour shift, but we are of the opinion that the company had a hunch that labor is smarter now than the workers were, say, in 1815.

Attention, UAW Members!

The October issue of The New International, monthly socialist magazine, contains an article on the recent convention of the UAW that you cannot afford to miss: a hard-hitting analysis of the issues and the groups at the convention by an experienced labor journalist.

Whether you attended the convention or not, this article will give you new ideas and make clear in your mind the issues facing the union today.

Special: 10c per copy, postpaid From

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.

SEATTLE—In an effort to stem the avalanche of appeals of unfair wage evaluations, the Boeing Aircraft Company has announced that it will make a new evaluation again in three months. The company knows that an evaluation made three months from now, even if it means a wage raise, will not be retroactive to March 4. For 20,000 to 30,000 workers, that means a real saving for the company.

The Federal Housing Authority, on almost the same date that the Boeing workers were given a "raise," announced a \$2.00 a month raise in rent. The raise was made under the guise of increased living costs. The Labor Consumers League investigating committee maintains that it was done as a concession to Seattle real estate interests, who will now clamor for a similar raise in rents.

A dog fancier in this city cuts off his dog's tail a little at a time so it won't hurt so much. That is exactly the process employed by the WMC. It is determined that labor will not come out of this war with free labor unions. The labor unions can be an instrument for the workers to get better living conditions and job security. High wages established by free trade unions will cut in on the unlimited profits of industry. So the WMC, in cahoots with the corporations, is using the so-called labor shortage as an excuse to hogtie the trade unions.

Two recent announcements indicate that the WMC is preparing new labor draft decrees. It is ready to cut another piece off the dog's tail. The War Labor Board has established a plan for pay equalization for fifty-six shipyards on the West Coast. It very frankly states that "the new rates will enable yards to interchange employees from one job to another to speed production and effect economies."

It is claimed that the new rates bring an over-all increase of three-fourths of a cent per hour. The rate changes make a lie out of that statement. Some classes of workers a year from now will be making as much as thirty-two cents an hour less than they earning under the old rates. So the WLB can very well say that it effected economies.

The second announcement, which indicates that a new labor draft decree is about to be made is that Boeing's again needs 3,000 to 9,000 workers and the Bremerton Navy Yard needs 3,000 workers.

Will the labor leaders again give in and allow these new decrees? Only counter-proposals by labor can prevent it. Labor must make some

demands of its own. Labor must expose the WMC plans for what they are—an attempt to enslave labor and destroy the trade unions. In a previous issue of LABOR ACTION (November 8) we set forth a program that would solve the labor shortage problem. We summarize it here:

1. Solve the housing, transportation and food problem so that absentee-

ism will be reduced.

2. Eliminate welding fumes, put heat in the ships and factory buildings to fortify the health of the workers.

3. Stop the maiming and killing of workers by unsafe working conditions.

4. Break down the top-heavy supervisory and administrative staffs

and put these bosses to work.

5. Eliminate cost-plus to wipe out the tremendous waste of men and materials. At the same time, restore the right to strike so that the corporations will not continue their profits at the expense of the workers.

6. Open the training schools and skilled jobs through the unions to Negroes.

Bell Aircraft Backs Down

BUFFALO—More than 1,500 Bell Aircraft workers jammed the Memorial Auditorium in this city last Sunday in a great protest rally called by Local 501, UAW-CIO, against the anti-labor tactics of the Bell Corporation. The great turnout came despite the obvious attempts of the company to sabotage the meeting by agreeing only twenty-four hours before the meeting not to push the issue of the ten-hour day.

The five protested points listed by the union in one of its leaflets were: 1. The company's phony ten-hour day plan. 2. The wholesale discharge of union stewards. 3. The continued breach of contract by the company. 4. The proposed layoff of several thousand workers. 5. Bell's individual quarter of a million dollars bonding scheme.

The meeting was a fitting protest to months of stalling on the part of

the company over contract negotiations, to the adamant refusal of the company's labor relations department to settle grievances, to repeated threats of the company to institute the ten-hour day and to a score of other outrages which the company has perpetrated in the past half year.

Several of the speakers at the meeting emphasized that the victory over the company's proposal to institute the ten-hour shift was temporary and would be quickly lost if the union did not continue a militant fight against it.

In one of the best received speeches, George Buell, vice-president of Local 501, linked Bell's fight with that being conducted by the miners and by Brewster Local 365. Buell went on to say that if Bell dared to institute the ten-hour day, the workers, on the day the ten-hour system was scheduled to go into effect,

Workers Party School Opens

The New York Local of the Workers Party began the winter schedule of its socialist school with two highly successful classes. The classes, which began on November 19, are in the Fundamentals of Marxism, taught by Albert Gates, editor of LABOR ACTION, and the History and Principles of the Workers Party, whose instructor is Max Shachtman, national secretary of the party.

Almost fifty students attend both classes, which have had two sessions. In the first two sessions on the Fundamentals of Marxism, Gates discussed the basic principles laid down by Karl Marx and traced the development of the Marxian philosophy. He also dealt with the analysis of the social development of mankind as described by Engels, Morgan and Bogdanov.

The next sessions will take up Marxian economics, the class struggle, the role of the party and the struggle for socialism.

The class in the History and Principles of the Workers Party, led by Shachtman, discussed the collapse of the Second International, in the First World War and the rise of the Third (Communist) International. An analysis of the degeneration of the revolution and the Russian Communist Party and the rise of Stalinism was given in the second session. Shachtman showed how Stalin's theory of "socialism in one country" led to a series of defeats of the workers in Germany, China, Great Britain, Spain and Austria. The next session of the class will deal with the dispute in the Fourth Internationalist movement and the split in the Socialist Workers Party, which led to the formation of the Workers Party.

It is not too late to register for these classes and attend the remaining four sessions. The school is held at the Labor Temple, 242 East 14th Street, on Friday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

WORLD EVENTS

By Europacus

Behind de Gaulle's Ouster of Giraud

To the accompaniment of the volleys against the Lebanese demonstrating for the independence of their country, the first French Consultative Assembly appointed by General Charles de Gaulle has convened at Algiers.

General Giraud and his followers have been ousted from all responsible posts in the Algiers government. While passing over the Lebanon occurrences with some vague and embarrassed remarks, our "liberals" will doubtless hail the two latter events as great victories for democracy. In fact, the ouster of Giraud means nothing of the sort. It simply indicates that the old fashioned type of reactionary regime, as represented by Giraud, has been replaced by a less open, more modern and streamlined form of reaction.

De Gaulle, unlike Giraud, is not a somewhat slow-thinking military man, with only extremely vague notions about the strange business of politics, but an extremely shrewd politician. He has been able to use the fact that General Giraud has been openly backed by English and American imperialism to create an undercover sentiment against him. He skillfully posed as a representative of the outraged French "national feeling" as against the foreign hirelings.

In fact of course, he is as much bound to follow the orders of the two great imperialist nations installed in North Africa as is Giraud, but his occasional outbursts against too direct interference have made him popular in the ranks of the North African French, outraged over the attitude of conquerors assumed by the English and Americans.

Moscow Parley Rankles Him

De Gaulle's recent protests against the exclusion of France from the

Moscow parleys have doubtless again helped to enhance his prestige, not only among the French bourgeoisie, but even among large masses. The "Grande Nation" will only play a very minor role in the future determination of Europe's future, and it is not yet quite adjusted to this role of junior partner.

De Gaulle was especially disappointed over the Moscow parleys, since the temporary united front between England and America on the one hand and Russia on the other has deprived him of the fruits of his underhanded intrigues with Moscow.

The clever de Gaulle policy of carrying on flirtations with Stalin in order to gain at least some measure of independence from England and America is voided once these three great powers arrive at some compromise with each other. The attitude of the French Communist Party is very revealing in this respect. Until the Moscow conference, its representatives always stressed their allegiance to de Gaulle and backed him on every possible occasion. But now, after de Gaulle has voiced his criticism of the Moscow agreement, the Stalinist party paper of Algiers assailed both de Gaulle's criticism of the Moscow agreement and the plan of de Gaulle's followers to have the Assembly of Algiers support the Committee in demands for representation on the European Advisory Board, which was decided on in Moscow.

Here again the Stalinists show clearly their role as agents of Russia's foreign policy. Immediately when, even in a relatively minor matter, the demands of this policy are contrary to their other interests, they automatically choose the former.

What the Assembly Looks Like

The Consultative Assembly which has been appointed in Algiers is supposed to represent all tendencies of the French underground. It is impossible to ascertain just how far these assertions correspond to reality, but it is revealing that a very great part of its members are old-time politicians of the Third Republic and in no way representative of new trends which may have emerged in French politics since Nazi occupation.

The list of members known so far reads like an extract of the record of one of the meetings of the French Parliament around 1938. Representation of the Communists is fairly large, as is the representation of the pro-de Gaulle "socialists." But, as heretofore, de Gaulle's clique of army officers and young semi-fascist intellectuals still dominate.

Companies Work This Gag Everywhere

I work at Western Pipe & Steel in San Pedro, Calif., and this company has just pulled a stunt lousy enough to make an angel sore. We have a half hour for lunch and are forced to stand on the canteen line fifteen or twenty minutes, because there are only a few canteens for thousands of us. There aren't even any slot machines around so you have to swell the line just for a pack of cigarettes or a bar of candy.

order to get some posts in de Gaulle's government. They are eager, above all, to get the post of Information Commissioner (i.e., Minister of Propaganda), but their recent differences with de Gaulle on the question of the Moscow conference has so far prevented their entering the Algiers government officially. Nevertheless, it is to be expected that they will get some posts in Algiers soon.

The future of the de Gaulle government will depend to a very large degree on the outcome of the deals between the great powers which are now on the agenda. While French imperialism is still powerful enough to suppress the Arabs in Syria, Lebanon and North Africa, it is, nevertheless, no longer able to play an independent role. "La Grande Nation" has become a pawn in the underhand dealings of the Big Three.

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De Gaulle, The Allies, and the Press

By Sam Adams

The Allied policy toward colonial and subject peoples—not the words they utter about freedom, but their real, practical policies—is covered with hypocrisy. This is clearly revealed by the recent events in Lebanon.

The story is a simple one (see the article in this issue fully analyzing the history of the British-French struggle over that country). The Lebanese Parliament declared its independence. With amazing swiftness, the French Committee of "National Liberation" (note the title), under the leadership of General Charles de Gaulle, declared martial law, arrested the Lebanese officials and proceeded to rule the country with the gun and the saber.

WHY THE ATTACK ON DE GAULLE

With equal swiftness, the British denounced the actions of the French, demanding the immediate release of the native president and his officials. The United States joined the British in denouncing the action of de Gaulle. Back of the British action was the fear of the whole Arab world, most of which is under the domination of British imperialism.

The French were quick to rescind their actions. De Gaulle charged that his delegate-general in Lebanon, M. Helleu, acted on his own when he instituted a reign of terror in the country.

But even more fundamental than the reaction that might have taken place in the Arab countries (and there were plenty of indications that they were furious about the whole event), is the British determination to dominate all the countries which surround their oil possessions in the Middle East. They got American support, because American oil companies also have large possessions in that area. They want the French out of the Middle East.

WORLD-TELEGRAM GETS INDIGNANT

But listen to the New York World-Telegram, which speaks more or less in the same way as the rest of the capitalist press. On November 23 it wrote:

"The British and American governments should agree to no face-saving device whereby General de Gaulle perpetuates his dictatorship of Lebanon by releasing native officials for some sort of puppet role. . . . It would leave smoldering the Arab revolt that threatens Syrian and Lebanese bases essential to the Allied war effort, as well as the Iraq oil supply and the entire Near East. The best proof of the depth of native feeling against the French dictatorship is that the usually hostile races and religions have united in their fight for freedom."

The editorial goes on to say:

"To weaken Vichy-Berlin control of Lebanon, de Gaulle's commanding general in the summer of 1941 pledged Lebanese independence. . . . But as soon as de Gaulle got control he tried to prevent independence, which he finally proclaimed only under severe British, American and native pressure. . . . Unless he is willing to live up to his independence pledges to the Lebanese and to his obligation to co-operate fairly with Britain and the United States, he should no longer expect Anglo-American support."

DICTATORSHIP—AND DICTATORSHIP

But the choice of words in the World-Telegram editorial is indeed interesting. It speaks of the French "dictatorship" and "independence for Lebanon." But this hypocritical newspaper, reflecting the hypocritical policy of the Allies, is silent about other colonial countries.

There is no mention of "independence" for India, nor is there a call for an end to the British "dictatorship" in India. India is the most important example, but India is not alone. There is the whole British Empire, on which "the sun never sets." There is the Dutch Empire, which robbed and exploited the East Indies for a hundred years or more, until the Japanese army took it over and continued this robbery and exploitation in behalf of its own capitalist class.

There is the French Empire, the Belgian Empire and also there is our own Puerto Rico. Of their independence, the World-Telegram says not a word. Of the dictatorships over these lands the World-Telegram, in its smug and pious denunciation of de Gaulle, is equally silent.

It goes without saying that we are for the independence of all colonial countries and subject peoples. We haven't the slightest brief for de Gaulle or his gang. But neither are we much interested in editorials of the World-Telegram, or the hypocritical policy of the British Foreign Office. The latter might have some right to speak if it took itself out of India and relinquished its death-like grip on that country.

For our money, they are all in the same camp of imperialist brigands, exploiting the colonials for profit.

Imperialism at Work

British-French Rivalry in Lebanon

By STANLEY GREY

The political crisis in Lebanon continues. At the time of writing, General Catroux is trying in vain to negotiate a settlement with a newly formed Lebanese government that is now seceded in one of the Druze mountains. The Lebanese refuse to negotiate until the French free the regularly elected Parliament which was arrested on November 10.

On the preceding day, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies had voted an end to the mandate and proclaimed its independence. With a swiftness and ruthlessness that ill becomes "Joan of Arc" de Gaulle's Committee of National Liberation, the leaders of the Lebanese Parliament were arrested, the press censored and martial law enforced.

In the last week a number of significant statements were made. The leaders of Egypt and Arabia expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese fight for independence. The English warned the French that any decision must seriously try to satisfy the Lebanese desire and right to be independent. General Catroux as much as told the English that they should let the French take care of French interests. And General de Gaulle is trying desperately to patch up the trouble without losing any more "face" or French interests than he must.

Three Elements in the Fight

This series of events reveal clearly the three major elements in the Near Eastern crisis. They are the fight for the right of self-determination on the part of the Arabian world; French imperialism striving desperately to maintain its weakening grip over Syria, and the conflict between French and British interests in the Near East. These did not arise overnight but have been the very substance of the history of the Near East for the past twenty-five years.

To understand the Lebanese crisis it is necessary first to know this history well, for the events in Lebanon are nothing more than a climax of Anglo-French rivalry.

French domination over Syria was conceived in the secret treaties of 1916 and finally born in the violence of 1920 that was to characterize later French rule. The Syrians wanted their independence after the last war when they had been freed of Turkish domination.

Despite their vigorous expression of this desire to an Allied commission which went to Syria in 1919 to investigate the sentiment there, the French insisted on their share of the spoils. Thus they received Syria as a Class A mandate, that is, they were to establish a constitution "in agreement with the native authorities" and "enact measures to facilitate the progressive development of Syria and Lebanon as independent states."

The very first French act carried out in the tradition of imperialism was to send 90,000 soldiers under

General Gouraud to Syria to depose King Feisal, who had set himself up as the ruler over a "united Syria." The next stroke was the familiar one of "divide and rule." Syria was split into five separate states. Old Lebanon, which had been predominantly Christian, was enlarged by the addition of Moslem sections and became Greater Lebanon with its own administration and flag.

The Christians in Greater Lebanon were given preferred treatment in the economy and government. This action served to aggravate the religious antagonism in the country. It is not the least significant aspect of the recent events that Christians and Moslems of Lebanon are completely united in their determination to drive out the French.

But the deep-rooted desire of the Syrians for independence would not be forestalled. A rebellion broke out in the Jebel Druze in 1925 and quickly spread to the major cities throughout Syria. It took two years of the most ruthless and barbaric suppression by French troops to quell the uprising. Whole villages were burned to the ground. Towns were pillaged. Ingenious barbarities, such as tying a number of Arabs together, covering them with petroleum and converting them into living torches, were practiced. The names of these Arabs are on record for all to see.

Out of a population of 50,000, six thousand were wiped out in Jebel Druze. The city of Damascus was bombarded and 1,500 killed in a few days. In the Ghouta region, which embraces the city, tens of thousands of fruit trees, the sole property of small peasant proprietors, were razed to the ground.

Yet the destruction in Damascus and the Jebel Druze had only increased the determination of the Arabs to gain their independence. That fight continues today in a different form.

What Are French Interests?

It requires no great insight to understand the desire and right of the Arabs to rule themselves in their own land. But what explains the tenacity with which the French maintain their grip over Syria and the Lebanon? What are these "French interests" that General Catroux is so worried about?

Lebanon and Syria are no "India" for the French capitalists, but the profits they yield are no trifle either. Syria is primarily an agricultural state, whereas Lebanon is mainly a commercial and industrial country with the greatest percentage of urban population. Some of the most important ports on the Mediterranean: Beyrouth, Tripoli, Lattakia and Alexandretta are in the French mandate. The ports of Alexandretta and Beyrouth were leased to French companies in 1890 and 1898, respectively, for a period of ninety-nine years. The companies have a monopoly on

loading, unloading and storage transactions at these ports. Nine-tenths of the receipts go to the company, one-tenth to the government. This yields a neat return to the French owners.

Added to this, the French administer the customs houses of Lebanon and Syria, the importance of which can be seen by the fact that over half of the national income of Lebanon is derived from that source. The direct and indirect control over the major ports of Syria and Lebanon net the French interests a very profitable return. Internal railroad commerce as well is dominated to a large extent by French companies for they control or own most of the railroads in the country.

The French completely dominate the financial economy of the two countries. The Banque de Syrie et de Liban is the major banking house in Syria, with almost complete control over all major transactions. It is a French corporation, with its center in Paris. The majority of its directors are French and most of its shares are held by Frenchmen. The bank drains a great deal of the capital of Syria by investing it, not in native industry, where it is so sorely needed, but in French government securities and bonds. In 1931, for example, 149,606,904.8 francs were invested in French securities, whereas in the same period only 65,865,672 francs were loaned to the native business men and states.

In addition to the Banque de Syrie et de Liban, there are five other major banks in Syria which control commercial and mortgage transactions. Four of these are French-owned, the other being Italian. Most of these are connected with the few great landholders who control most of the cultivable land.

In 1926, the Permanent Mandates Commission reported that one of the causes of the Druze uprising was the "excessive demands in the form of forced labor" effected by the French. The poor Syrian peasant today gives half his produce to his landlord and his lot, as a result of his tenant's status, is more miserable and uncertain than that of the American sharecropper. The landlords and banks grow fat on the sweat of the masses of illiterate peasants.

The French capitalists have their greedy fingers imbedded in the industrial pie as well. Syria's industry is small but is growing constantly. The major industries are silk spinning, tanning, tobacco, woollens and cotton. The French also enjoy a large share of the tobacco monopoly and reap profits from native industry through its financial network.

France is the largest single exporter to Syria of manufactured goods, supplying her with one-fifth of her imports. After Palestine, France is the largest receiver of Syrian exports, which consist primarily of raw agricultural products. France exports more to Syria than it im-

ports from her and the difference is paid in gold.

The British-French Conflict

General Catroux knows whereof he speaks when he tells the British to lay off. French interests mean something very concrete for him and the French bourgeoisie.

But where does Britain enter the picture? Is Britain of India fame now converted to the proposition that colonial peoples have the right to their independence? Hundreds of thousands of Indian dead and dying give the lie to this appearance of righteousness.

The story of Franco-British conflict must be written in oil. In 1920, the British supported Feisal in his attempt to unite an independent Syria. When Feisal was expelled, he was made the ruler of the British mandate of Mesopotamia.

In 1922, in the Greco-Turkish war the French backed the Turks and the British gave their support to the Greeks. The point of dispute between the French and British was the boundary line between Syria and North-east Iraq. The British, not content with almost all of the rich Mosul oil fields when the division of the spoils took place after the war, wanted the oil which was in the disputed area. The French, who were no slouches at the game, were after the same thing. But they still had much to learn from the British experts at the imperialist trickery. The English were awarded the disputed area in 1923. Thus ended the first round of the Franco-British rivalry.

A new problem now arose for the oil-soaked British capitalists. It was very expensive, both in time and money, to transport the oil by boat from far away Iraq to the Mediterranean ports, from where it streamed to all parts of the globe. The logical answer would be a pipeline going from Mosul to Haifa. A branch line would be necessary which would have to cut through Syrian soil. A "free and independent" Syria would be ideal for British purposes. They would have no trouble getting what they want then.

But FRENCH Syria, with its domination of the major Mediterranean ports? That is different and makes all "freedom-loving peoples"—in the forefront being the British capitalists—cry "shame!" at the violation of a rejuvenated Atlantic Charter. In the dictionary of the British capitalists, Syrian independence means greater profits from Mosul.

Thus the tangled net of the Lebanese situation can be unraveled into the three major factors analyzed above. Their interaction for the last twenty years has created a series of crises which has built up the tension to its present breaking point.

The resolute action of the Lebanese people is only the first act of the determined Arabian masses to throw off the yoke of foreign rule.

Who Will Be the Builders of the New Germany?

By Carl Davis

Allied victories, plus the increasing military strength of the "democratic" powers, which has apparently doomed Germany, have given rise to all sorts of plans for that country in the post-war period. Although no decisions were reported, there is no doubt that the recent Moscow conference spent many hours discussing this problem and trying to resolve a united policy, if that is at all possible.

There is the proposal of the Englishman, Vansittart, who wants to chop up Germany into a number of small states. Other proposals call for re-educating the German youth and children by trained instructors from the Allied countries, still others for sterilizing large sections of the male population.

FEAR OF "DISORDERS"

What really worries the leaders of the Allied powers is how to "reorganize" Germany and prevent "disorder." By disorder, of course, they mean the actions of millions of workers and poor peasants, who would rise up and change the whole bloody system of imperialist capitalism in that country. They are the real sufferers from fascism—not German big business, which has so many friends in the big business world of the Allied countries.

Raymond Moley, in a recent issue of Newsweek, has looked around and discovered the forces in Germany who could reconstruct the country. What did the Honorable Mr. Moley find? Only what he was looking for.

Moley writes in the logical style of a professor. After Germany's inevitable military defeat, who will be left to rule the country? asks Moley. There is no King and no Badoglio. We don't know whether Moley is saddened by this fact. He discovers "forces" just as he did, but they are obviously to the liking of the associate editor of Newsweek.

Moley lists six groups which are in a position to come out openly after Germany's defeat. They are: the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, the German farm bloc, the "Economic Council of the Reich" (organized in 1919), the anti-Hitler army leaders and, finally, lumped into one group, the political and union organizations of the working class.

MOLEY'S SIX GROUPINGS

Excluding the political and union organizations of the workers, all the other five groupings which are counted upon to reorganize German society are precisely those forces which did little or nothing to prevent Hitler's victory. Where the Catholics did not support Hitler into power, they were pretty silent about his movement. Their fight against Hitler began only when Hitler decided to exercise control over the church and to take over the "education" of German youth.

The same is true of the Protestant church. Its fight with Hitler began several years after he took power.

In the beginning both churches were rather silent over the persecution of the Jews, the destruction of the labor movement and persecution of the workers. It was only when the interests of the church were threatened that their fight against Hitler began. Their fight with Hitler, however, is not a fight against fascism, but rather a struggle for church rights.

Moley's next group, the farm bloc, is a notoriously reactionary and backward element in German society. They, too, were supporters of Hitlerism, in the hope that Hitler seriously meant his propaganda about dividing the landlords' big estates and giving land to the peasants.

The "Economic Council of the Reich" is an organization of German industrialists counted among Hitler's best friends and really one of the forces that helped him into power. It was a source of financial support to the Brown Shirts. The army, too, even the so-called "anti-Hitler" elements, went along with the fascists because they too wanted war and a German Empire.

HERE IS THE REAL FORCE

The one element which could reorganize German society on a solid foundation, that is, on a socialist basis—the German working class and the poor and exploited peasants—these are a minor element in the thinking and planning of the "democratic" capitalists in whose interests Moley speaks.

This element, the overwhelming majority of the German population, is the one that the powers fear. They want a reorganized Germany based on groups of the old ruling class because they fear the workers. And they fear the workers because they are afraid that the workers may rise to overthrow the capitalists in Germany, establish a workers' government and reorganize the country to build socialism.

The Allies are not alone in their fear of this kind of prospect. Stalin, too, fears a socialist Germany.

Lynn Jim Crow Case Up for Appeal

By HENRY LORING

In the summer of 1942, Local Draft Board 261 of Jamaica, L. I., received a letter from Winfred Lynn, a Negro resident of Jamaica, who had just been notified by the board that he had been classified 1-A. This letter told the draft board in plain words that Winfred Lynn would not serve in a Jim Crow army. This was the beginning of the "Lynn Case," the only important legal action so far taken by a Negro against the policy of racial discrimination in the U. S. Army.

Lynn was notified to report for induction on September 18, 1942. He refused to report and was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of draft evasion. He appeared before a federal judge, pleaded not guilty, and was held for bail.

The next day, his brother, a lawyer, asked for a writ of habeas corpus, on the ground that Winfred Lynn had been inducted on a "quota" basis, so many whites and so many Negroes, whereas the Draft Act provides that there shall be "no discrimination against any person on account of race or color" in the selection and training of men under the Act. The writ was granted, Lynn was temporarily freed, and a hearing was set for December 4, 1942.

At this hearing, Arthur Garfield Hays, well known civil liberties attorney, represented Lynn before Federal Judge Mortimer Byers, who dismissed the writ, refusing even to hear any arguments. A second hearing was held January 4, 1932, but with the same result: the writ was dismissed, thus turning Winfred Lynn over to the Army. (Prior to this second hearing, Lynn had been persuaded, for legal reasons, to permit himself to be inducted. This did not alter the issues in the case nor did it interfere with the possibility of further legal action.)

The judge at the second hearing admitted that the testimony of Colonel McDermott, draft director of New York City, had shown that separate Negro and white quotas were, in fact, used, specifically, by Lynn's own local draft board. But, the judge argued, it was not established that Lynn had been called sooner than he

should have been, and he therefore had no case!

Winfred Lynn, however, was determined to fight the case to the end, to carry it up to the Supreme Court if that could be done. He took the next step; he appealed the case to the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

After some delay, the appeal has finally been filed with the Circuit Court. The American Civil Liberties Union is handling the appeal, through Arthur Garfield Hays, and has announced its intention to carry the case to the United States Supreme Court, if necessary. It is expected that the case will go to the Supreme Court; an early decision by the Circuit Court is hoped for, which will probably be unfavorable to Lynn, and the case can then go direct to

the Supreme Court.

The March on Washington Movement, Negro organization, has actively supported the case from the very beginning and took the initiative in forming a non-partisan citizens' committee for Winfred Lynn, in New York, last spring. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is officially on record as supporting the case, though it has so far failed to take any concrete action on behalf of Lynn. The Workers Defense League is also behind the case.

The Citizens' Committee for Winfred Lynn, backed by a long list of prominent sponsors, including well known trade unionists, has recently constituted itself on a national basis, and has developed a program for

giving the Lynn case nation-wide publicity and assisting Lynn's attorneys and the American Civil Liberties Union in various ways. An office has been opened at 1 West 125th St., New York. Nancy G. Macdonald, the committee's treasurer, is asking for contributions from interested individuals and organizations, to help finance the case.

Literature on the case is available, and organizations are urged to use it to make the facts on the case known to their members. The issues in the Lynn case are of very great importance to American Negroes and to labor in general; striking at the first expression of Jim Crow in the armed forces—separate quotas for black and white in the draft—Lynn's legal action raises the whole monstrous question of segregation and racial discrimination in the military machine. The military authorities realize this and have followed the progress of the case closely.

Winfred Lynn has taken a first step in the fight against Jim Crow in the armed forces. His fight is that of every unionist, every progressive, every genuine advocate of civil rights for the Negro. The development of the case in the Circuit Court and in the Supreme Court deserves to be followed with care. Above all, make the facts known about what Winfred Lynn is trying to do!

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Editorials

Fight for Levy Still Goes On

The fight made by the Workers Defense League in behalf of former Sergeant Alton Levy, court-martialed and imprisoned at a Lincoln, Neb., army camp for his fight against Jim Crow and discrimination in the armed forces, has gained its first reward.

Levy was sentenced to four months in the guardhouse, had his pay cut and lost his stripes. The splendid campaign of the WDL brought the case out into the open and rallied the nation-wide support of the labor and liberal movements. As a result of this campaign, Levy was released one month before serving out his sentence and transferred to another camp.

But the WDL says that the fight is not over. It wants complete vindication of Levy. That is, it wants Levy's rank restored and his pay made up. We are wholeheartedly in agreement with the WDL.

Levy did a courageous thing fighting in behalf of Negroes in the armed forces and demanding their complete equality. And the Workers Defense League waged a gallant fight in his behalf. The organization deserves the support of all workers.

Another Reason For a Labor Party

LABOR ACTION is pleased to note that many of the best labor papers are coming to the defense of the Brewster Local of the UAW-CIO and of its militant president, Tom De Lorenzo. These labor papers don't like the attempts of the House Subcommittee on Naval Affairs, which recently had a set-to with De Lorenzo and, having been bested in the encounter, ended by demanding his removal from office as a condition for the continuation of the Navy Department's contracts with the Brewster company.

In its editorial column, "Labor" asks the committee: "Is it possible you are more interested in discrediting De Lorenzo than you are in providing planes for our fighting forces?" Then "Labor" asks what might

be the results if De Lorenzo had a staff of investigators to look into the early lives of the members of this House committee. "How many of you would escape unscathed?" asks "Labor."

LABOR ACTION is not so much interested in the early lives of the House investigating committee members. We would, however, like to know more about their present lives. We would like to know something about the source of, and the reason for, their vicious anti-labor opinions.

We would like to know whose interests they are defending when they attempt to smear labor and what they get out of it. Of course, we know that the usual run of congressman can be likened to the dog looking into the horn of the phonograph and heeding "his master's voice."

We know that Congress listens to the voice of its capitalist masters, but it would be interesting and enlightening for labor to get in on the real dirt of its practical and sordid details.

A real Labor Party could dig up some of these past times of congressmen. It could begin to discover the connections of its enemies in the government with big business and find out that it is a case of two peas in one pod.

A workers' government would take the lid off and let out all the stench in connection with these numerous congressional investigations, anti-labor bills, renegotiation of contracts, hold-the-line decrees, no-strike pledges and all other evils under which the working class suffers. Until such a time there will be no end to the attacks on labor and its most militant leaders.

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Playing with Lives—

Politics and Food in Europe

By DAN BERGER

The characteristic contempt of the British Empire for human lives is not confined to hungry India. While the Allied propaganda continually promises the joys of a capitalist heaven in return for hazardous underground warfare by the peoples of the occupied countries, Churchill's government prohibits the shipment of desperately-needed food supplies to the starving "friends and allies."

Ridiculing the notion publicized by the "English" that famine prevails among the victims of the imperialist war in Europe, Dingle Foot, secretary of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, flatly rejected on November 10, proposals that relief be given to undernourished women and children of occupied countries.

Previously the American Quaker relief organization repeatedly had attempted to deliver food and medical supplies for the destitute of France, only to encounter everywhere the interference of the great humanitarian, Churchill.

Testimony of a Quaker

In testimony given before a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, Dr. H. E. Kershner, of the Quakers, related the story of his largely unsuccessful relief mission to Europe from 1939 to 1942.

The plight of the subjugated peoples is such, he stated, that it is likely that the German people, themselves none too well fed, may alone of all the European peoples, emerge healthy and strong enough to enter upon a period of reconstruction. The

children of Europe subsist today on scarcely a third of normal food requirements. Women, especially pregnant women and mothers, are "starved wrecks."

Although the supplies were at many times available and the delivery assured, the British managed to block the shipment of foods and vitamin concentrates, sometimes with the cooperation of America. Funds set aside in American depositories for purchase by the relief mission in the neutral countries, were frozen here at the urgent request of the English. Eventually the precious goods destined for southern France passed instead into the hands of the Germans.

The purported aim of the British blockade was to prevent just this occurrence. Despite assurances, however, that the materials handled by the Quakers could in no way affect the military situation, because of the methods of distribution, the blockade has remained in effect.

Food—a Political Weapon

This is war—as conducted by the forces that have always prospered only at the cost of human suffering. The workers are accustomed to scanty rations in the days of peace—and unemployment. Churchill and Roosevelt have cheerfully promised Paradise to the European workers in exchange for their freely-given lives. But no more than "Paradise." Life on earth must remain as bitter and cheated as ever.

The bosses, in England, the United States, Russia and elsewhere, are never more than verbally concerned

over the fate of men and women. Markets, labor supplies, raw materials—these are the main considerations of warfare. At the close of the war, the men, women and children who fight and starve today will become the concern of the victors—as the material of labor supply. They will perhaps then be fed—or starved—as the situation requires.

Hoover administered relief after the First World War in just that manner. Where the workers seemed inclined to grasp at the freedom they had fought for, where they sought to end all war and want by socialism, they were met with a deprivation of food supplies.

They Want More Than Words

For, it is plain to see, the contest today as in 1914-18, is for the freedom to ensue. Only on the part of workers, especially the Europeans, is it a war for the freedom of the individual, economically and spiritually. And it is a war apart from the imperialist war that they fight today in the dark places of Europe.

Perhaps it is that the authors of the Four Freedoms and its various amendments understand that it is not for them, though sometimes with them, that the European underground workers and fights. Perhaps they see in it, in its fight for national liberation and truly democratic government, an enemy greater than the rival imperialist powers. The European worker, they may know, will not cheerfully trade the German bondage for any other kind, no matter how sweet the name!

FREE SPEECH

The Post Office Goes "Righteous"

Although the Postoffice Department experienced no "difficulties" in finding ways and means to ban The Militant from the mails and co-operated fully in the federal suit against that paper, it opposes very strongly a current bill to ban racially discriminatory literature and pictures from the mails.

Vincent M. Miles, solicitor of the Postoffice Department, testified very piously at a congressional subcommittee hearing on the current bill that any law barring from the mails "defamatory and false statements" against racial or religious groups would violate the principle of free speech, would be unconstitutional, would increase instead of decrease racial prejudice and would present serious administrative difficulties. Mr. Miles, who previously had no such scruples in the case against the labor newspaper mentioned, stated that there was no need for such legislation.

ON WHOM THE HAT FITS

Opposition to the bill also was expressed by Postmaster-General Walker. He claims that there are too many difficulties in the way of administering such a ban. He states that enforcement of this ban "would impose upon the department the undesirable task of deciding controversies between those seeking to discuss FREELY racial and religious issues and those who might consider certain of such discussions in violation of this law."

Incidentally, the Postoffice Department did not find it inconsistent with its policy of not deciding in controversial issues, to instigate a pornography case against the magazine Esquire, because it does not want Esquire's lovely undressed ladies to continue their wanton way through the United States mails.

The legislation to ban anti-racial literature and pictures from the mails has the backing of the two main labor organizations, the CIO and the AFL, as well as various liberal, religious and Negro organizations. Over 15,000 letters have been received in support of the measure, according to Representative Samuel A. Weiss, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the congressional subcommittee which is conducting the hearings.

WITNESSES FOR THE BILL

One of the witnesses at the hearing who is in favor of the bill's passage, Richard Frankenstein of the CIO, quoted a passage from Adolph Hitler's "Mein Kampf" as a warning of what the American public should beware of: "Anti-Semitic propaganda in all countries is an almost indispensable medium for the extension of our political campaign," wrote Hitler.

Other witnesses stated that the circulation of anti-racial material threatened us here in America "more than bombs and weapons." Various Jewish organizations testified that a tremendous amount of anti-Semitic materials is being sent through the mails and a representative from the AFL reported that "campaigns of vilification against racial and religious groups" have been used by reactionary elements to victimize union members for many years.

This very "righteous" stand taken by the Postoffice Department, which suddenly decides that it must protect the "constitutional" rights of those people wishing to send anti-racial propaganda through the mails, reveals the hypocrisy of another governmental institution. "Freedom of speech for whom?" we ask.

Dutch Fight Nazi Labor Draft

By EUROPACUS

After the occupation of Holland, the Nazis tried in vain to get the collaboration of the more than 700,000 organized workers of the Low Lands. As a reply, nearly 700,000 left the unions in 1941 when these were taken over by Nazi stooges. The Nazi commissioner of labor, Woudenberg, promised a raise of seventy per cent in the unemployment insurance if the workers would return, but this proved of no avail. The Nazis since then have resorted to ever more brutal methods. They conscript labor and send the workers to Germany. But the more brutal the Nazi methods, the more accentuated become the opposition of Dutch labor; the stronger the opposition, the heavier the reprisals—such is the deadly circle of resistance. During the first two weeks of August, forty-two people were executed, according to the Netherlands Information Bureau, for having defied the orders of the Nazi labor authorities. But these methods

did not stop the fighting spirit of the workers.

Workers in organized groups raided the German administrative offices and destroyed district labor bureaus at Den Helder, Zaadam and Hengele, and burned or removed records from the offices of the labor bureaus at Sleen, Zweeko, Oosterhesselen, Zuidwilde, Nealdwijk, Hoogeveen and Westerbork, thus rendering virtually impossible the carrying out of the labor draft.

But even if the Gestapo finally succeeds in shipping the foreign slaves to Germany, trouble for the Nazis is not over; on the contrary, it only really begins. The millions of foreign workers are a constant element of danger to their slaveholders, and the Gestapo constantly has to keep an eye on all these dissatisfied foreigners. According to a special decree, every worker who commits an act of material or "moral" sabotage can be condemned to prison or to

death. Anything may be considered moral sabotage, such as a workers' statement that he has been forced to come to Germany, or a complaint about the food, the lodging or the kind of work. "Apparently," comments the editor of News From Belgium, "the only remarks permitted are about the weather."

The burning hatred against those who are now collaborating with the Nazis is well illustrated by a leaflet which was distributed in the neighborhood of Louvain (Belgium): "Patriots, choose your Rexist now, because there won't be enough for everybody." These were also the sentiments of the masses of Southern Italy prior to Allied occupation. Now, of course, the Italian Quislings do not need to hide any more. They are the valued collaborators of the Allies and anybody trying to raise his hand against them would be tried as "disturbing order and spreading anarchy" by the summary courts.

Congress Votes for Higher Prices --

(Continued from page 1)

by Chairman Davis of the WLB within the space of a week.

On November 5 he wrote to Vice-President Wallace, plainly declaring that labor is bearing alone the brunt of the hold-the-line edict. Was it merely a coincidence that this "pro-labor" view was stated at the same time that the CIO convention came out against the Little Steel formula and President Murray talked big about demanding more pay for the hundreds of thousands of steel workers?

The Little Steel formula was looking pretty sick. Did Davis see that, too?

But less than a week later Chairman Davis protested and denied and asserted that his statement was "widely misunderstood and misapplied." He wanted everyone to know that as far as he is concerned the Little Steel freeze is still in full force and effect.

What happened between Mr. Davis' first and second declarations? Well, the wage demands for steel workers have not yet materialized. Things seemed to quiet down—and so did Mr. Davis. It begins to look as if labor leaders are again engaged in the fruitless game of playing along with President Roosevelt, this time pinning highest hopes on FDR's altogether inadequate subsidy plan for a rollback in prices. But it looks pretty hopeless. The subsidy plan is going down the river as big business is winning its fight for higher prices. Militant action on wages must be taken.

ILGWU Against Wage Freeze

Another large union came out against the Little Steel freeze last week, namely, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, with a membership of 500,000. President Dubinsky said he would demand a wage increase in excess of the Little Steel limit because, as stated in a resolution passed by the executive board, "The only real effect of the Little Steel formula to date has been the practical freezing of wages. Stabilization of living costs is largely wishful thinking, while the true inflationary forces, the industrial combines which control living necessities, are laying a field day."

These are true words. They not only correctly characterize the Little

Steel outrage and the so-called stabilization program, but place the guilt for the present price crisis where it belongs, namely, on the capitalist class and its political servants. Wage demands are the only solution along these lines.

The CIO News reports that the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers Union "this week called for wage adjustments to meet the rising living costs..."

The Textile Workers Union has issued a demand for a wage increase of "not less than ten cents an hour for all textile workers."

Another move on the wage front was the letter of William Green, AFL president, to Chairman Davis of the WLB, in which Green expressed resentment at the implications of members of the board that more drastic anti-labor legislation should be passed. "Statements such as these made by the NWLB make it increasingly difficult for labor to participate in the work of the NWLB as now constituted," Green stated.

The "Forgotten People"

While labor leaders hesitate to take action, the New York Times has started a campaign to pit the unorganized workers against the organized. Its correspondent on labor matters, Louis Stark, wrote several articles on the "forgotten people." There are, as he pointed out, 15,000,000 clerical, white collar, professional and other unorganized workers who have not received even the fifteen per cent wage increase grudgingly allowed by the Little Steel formula. They haven't been able to get this because, as unorganized individuals, they have not been able to protect their interests.

This fact gives the mentally spry editors of the Times an opportunity to brush aside the thousands of claims of ORGANIZED labor lying buried in the graveyard of the WLB, and nonchalantly declare that the "WLB has adopted a procedure which is bound to favor organized labor against the unorganized groups."

From this false statement the Times proceeds to draw the fantastic conclusion that even the fifteen per cent wage increase permitted by the Little Steel formula is much too lavish. The clever idea of this capitalist

newspaper is that practically no allowance should be made to workers to meet the rise in living costs—except to those workers earning \$25 a week or less.

Of course, labor leaders and union papers have protested against the anti-labor propaganda that Mr. Stark's articles gave the capitalists and their spokesmen a chance to make. But here too words of protest are not enough. Action is required to get these "forgotten people" the wage increases long overdue. The necessary action is an all-out drive to organize the unorganized so that all labor will have the protection of united action.

If organized labor hesitates longer

at this crucial point, the anti-labor forces will simply be given further chance to strengthen their lines.

Funeral rites must be given the Little Steel formula by coming out at once with definite wage demands in every industry.

Labor's right to strike for its demands must be reasserted by taking back the no-strike pledge and wiping the Smith-Connelly bill off the books. No wedge must be allowed to exist between organized and unorganized labor. A militant unionization drive on the basis of specific demands for the unorganized workers must be undertaken at once.

No other course can protect the workers in this critical situation.

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On the Detroit Elections

By BEN HALL

(Continued from last issue)

What were the real issues in the Detroit campaign?

Here, where the CIO has its most powerful stronghold, the home of the UAW with its more than a million members, was the opportunity to strike against the nation-wide assault against labor, its rights and its standard of living. The union membership was fully aware of this fact. That is why FitzGerald won a remarkable victory in the primaries.

FitzGerald dissipated his support because he could not, would not, and did not face any of the real questions. That is because he is NOT a labor candidate, but a capitalist candidate endorsed by labor. W. Kelsey, writing in the Detroit News, hinted at the real nature of FitzGerald's campaign:

"... As a lawyer, Mr. FitzGerald knew that any promise he might make, either to labor or to the Negroes, must be conditional... He had to avoid those issues in which, as the primary had demonstrated, lay his strength."

That is the stupidity of the Detroit elections. Labor supported a man who had to avoid all issues affecting labor!

For a Labor Party

There was only one possible force which could have driven Jeffries, the Klan and the daily press into retreat. That was a fighting, independent Labor Party with its own independent candidates, with no ties to either of the two old capitalistic parties.

A fighting Labor Party could have pointed out dramatically and effectively how the big monopolies are profiteering during wartime. It could have denounced the infamous Little Steel formula, which, together with the skyrocketing prices uncontrolled by the present Administration, mean terrific wage cuts for labor. It could have demanded a shifting of the costs of the war from the back of the workingman who earns his money by his own labor and onto the shoulders of the rich monopolists, the "Sixty Families" who rule this country and who receive their money through OUR labor.

Issues like these, raised so loudly that no one could avoid them, would have revealed to all exactly where Jeffries and his backers stood. That they were the tools of the big capitalists and open enemies of the people would have been made clear.

Even assuming that in this case the candidate backed by the Labor Party had been defeated, as was FitzGerald, the tremendous vote that it polled would be a victory in itself, for it would warn all sections of Congress and the national administration that labor had ceased to rely on the discredited "friends of labor" and intended to go into battle for itself. That alone would win many concessions, even from the most reactionary sections of Congress, which fear the rise of a fighting Labor Party a thousand times more than they do the victory of "friends of labor."

A fighting Labor Party could have exposed the true character of the anti-Negro campaign run by Jeffries. It could have made clear that this was an attempt to throw a smoke-screen over the genuine campaign issues outlined above, and to hide the fact that Jeffries was the banner-bearer for the monopolists.

Jim Crow would stand exposed as a weapon of the capitalists for splitting the labor movement and diverting it from its real goals.

And as a complete reply to the race hatred of the capitalist candidate a fighting Labor Party would declare and explain the absolute necessity of complete social, political and economic equality for Negroes in the fight against labor's enemies.

Why No Labor Party in Michigan?

The leadership of the CIO is against the formation of an independent Labor Party. The last convention of the Michigan State CIO a few months ago decided to explore the possibilities for the formation of an independent Labor Party. Nothing has been heard of it since. Instead we have seen the organization of the Labor Political Action Committee, whose aim is to continue to support capitalist "friends" and to stymie any attempt to form a real Labor Party.

At the last CIO convention, Philip Murray declared against a Labor Party and for a continuance of the old policy on the ground of preserving unity with all "progressives." FitzGerald is one of these.

What have been the fruits of this old policy?

In Detroit in the previous mayoral campaign in 1941, the CIO supported Jeffries as a friend of labor. This "progressive" friend turns out to be a reactionary enemy.

The leaders of the CIO, in an attempt to discourage the formation of a Labor Party, will doubtless argue that the recent election returns prove that the labor vote is weak and that we must cling ever more closely to the apron strings of our "friends."

Break with Discredited Friends

This idea is one hundred per cent false and equally suicidal. It is not LABOR that is weak but the so-called friends of labor who are weak, in disrepute and discredited.

The New York Times reports that the elections demonstrate "a reaction against the Administration's handling of home affairs" and a "disillusionment among Negroes as to the purpose or ability of the New Deal Administration to guarantee them the place which they seek in the nation's economic life and particularly the war effort."

Walter Reuther spilled the beans in his resolution at the last UAW convention. "It will be impossible to mobilize the same degree of continued enthusiasm and support for the candidacy of Franklin D. Roosevelt and for his election for a fourth term if the present Democratic Party policy of appeasement of the foes of progress continues."

Put in plain, everyday language this means: the people are getting sick and tired of this rule by the so-called friends of labor, who really knife labor. Not even support by the unions guarantees their victory.

Only one course of action can bar the way of the reactionaries. Away with support to the so-called friends of labor! Form an independent, fighting Labor Party which breaks all ties to the Democratic Party, the Republican Party and the Roosevelt Administration!