Be sure, reader, that you are awake now-\$100,000. Its fees will be 164 when you read the following or you times its invested capital. may think it is a hallucination. LA-BOR ACTION writes steadily on the theme of war profits, and readers have a good idea of what the capitalist class has reaped out of its

that tops them all so far. A congressional committee has testimony that nineteen companies operating shipyards will "earn" a minimum in fees on war contracts, of \$228,234,832.

"war sacrifices." But here is some-

thing about profits in the shipyards

How much do you think these companies invested in order to get this "fair reward" for "risking" their money? They put in a total of \$22,-879.276. They took out \$228,234.832. That is ten times as much-not five per cent, or six per cent, or ten per cent, or even one hundred per cent on invested capital, but around one thousand per cent.

The government, however, put into those shipyards the pretty sum of \$371,960,113 of public money. For this, the working people pay taxes as they go. Out of this, nineteen shipyard companies take \$228,234,832

The Kaiser company was one of those that did this slick Houdini. Its total fees on war contracts will amount to well over \$16,000,000. Its capital investment was - hold on,

He Takes IT Out

But the government invested in the three shipyards operated by the Kaiser company a total of \$69,746,-191. It is worth repeating that for this the working people pay taxes as they go. Out of this, Kaiser collected \$16,400,000 in fees.

Another illustration is the St. John's River Shipbuilding Company of Jacksonville, Fla. It invested a mere \$600. Its total "earnings" on all existing contracts will be \$1,940,000. That company took out 32,333 times what it put in. But the government invested \$15,804,942 of public money in that yard.

Whitewashing this scandalous situation, Admiral "Shoot-Labor-Leaders-at-Sunrise" Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, said: "These shipbuilders have done one of the greatest managerial jobs in all history. They have provided the 'knowhow' and brought to the task imagination, initiative and ability that astounded the world with their achievement. If there is to be a percentage basis for paying them, I think it should be a percentage on brains and

not a percentage on capital." We ask: "How far could these 'geniuses' get without labor-even assuming that they provide the 'brains,'

which is not true?" The recent Truman report states

on the subject of labor's performance: "To make all this possible our workers engaged in manufacturing, mining and agriculture contributed nearly forty-five per cent more days of work in 1943 than in 1939, despite the fact that more than ten million men were withdrawn from the labor pool for the armed forces. In manufacturing alone, our workmen contributed 89.6 per cent more days in 1943 than in 1939. This astounding performance exceeds anything of its kind ever achieved in the history

of the world." The reward of labor for this achievement is the Little "Steal" formula, which allows a wage increase of fifteen per cent while the cost of living has risen 43.5 per cent. The reward of labor is that it is getting the usual Washington runaround as it now tries to break the unjust formula and get a few wage

Armed with the knowledge of what the capitalist class is getting out of the war, the workers will fight for their needs and their rights.

P.S.-Under the Baruch plan, who the \$371,960,113 worth of shipyard properties owned by the government? That's it-those nineteen companies which already took out up to 32,333 times what they put into the magician's hat of war production.

# LABOR ACTION

APRIL 3, 1944

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT.

# SUPPORT DEMANDS OF CIO STEEL WORKERS!

stitutional power of Congress is very

touching. Roosevelt DICTATED the

law in question to Congress. In his

Labor Day message of September 7,

1942, he stated that such legislation

must be passed by the "deadline" of

October 1. "In the event that the

Congress should fail to act and to

act adequately, I shall accept the

So much for the famous separa-

tion of powers in our government.

Still, it's a very convenient princi-

ple, when there's some buck-passing

Now it would be most inappropri-

ate for the President even to hint,

let alone dictate, changes - ESPE-

CIALLY SINCE HE DOESN'T

WANT ANY CHANGES. He thinks

the Little Steel formula is just fine.

As a matter of fact, Roosevelt

could change the formula by execu-

tive order. The law is very elastic.

All that is needed is the desire to

stretch it. Wages and prices are sup-

posed to be stabilized at the levels

of September 15, 1942-SO FAR AS

before Congress (one by Senator Ball,

to be more definite) to write the

Little Steel formula into the law.

All such ideas were rejected as too

specific. The PRESIDENT was to

order following the law speak of the

formula. It was a very vague order,

using such words as inequalities.

maladjustments, substandards and

gross inequities, the meaning of

which nobody knew. But his later

job - freeze, hold - the - line order of

April, 1943, was far more severe,

making it almost impossible to get a

wage raise except under the Little

Which order carried out the law-

It proved very "practicable" to

freeze wages at the level of Septem-

ber, 1942, but not prices. Since prices

have risen beyond the designated

level, what makes it impracticable to

raise wages to meet the situation?

WHAT BUT MR. ROOSEVELT'S

In vetoing the Bankhead bill

(which would have boosted farm prices still higher) on April 2, 1943,

the President warned that no one

could tell the final outcome, "if by

this bill you force an increase in the

cost of basic foodstuffs, and as a result the National War Labor Board

Did the WLB have the power to in-

the easier or the stricter one?

Nor did Roosevelt's first executive

decide the exact details.

There were at that time proposals

responsibility, and I will act."

to be done, as now.

PRACTICABLE.

Steel formula.

UNWILLINGNESS?

increases wages...."

# The Washington Run-Around

By WALTER WEISS

Some press reports state that President Roosevelt answered recent pleas of the AFL and of CIO's United Steel Workers for a change in the Little Steel formula by telling them to go to ...... Other reports have it that the War Labor Board referred this little problem to the President but that he, during a press conference, stated that it was up to

The WLB, after much discussion to and fro, finally decided to hear the case of the steel workers and also of the AFL-with the representatives of industry on the board dissenting and also claiming that the unions should go to ....

The famous Washington run-around has been operating against labor for so long that one gets tired writing about it any more, but the labor leaders still don't seem to know what

to do except to keep riding the thing. The President didn't actually tell the unions to go to ..... The word he used, we hear, was Congress. But it amounts to the same thing, when you remember what Congress is like. Even the President has spoken in a rather unpleasant way about Congress several times lately, but evidently he thinks it's a good enough place for the workers to go to. .

The Senate Banking Committee started hearings on the so-called stabilization program on March 15 and it would be most inappropriate (so Economic Stabilizer Byrnes is supposed to have advised Mr. Roosevelt) for the President to interfere.

After all, you remember, ours is a government in which there exists a separation of powers, and Congress has the power to pass laws, the President to carry them out. Congress passed the Stabilization Act of 1942. It's also up to Congress, in its wisdom, to change the law or keep it as is. So reason the WLB, Byrnes, the President, the New York Times do you think will get-for a song- and the other great capitalist minds of the nation.

Oh, How They Lie

So they reason. It would be better

to say: so they lie. The sudden respect for the con-

The United Steel Workers, CIO, is putting up an absolutely flawless case for a wage increase of seventeen cents an hour and for other demands. The facts it is presenting before the panel of the War Labor Board are so damaging to the steel barons that one would suppose the case of the union an open-and-shut affair. As a matter of fact, however, the fight is only beginning, and the clear-cut

justice of the steel workers' demands will have to be backed by something more substantial than an excellent brief presented to the WLB and convincing arguments by Philip Murray and the other officials of the union taking part

In arguing the case, President Murray proved that the "steel industry" is "in the strongest financial position in its history."

The figures presented in the brief of the union show that the war profits of the basic steel companies in 1943, AFTER taxes and other deductions, SOARED 175 PER CENT ABOVE PEACETIME PROFITS. Before deducting taxes, the take in 1943 was 406 PER CENT ABOVE THE 1936-39 LEVEL.

On the other hand, a survey of 1,000 steel workers' families with an average weekly income from September, 1943, to November, 1943, of \$56.04, showed that these families-a cross-section of all those whose breadwinners are steel workers-ARE RUNNING INTO THE RED. For each week it costs them \$58.57 to live—OR \$2.53 MORE THAN THEIR INCOME.

Murray lashed out at a spokesman for the steel industry, who, returning from a vacation in Mexico with a beautiful coat of tan, attacked the steel workers in the following words: "These steel workers are not only getting

too much money, but they should be drafted and made to work like they are made to work in any totalitarian

Here we see the close connection between the totalitarianism of a Hitler and the profit system. For what gripes the steel barons is that the workers want them to part with a little of their profits-a little of the war profits which in the 1940-43 period amounted to \$1,200,000,000, of which \$650,000,000 was excess profits.

What are the steel workers getting which the totalitarians of this country designate as "too much money"? The average weekly wage in steel, including overtime, IS \$51.51 FOR AN AVERAGE WORK WEEK OF 45.3 HOURS.

The United Steel Workers also showed that twelve per cent of the workers get less than eighty-one cents an hour; 19.5 per cent get less than ninety cents; 31.1 per cent get less than \$1.05.

At th other pole of the social scale, the steel monopolists have increased their assets from \$4,900,000,000 before the war to \$6,300,000,000 in 1943. They have in their stockings \$994,035,000 of undistributed profits and reserves of

Furthermore, these "poverty-stricken" members of society are the special pets of the government. Not only will they get huge checks from the government for tax refunds, but the revenue law also guarantees to them and their class at least as great profits as they had in the 1936-39 period.

Under a "break-even" clause of the law the government may be paying the steel industry the sum of \$167,495,000 if their profits fall below those of

Again, while the salaries of steel executives have gone up on an average of 36.2 per cent—but reaching much higher percentages in many individual cases-the steel workers are frozen at the Little "Steal" pittance of fifteen per cent above 1941, WHILE THE COST OF LIVING HAS GONE UP 43.5 PER CENT AND THE COST OF FOOD AND CLOTHING OVER 70 PER

During the war the steel workers have received only two small wage increases-one in April, 1941, of ten cents an hour and the other in February, (Continued on page 3)

# Fascist Propaganda Rampant Around Detroit

# Coughlin Tries to Influence Labor

By V. JENSEN

Coming out of his political "retirement," Charles E. Coughlin, the fascist priest, is attempting a sensational political comeback. His already notorious "Lenten sermons" indicate that the silver-tongued demagogue has used his period of "retirement" to consolidate his position in various fascist organizations and to plan a sensational campaign to win political support in the Midwest. Boldly he is reaching out for support within the ranks of labor itself, concentrating on the auto workers in Detroit, the heart of industrial unionism.

After Coughlin lost his radio time and after he "voluntarily" gave up his publication, Social Justice, in order to avoid government prosecution, which he dared not face, he gave himself a period of grace to appease

to consolidate his connections with the various poisonous fascist, antilabor and anti-Semitic groups. Evidently he now considers his position in these groups solid enough and is out to build up and extend his mass base, including Detroit workers.

Coughlin's Line of Lying

With what kind of bait is Charlie angling for support among the workers? There is no more vicious antilabor demagogue in the country than Coughlin, no man more contemptuous of labor's rights and interests. But in his present campaign he is cleverly utilizing the valid fears and discontents of labor and trying to divide them from the organized labor

Coughlin plays mainly upon the

his clerical higher-ups and quietly workers' justified fears of a postwar depression. He tells them: "You've seen the best standard of living in the world in America. Now prepare for the worst." And he blames the CIO and AFL for pushing America into the war and therefore as being responsible for the postwar depression.

> "Most of you tramped the streets during the depression, seeking work," he tells his audience. "The same situation will prevail again five minutes after the peace bells have rung. The CIO and AFL supported the repeal of the Neutrality Act. This repeal pushed us into war. So I say that the AFL and CIO pushed us into the

> He is also trying to win over worknational service act, terming it a

"bayonet" at the backs of the working men-which it indeed would be -but look who's talking! He makes radical proposals, saying that in a post-war depression men unable to get jobs through no fault of their own are entitled to a living wage, if not from capital then from government. Coughlin even plays upon the anti-imperialist sentiments of the workers who are not interested in fighting to maintain or extend the British or Russian empires. He points out the hypocrisy of the democratic "aims" of the Allies.

Beware of Such "Friends"

Detroit workers and all other workers must beware of this fascist demagogue. Coughlin has more disers by his opposition to Roosevelt's guises than his clerical garb. He

(Continued on page 4)

crease wages? Does it have the power now? Of course. What's wrong Labor Leaders at Fault

The board and the President are

impressed by the constantly renewed no-strike pledges of the top labor leaders, by the ever-harsher disciplinary measures these leaders are imposing on "wildcat" strikers. They are impressed by all this with the necessity of doing nothing except

That has been their strategy for some time now. Stall until the second front in Europe is opened. Involve the unions in long investigations and arguments over the Little Steel formula. Involve them in complicated hearings before the WLB. Then pass the buck to congressional committees for a while.

# Hillman-Communist Bloc Win **Over Dubinsky in ALP Primaries**

After a long-drawn-out and sharply fought campaign, the Hillman-Communist Party bloc in the American Labor Party defeated the incumbent Dubinsky-Counts-Rose leadership in the New York State primaries held on March 28. While the final tally has not been reported as we go to press, the vote shows that the Hillman-Stalinist slate won the overwhelming majority of new state committeemen, although the popular voting margin was slender. Present estimates indicate that the so-called "left wing" (actually it is

even more conservative than the conservative Dubinsky faction) controls 625 out of 750 state committeemen. In contrast, the popular voting shows at this time that the Hillman wing won a majority of 40,000 to 35,000.

The future of the American Labor Party is clearly at stake. The Dubinsky group is meeting to discuss its withdrawal from the party. While formally the Hillman group has won, actually the ALP is firmly in the hands of the Communist Party. It now controls the five New York City boroughs as well as the state machinery of the party. Prominent among the new committeemen are well known members of the Communist Party.

What Hillman will do now is open to speculation. Long before the election it was known that he aimed to get rid of the ALP. It will soon be seen how he goes about with his plans.

# Who Is Getting Rich Out Of the War?

# The Steel Corporations

Whose profits before taxes in 1943 were 406 per cent above peacetime profits;

Whose corporate assets increased from \$4,900,000,000 in 1939 to

Whose profits after taxes in 1943 were 175 per cent above peacetime

\$6,300,000,000 in 1943, a jump of almost 30 per cent; Which have socked away undistributed profits of \$994,035,000 and

reserves of \$257,939,000; Which will get from the government a 10 per cent refund on excess profit taxes after 1941, that is, for the best war-boom years;

Which are gaaranteed by law against post-war losses up to 81 cents for every dollar of loss, plus 41 per cent of their excess profits credit.

# The Big Steel Executives

Whose war salaries, exclusive of other income, have been increased to the following tune:

			Pct.
	1939	1942	Incr.
T. M. Girdler, president, Republic Steel	171,172	\$275,000	60.7
R. J. Wysor, vice-president	94,062	196,000	108.4
E. T. Weir, chairman, National Steel	181,015	275,400	52.1
T. F. Millsop, president	74,715	175,000	134.8
Eugene Grace, president, Bethlehem Steel	306,127	527,724	72.4
H. G. Batcheler, president, Alleghany-Lud-			<u>*</u>
lum Steel	46,143	108,030	134.1
H. E. Lewis, president, Jones & Laughlin	96,285	135,000	40.2

# **But Not the Steel Workers**

Who have received two small wage increases since 1941—one in April, 1941, of 10 cents an hour, and another in February, 1942, of 5.5 cents an hour-while the cost of living has gone up 43.5 per cent, with food up 74.2 per cent and clothing up 72.2 per cent;

Whose average wage is \$51.51 a week, including overtime;

Of whom 12 per cent average less than 81 cents an hour; 19 per cent less than 90 cents an hour; 31 per cent less than \$1.05 an hour;

Who are falling into debt because their wages are not enough to keep pace with the cost of living. This was proved by a survey of 1,000 steel workers' families with an average weekly income between September and November, 1943, of \$56.04, but whose average expenditures could not be kept below \$58.57.

Who is getting rich out of the war?

# NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

# River Rouge Local Aroused

unit of River Rouge Local 600 are carrying their fight against Ford Motor Co. to the entire UAW. A group representing ninety-five per cent of the 14,000 workers in aircraft has announced a proposal for a widewide conference of UAW-CIO locals to create sentiment in the union for revocation of the no-strike pledge.

Spokesmen for the group, Wise W Stone, recording secretary of the aircraft unit and Lawrence Yost, former president of the unit, said that they expect the conference to be held in three or four weeks. A delegation from the unit, meanwhile, is scheduled to meet with international officers of the union to explain their po-

Tagged a "rebel group" by Richard T. Leonard, national Ford director, they said: "We are rebelling against the tactics of the vicious anti-labor personnel department of the entire Ford Motor Co."

"We are going to exert pressure in Local 600 to get it away from the Communist appeasement policy," they said, in addition.

These developments are the outgrowth of wholesale firings and suspensions by the Ford company of workers involved in strikes and demonstrations since March 7. The demand for a special convention of the UAW for the purpose of rescinding the no-strike pledge is the answer of the workers to the "crackdown" policy of their international officers toward strikers and their "appeasement" policy toward management, which has resulted in the penalization of 121 workers, with the tacit approval of local and international officers.

### The March 19 Meeting

At a meeting held Sunday, March 19, members of the aircraft unit were informed for the first time by union officials of the disciplinary action taken against participants in the recent demonstrations against the antilabor policy of Ford Motor Co. When Joseph Twyman, retiring president of Local 600, revealed the full extent of the penalizations, he was booed continuously by the membership. His report indicated that, of the 121 workers disciplined, sixteen have been reinstated, twenty-six were discharged, thirty-seven given short layoffs, eleven given long layoffs, three have quit, and twenty-eight cases are still pending.

The number of committeemen included in these figures has not been revealed, although it is known that, of the first twenty workers disciplined, over one-half were plant committeemen. River Rouge workers have no doubts on this score, however. They know the policy of Ford Motor Co-to use any excuse to get rid of union committeemen and active rank-and-filers even though they were not actually involved in these particular incidents.

The official position of the UAW was presented to the aircraft workers at their meeting by Ford Director Richard T. Leonard and by W. G. Grant, Stalinist-supported presidentelect of Local 600. That is, neither of them had anything to say about the grievances of the members against the company, nor about the deliberate policy of provocation pursued by the company. Their "leadership" consisted of repeated warnings that any recurrence of unauthorized strikes would mean that additional persons would be disciplined.

# A Run-Out Powder

The conduct of these officials at the meeting is an even greater indictment of their "leadership.." At to LEAD the local during the next the conclusion of Twyman's report, year, practically begging the comthe aroused membership made two motions: one, demanding a special convention to rescind the no-strike pledge; two, calling for a strike vote under the Smith-Connally Act, and a request that the government take

over management of the Rouge plant. As soon as these demands were voiced, the meeting was arbitrarily adjourned by George Trapp, president of the aircraft unit and a political adherent of Grant. This undemocratic act was endorsed by Leonard, Grant and Twyman, all of whom left the auditorium immediately. "Trapp took a run-out powder with Grant, attempting to adjourn the meeting while two motions were on the floor,"

charged Secretary Stone, The meeting was then called to order by the vice-president, Donald Primo, who declared that the meeting could not be adjourned while two motions were on the floor A vote was taken, adopting the motions unanimously.

One spokesman at the meeting was quoted as saying: "Morale of the workers in the aircraft building is so low that unless something is done about these demands, they will refuse work at all,"

International officials, however, have no intention of doing anything about these demands, other than to crush them, Leonard and Grant refuse even to recognize them. They claim that the resolutions were adopted by a "rump session," binding neither the aircraft unit nor the local. Completely silent on the issues of the no-strike pledge and the vicious labor relations policies of the Ford Motor Co., they have plenty to say about what will happen to union members who participate in strikes and protests. They reiterate that they adhere to the policies outlined R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW: that the union's grievance procedure will be denied members who are found, after investigation, to be involved in strikes and disturbances in violation of the union's nostrike pledge.

### Ford Gets Free Hand

This policy has given Ford Motor Co. a free hand in "chopping off" the most active unionists in its employ and has given it encouragement in its campaign to smash the union. Worse yet, such a policy results in large headlines in the daily press, claiming that all the firings and suspensions have union approval. This serves to confuse the rank and file even more and to increase lack of confidence in the union

Thomas was finally forced to state that the Ford Motor Co. news bureau has consistently misrepresented the position of the union, "Neither I nor any other international or local union officer has approved any of the discharges, suspensions or other disciplinary actions meted out by the company either this week or last week," he said.

The union's position is that it will review all cases in which the company disciplines any union member. Persons justly disciplined will not be defended; persons innocent will be given every possible defense and protection. "The union will not retreat from its decision to enforce its wartime no-strike pledge and the provisions of its constitution. On the other hand, the union will not give and does not give blanket right to the Ford Meter Co. or any other company to fire whomever it wishes

It is true, nonetheless, that the first tifty suspensions were made in the presence of officers of Local 600 and were announced shortly after President-elect Grant stated that the union would not defend those strikers who used their cars to blockade the Rouge plant gates "should the Ford Motor Co. decide to take action against them." Here is the highest officer of the local union, expected pany to "take action" against the strikers, WHO CAN BLAME THE COMPANY FOR TAKING ADVAN-TAGE OF THIS GO-AHEAD SIG-

To date there has been no state-

# Why Addes Gained In Hudson Local

DETROIT-The drive by the Addes faction of the United Auto Workers, CIO, to capture the leadership of locals on Detroit's East Side gained strength with the election of a pro-Addes slate at the recent election at Local 154, formerly Hudson Local.

ment by the union on its own inves-

tigation of the suspensions and dis-

charges. If it expects to retain the

confidence of its members, the inter-

national must stop promising inves-

tigation, and take a definite stand,

instead of giving tacit approval to

The union leadership has also failed

completely to point out the real issue

involved in this whole situation—that

Ford Motor Co. is carrying on a cam-

paign to break the UAW. One feeble

attempt to do this has been made, in

a letter to the editor of the Detroit

News, written by Shelton Tappes, re-

In it he charges management rep-

resentatives with "promotion, en-

couragement and instigation of work

"We found," he wrote, "that as la-

bor strikes decreased in number,

management strikes increased. Any

act or lack of proper activity, abridge-

ment of rights, inhuman treatment,

or other methods that could be em-

ployed by management to inflame

and incense employees into unwise

But what does he propose to do

to combat this policy? Carry out the

no-strike pledge and crack down on

The entire UAW is watching with

concern the situation at River

Rouge, Local 600, with 80,000 mem-

bers, is the largest single union local

in the world. It is a strong, militant

group, with a history of bitter strug-

gle against the most anti-union com-

pany in the auto industry. Will it

allow this serious blow against it to

The aircraft workers have taken

the first steps. They have been told

repeatedly that unauthorized strikes

must stop. They have replied by de-

manding that the no-strike pledge be

rescinded. From their recent expe-

riences they can see that this pledge

is nothing more than a club placed

in the hands of the company by the

The no-strike pledge ties labor's

hands. The no-strike pledge is man-

agement's strongest weapon against

But to win back the right to strike

is not enough. Today labor's griev-

ances cannot be settled only by eco-

nomic action. Wages are frozen by

presidential decree; the Little Steel

formula is upheld by the War Labor

Board: workers are frozen to their

jobs by War Manpower Commission

decisions, etc. The need for political

action is partially expressed by the

aircraft workers in their demand

that the government take over the

But what government? The same

government which passes the anti-

labor Smith-Connally bill, which is

responsible for policies of the War

Labor Board, the OPA, the War Man-

power Commission? The government

which gave the miners the run-

around? Yes, let the government

take over the plants, but let it be

a workers' government, representing

the interests of labor-not a govern-

For that, labor must build its own

party and run its own candidates, in-

dependent of the Democratic and

Republican Parties of big business.

Press Action

Like the ancient proverb about the

ment of hig business.

Rouge plant.

union leadership, to be used over

the heads of the rank and file.

unions: It must be rescinded!

action, was utilized."

"wildcat" strikers!

go unchallenged?

cording secretary of Local 600.

stoppages."

the actions of the company.

Union-Busting the Issue

With approximately eight thousand voting out of an estimated membership of twenty thousand, the election was a very warm one; factionalism is extreme in Local 154. The slates were headed by W. A: (Al) Germain. incumbent, and Claude Bland, candidate for president of the "Rank and File" slate. Germain is generally allied with the Reuther faction while Bland is connected with Addes and included on his slate a number of people who voted for the incentive pay-piecework resolution at the last UAW-CIO convention.

The new president, Bland, is a former president of the local and was at one time an international representative in Washington. He attempted last year to recapture the presidency but failed. Through the year that followed a thorough and vicious campaign was carried on by the Bland faction to capture the leadership. Included in this faction were the Stalinist - Communists, Negrohaters, many well known incompetents and a few progressives.

### Why Germain Lost

The reasons for Bland's success must be understood by the membership. One reason was outright misrepresentation. As an example, the Westinghouse unit of the local has a much better contract than the Hudson unit. But, although the Hudson unit contract committee was solidly controlled by Bland men, they fastened the blame for the poorer contract on President Germain.

More important than this is Germain's lack of a militant, fighting program. Germain was an honest, democratic president. But because he refused to cut loose from the nostrike pledge, from dependence on the War Labor Board, and from the compromising policies of the UAW leadership, the membership could

HOBOKEN - At an uproarious gen-

eral union meeting (March 27) of the

day shift of Hoboken Todd and Beth-

lehem, ship workers overrode the

leadership and the Stalinists who

tried to hogtie them to support Roo-

sevelt and the "friends" of labor in

both capitalist parties by calling for

aid to Hillman's Political Committee.

The high spot of the meeting came

when Tom Flynn, president of Local

12, spoke. He called for support of

the PAC. He said that no one should

be naive enough to think that the

AFL or CIO can run the government

He asked for the support of Roosevelt

and the "friends" of labor in the

Democratic and Republican Parties,

and attacked those who opposed this.

the night shift representatives at the

meeting demanded the floor to speak

on the position which they adopted

earlier during the day, one which

rejected Hillman's PAC. They didn't

want to be told whom to support. But

Flaherty, president of the local and

chairman of the meeting, refused to

give them the floor. He recognized

only those who supported the PAC resolution and the militants of the

When the time came for voting.

not find any difference between Germain and Bland. Had Germain conducted a fight within the local and the international on a militant program he would have shown the way to break the anti-labor drive and make substantial gains for the local. He then could have shown up Bland's program for what it was-a program of compromise and defeat, of incentive pay-piecework and retreat before the union-busting drive of the company and the government.

It is important that in the coming year the members do not allow the policies of Addes and Bland to dominate the local and do not allow the Stalinist-Communists who are in the Bland faction to gain any organizational control.

### United Around Program

This can be done if progressive unionists in Local 154 press the fight for a militant program. The crucial questions facing Local 154 and the whole labor movement are involved in wage increases and the attempts of the corporations and the government to lower the living standards of the workers and smash the unions. To safeguard the union, militant workers must unite around the following program:

Enforcement of the contract; keep the company from hedging.

No discrimination in upgrading of Negroes: no segregation.

Regular department meetings to arouse the rank and file to their union problems.

For a functioning steward system to handle grievances speedily and properly.

But for major gains to be made and the contract materially improved. Local 154 must work with the rest of organized labor on a national pro-

Withdraw the no-strike pledge. Smash the Little "Steal" formula. Withdraw the labor representa-

tives from the WLB, Affiliate with the Michigan Com-

night shift were unable to present

their point of view. The Stalinists

were the most vociferous supporters

But despite the bureaucratic pro-

cedure of the leadership and the

rantings of the Stalinists, the sup-

porters of the PAC were defeated

by the good margin of 89 to 65. The

Stalinists became very furious and

demanded a recount. When this was

cast aside, they proposed a referen-

dum. This, too, was rejected. Then

they became hysterical. One Stalin-

effect of separating the night shift

from the day shift, who were mainly

in support of the PAC. Flaherty

reprimanded the Stalinist for these

The militants of the night shift

The bad part of the evening was

were the ones who made the defeat

that there was no one to speak posi-

tively for the necessity for an Inde-

pendent Labor Party to counteract

Hillman's Political Action Commit-

tee and the capitalist parties. This

is the correct means for independent

of the PAC resolution possible.

monwealth Federation. Build an Independent Labor Party.

Ship Workers Vote Not to Back

**CIO Political Action Committee** 

of the PAC.

remarks.

political action.

# French Labor Struck **Against the Nazis**

By EUROPACUS

The following are two accounts of strikes which swept France during the last year. We print the details as they have been culled from underground papers.

The miners refused to go to work in three coal pits at Anzin, France (near the Belgian frontier) on Sunday, September 12, 1943. In one mine the number of men who checked in was thirty instead of 300 in the morning shift, twenty out of 250 in the afternoon, and only two out of 250 in the evening. Although a double food ration and fifteen extra cigarettes were given out to each man who reported for work, there was not one man who accepted willingly the German order to work on Sunday. The men had shown their resentment by defacing the poster with French and German wording which had been displayed at the mine entrance. As most of the German posters are treated in this way, this one sign of dissatisfaction did not make the authorities suspect an imminent

A fortnight later the notice about Sunday work was posted again and it had to be replaced eight times because the men kept tearing it down. It threatened "very severe penalties in the future against any miner who refuses to work on Sunday" and promised to overlook any previous acts of insubordination among men who presented themselves for work the next Sunday. It also guaranteed that nothing would be deducted from their attendance bonus or their food

The men answered by distributing little signs, some written, some multigraphed, and chalking the same slogan all over the walls and trucks inside and outside the pits: "Sunday-Lay off-No one will work on the 26th." Despite pleas of the Mayor, and the engineers' warnings that harsh disciplinary measures might be imposed, the number of miners who turned up the next Sunday was no bigger than on the last.

On the following Monday morning a German, stationed at the entrance to the pit shaft with one of the mine engineers, questioned the miners as they came up from their work. He let them state their complaints: "Wages too low and food ration insufficient." Wages were raised ten per cent, the increase made retroactive to include the month of September, and there were some improvements in the food supply. Thus the miners won their fight.

# Defy Machine Guns

On October 11, 1943, trouble broke out in the Bruay Basin, where 18,000 miners staged a sit-down strike to protest against Sunday work, bad distribution of food supplies and low wages. The managers of the mines sent for the deputy prefect of Bethune (Pas-de-Calais), who came at once and went down into the pit to talk to the strikers. When they had told him what they demanded he asked them to resume work until things could be straightened out. They refused, however, to consider this unless he promised them a raise in pay, better food and Sundays off.

Gestapo officers and men, carrying machine guns and hand grenades. later went down into pit No. 7 at Bruay and again ordered the men to start working. But this attempted intimidation was unsuccessful. The men refused to work!

During the second week in October the strike spread to the Lens valley. Arrests were made at Bruay and Lens, and about 150 miners, in wooden shoes and bare to the waist, were led through the streets to the Lens prison. In a little while a number of women gathered in front of the prison and demonstrated, demanding the release of their husbands. They dispersed only when the guards threatened to fire on the crowd. These miners were taken out of the

district and sent into Germany. In order to break the strike the Nazis closed all the bakeries in places where men were staying away from the pits.

A week of strikes in Pas-de-Calais caused a loss of more than 3,000 tons a day. In the Nord department the strikes were less widespread. At Aniche the workers staved away from work on Sundays, which resulted in a loss to the Germans of 6,000 tons of coal per week.

The population supported the strikers and did everything possible for the 150 miners detained in the prison of Abbaye de Loos. On the other hand, the Nazis shewed unmistakable signs of annoyance and nervousness.

### Strike in Plane Factory

The management of a plane factory at Gnome-et-Rhone ignored for more than two months the workers' demands for increased wages. The management felt it could safely control the workers because of the Nazis and Petain's policemen. But on August 17 the workers' committees gave the order to start action. By 4:00 p.m. there was a general work stoppagé and a delegation was

For two hours there was discussion with the management, which insisted that the workers resume their work. The workers remained firm. The management appealed to the police but the workers did not budge.

At 6:30 p.m. the day shift left the factory. At 8:30 p.m. the night shift learned what had happened and immediately stopped work. The workstoppage remained complete throughout the night.

The next morning the day shift resumed the strike on the spot. The morning was spent forming a large delegation representing the various shops. This delegation called on the Ministry of Labor during the afternoon. Meanwhile the strikers continued their sit-down strike in the

### Not Frightened by Nazis

At 5:00 p.m. the Nazis invaded the factory with sub-machine guns ready for action. They threatened everybody and demanded that work be resumed. Nobody obeyed them. Upon its return from the Labor Ministry the delegation went to the factory's management. Policemen appeared and told the delegation that it was under arrest. Protests were raised by the workers and the delegates were released.

At that point some collaborationist foremen undermined the good work already done. They announced that the delegates would be definitely arrested unless work was resumed. The workers were impressed and resumed work. The Nazis and the traitors then arrested eight workers

August 19 passed amid confusion. In the evening the workers learned that new arrests had taken place. The following day new delegations were elected in all shops of the plant. On August 21 the new delegations called on the management, which began to be afraid.

The management promised full pay to all workers for the hours during which they struck and full wages to the imprisoned workers, and to do its utmost to secure their release. It said that the arrested workers would be released without fall on Monday, August 23, and promised to study immediately the workers' claims. On Monday, twenty out of twenty-three workers arrested as hostages were freed. Action continued to obtain the release of the remaining three.

The underground French paper hails the action of the Gnome-et-Rhone workers for these reasons: they managed to plan and execute appropriate action in a well disciplined manner; they succeeded in the election of workers' delegates; and they sabotaged the plans of the Nazis.

### month's weather, March subs to LA-BOR ACTION came in like a lion **Delousing a Louse** and went out like a lamb. What started out in a storm of subs eventually

wound up in a sad drizzle and ruined what otherwise looked like a peak month. Various explanations (excuses) have been offered for this, the most reasonable of which we pass on to you: distribution of papers in front of factory gates fell off because of the press of other vital activities, cutting down both the number of new readers and prospective sub-

But here we ask our friends to take up the slack by soliciting new readers and subscribers in their shops and offices. If you have a sub to the paper, why not pass on your copy to a friend or shopmate after you have read it? Then ask him how he liked the paper. Chances are he did and the rest is a simple matter of initiative. Two bits for six months of LABOR ACTION is unparalleled value for America's Leading Labor

The box score for the past month

ows:	
New York	86
Philadelphia	13
Detroit	14
California	42
Chicago	11
Cleveland	7
Akron	4
Louisville	5
Buffalo	21
Missouri	5
National Office	51
¥	
Matal	940

cents each are still the most convenient method of obtaining new read-

In one of his recent columns, Drew Pearson, nationally syndicated columnist, reveals some additional interesting material on the recent meeting of the CIO Executive Board where Phil Murray turned on the Stalinists and their fellow travelers for their support of Roosevelt's National Service In the course of the discussion, Bridges, leader of the

Stalinist faction supporting the service act, made some remarks about the slowness of the WLB in making decisions and wanted to know why the labor representatives "didn't speed it up." Van Bittner, CIO member of the WLB, made his reply and ended by saying: "YOU CAN'T DELOUSE A LOUSE."

That's right! But what we would like to know is why labor's representatives continue in the "louse" house of the WLB—still trying to "delouse a louse."

# **New International for** March --

contains important articles, discussion contribution, book reviews. "It is Time to Understand," by Max Shachtman; "Technocracy: A Totalitarian Fantasy," by Paul Temple; "What Is Leninism?" from Leon Trotsky's works; a continuation of Ciliga's "In Stalin's Prisons"—these are some of the features of the March issue. You won't want to miss it.

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# **Stettinius Goes** To Placate **Great Britain**

By EUGENE VAUGHN

After every inter-Allied conference - Casablanca, Quebec, Moscow, Cairo, and Teheran - the capitalist press published pictures of the conferences showing smiling faces. That at these conferences an undertone of disagreement over political and economic issues was ever present was never mentioned.

But as the close of the war comes nearer and as post-war planning looms more important in the discussions and preoccupation of the capitalist statesmen, these politicos are compelled to talk about their differences. The unity among the Allies is only a superficial one. They are united only in the desire to see Hitler and German imperialism defeated. Hence Under Secretary of State Stettinius is being sent on the mission to iron out difficulties between the United States and England. This time even the capitalist press admits that there are substantial differences between Great Britain and the United States. What are some of them?

### CONFLICT OVER WORLD RESOURCES

Great Britain has been juggling oil in the Middle East for the last few decades. The recent American oil maneuvers with Ibn Saud, the King of Saudi Arabia, have been interpreted by the British as an attempt to muscle in on her sphere of influence. This difficulty requires straightening out by the Under Secretary.

The United States, on the other hand, is very much annoyed by the lack of enthusiasm of Great Britain to support American foreign policy in South America. Britain has need of Argentine beef and is therefore very reluctant to support the American policy of isolating Argentina from the rest of South America.

Before the war, Great Britain monopolized the rubber resources of the world by its control of the East Indies together with the Dutch. Both nations together controlled the world price of rubber. Since 1939, the United States has built up a synthetic rubber industry within these borders, who threatens most seriously the British-Dutch monopoly. In view of the fact that the United States is the largest consumer of rubber, the British would like to see the United States give up its synthetic rubber industry in the post-war period.

Again, the United States does not wish to allow Britain to continue as kingpin of the tin industry, as before the war. The production of the American-controlled mines of Bolivia is not enough to challenge British su-

The British, on their part, have no liking for the American merchant fleet. According to Lord Winster, a British naval commentator, the American post-war merchant fleet will be about thirty million gross tons against a British tonnage of only twenty million. The merchant fleet of the United States is greater than the combined fleets of all the other Allied Nations, according to Rear Admiral Land of the American Shipping Administration.

### BRITAIN SECOND FIDDLE

Great Britain realizes that by herself she is no economic match for the American colossus. If she is to retain a prominent position in the post-war era, she must bind the nations of the British Empire and some of the smaller nations of Europe to herself. A system of preferential tariffs is being considered. If these nations could be tempted into a closed economic unit. Great Britain could retain leadership of this economic bloc.

However, the United States is challenging British supremacy even within the British Commonwealth of Nations. Since the beginning of the war, Australia has been looking more and more to the United States for protection and for war materials. Likewise the United States has made economic inroads into India, the brightest jewel in the British crown. The strong economic ties between Canada and the United States are quite an old story. The American capitalist class would like to continue its trade with the various parts of the British Empire in the post-war period. Great Britain, of course, is opposed to this.

Britain would, of course, like to see organized in the post-war period one Commonwealth airline. One company built by capital from the whole empire would not allow for competition by several small companies and would assure a monopoly of all empire air travel. The United States, supposedly, can have no direct say over this inter-commonwealth matter. However, it can bring great pressure to bear on the dominions by virtue of their dependency upon the "arsenal of democracy" for aid during the war.

It is such economic conflicts which form the warp and woof of inter-Allied relationship. The claim that the United Nations are really united in all important matters is so much eyewash and nothing more.

Stettinius goes to Britain ostensibly to iron out these difficulties. Actually such economic struggles are the harbingers of war in capitalist society. The United States and Great Britain fight together today against German imperialism. They will be at each other's throats tomorrow over the economic issues above de-

The final solution of the problem of nations competing in the international arena lies with the working class in each nation. By overthrowing the capitalist system, the workers do away with national economic rivalries and proceed to create an international workers' economy. That and that alone can end capitalist wars, the scourge of mankind.

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# Of Special Interest to Women

Women are supposed to be more interested in marriages than men are, so I don't want you to miss this one-in case you haven't read about it.

King Peter of Yugoslavia-who is ruling his country long-distance from London-married Princess Alexandra of Greece, of the royal family of full employment to all can disastrous competition King George—ruling the Greeks long-distance also from London.

Of course, you want all the juicy tidbits. Well, Peter is twenty-and Alexandra is twenty-three. Do you think they can be happy with the woman thrée years older? Alexandra didn't seem to be aware of this problem as she displayed "a flash of silken hose beneath a mink coat." The groom wore the light blue uniform of the Yugoslav Air Force.

Of course, all the long-distance royalty was at the wedding, including Haakon of Norway and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. There were red carpets, flags and candles, as became the occasion. Large sleek limousines conveyed the guests to the Yugoslav delegation, where the wedding was held. And so that there might be no partiality, the ceremony was performed by priests of the countries of both the bride and groom.

Everything was in order-except, alas, for one thing. Tradition calls for weddings of Yugoslav rulers to be held on home soil-WHILE THE PEOPLE HAVE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR MERRYMAKING.

How kind! How noble this custom! Such touching unity between the great and the lowly!

But it's quite possible the people of Yugoslavia are thinking of other things these days. Maybe they are considering ways and means of keeping the royal blood-suckers from returning to their old business. Maybe they are thinking of forming a democratic government of, for and by the working people.

Eighty-five per cent of the 350,000 women members of the CIO United Auto Workers have signified their belief that their place is no longer in the home. They are industrial workers and intend to remain industrial workers for the same reason that motivates all workers-THE NEED TO EARN A LIVING.

At the same time we hear from the Office of War Information that women are hardest hit in cut-backs on war employment because they were "last to enter the labor market."

Unless full employment is insured for all, says Dr. Eveline M. Burns, formerly connected with the National Resources Planning Board, "our only hope of holding our gains and widening our fields if the competition for jobs becomes keen is to use the economic motive, to offer to do the same work

"UNCLE TOMS"

The Harlem People's Committee,

which warned "Uncle Toms" to stay

away from its annual conference on

March 18, made its deliberations a

triumph of exclusive representation.

All the "Uncle Toms" were INSIDE

-from Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.,

down to the last hand-picked dele-

Called to report on the progress of

its work in the past year and to map

out a program for the "New Negro

in 1944," the conference verged on a

pre-election rally for President Roo-

sevelt, the symbol of official and en-

forced Jim Crow in the armed forces

Not one of the office-hungry major

domos-Powell, Roy Wilkins or Ben

Davis, Jr .- could report any signifi-

cant advances in the fight against

discrimination and segregation. Yet

in a year that saw pogroms against

Negroes in Detroit, Mobile and Beau-

mont, in a year that marked the ac-

centuation of Jim Crow in the armed

forces and the virtual impotence of

the FEPC, these "leaders" had the

effrontery to sing hallelujahs to

"good politicians" of the capitalist

Outlining the strategy of the "New

Negro in 1944," about which he evi-

dently knows much but understands

nothing, Roy Wilkins, acting secre-

tary of the National Assn. for the

Advancement of Colored People, di-

"Let us be frank about this. The

any public school for them to go to.

were the workers themselves.

forms the demand for free public education.

only thing the politicians in Wash-

vulged the following plan:

and elsewhere.

This must no happen. It would mean knocking the bottom out of all wage standards. The profits of the capitalists would soar-but poverty, disease, misery would mount up for the working people.

Dr. Burns is absolutely right. Only by giving for jobs and wage-slashing be avoided.

However, people like Dr. Burns do not have a solution that will bring full employment. Neither, for that matter, has R. J. Thomas, head of the UAW-CIO. For he naively relies on "The new Bill of Rights outlined by President Roosevelt."

Will President Roosevelt fight for a thirty-hour week to make room for all workers who want to work? No-because he stands for the profit system, and the profit-makers would rather have an army of unemployed receiving a dole from the government than pay their workers a decent wage for a thirty-hour week.

Will President Roosevelt fight to keep government plants from going to big business to be shut down and kept idle if big business wants it that way? Will he fight to operate government plants for the production of civilian goods for people to use and to give jobs to workers? No-because he is for the Baruch plan, which gives big business full grabbing and grubbing rights.

Will Roosevelt fight for the right of the workers in shut-down plants belonging to private capitalists, to open up the plants and work on goods that people so badly need but don't have the money to buy? No-because Roosevelt stands for the "inviolable" rights of private property.

Will Roosevelt fight for a huge public program for building houses, schools, hospitals, nurseries, playgrounds, parks, beaches for the people-a program large enough to give full peacetime employment, just as the nearly hundred-billion yearly expenditure for destructive war has given full wartime employment? No - because a capitalist government does not spend such sums of money on the needs of the people but only on the powerand-profit needs of the ruling class. And Roosevelt heads a capitalist government.

The points enumerated above form a program for full employment for all workers. This program can be fought for and achieved only by the workers themselves, relying on their own economic strnegth in solidarity; on their own political power exercised through an Independent Labor Party fighting the capitalist parties and politicians; on their own ability to form a workers' govern-

The women workers should be right up in front, supporting, rooting and working for this

ington will listen to is votes. We

must establish in Washington a smart

Exactly what is "new" about this

old treachery, this corrupt trading of

"friends," and are seeking a new

But they do not reckon with the

real temperament and militancy of

the most oppressed minority in the

There is a "New Negro in 1944,"

but he is not an "Uncle Tom of 1944,"

The "New Negro" is a fighting work-

er, closely allied to the labor move-

ment, and he will not be deceived by

the smiling lies of the two capitalist

The "New Negro of 1944" needs

parties, even if those lies mean send-

a political party of his own, a party

he can join with his white brothers

and support with all his energy and

intelligence a party that will put

the abolition of injustice in first

place on its program and banner. He

needs an Independent Labor Party

as the first step toward the achieve-

ing a Powell to Congress.

ment of that goal.

**Public Education Was Won By Labor** 

"The free public school system is the cornerstone of American de-

mocracy," shouts the politician at an election rally on a Fourth of July

meeting. That's right, Mr. Speaker. Now tell the folks the rest of the

story. Thell them that when the Founding Fathers drew up the Con-

stitution they didn't include the free public school system as a "cor-

Back in the 1820's or 30's or 40's, little Johnny didn't have to worry

If papa couldn't get up the cash, Johnny didn't learn his three R's

at all. In fact, the chances were that Johnny got most of his education

at an early age working long hours in a factory to supplement the

tories were high. The bosses weren't interested in free education, Nei-

ther were the federal government or the state governments. The only

people who were interested in free education for workers' children

In the 1820's the workers were trying to establish the first trade

unions in this country. They not only had to fight the bosses but the

courts as well On the complaint of employers, the courts declared the

unions to be "conspiracies" and therefore illegal. Nevertheless the

unions also took upon themselves the chief burden in the struggle for

free public education. In 1828, they formed the first workingmen's po-

litical parties in the New England States which put first on their plat-

It is true that the workingmen were not alone in this fight. Re-

formers and liberals joined the movement. Sections of the middle

class and the frontiersmen-farmers joined in the clamor for a public

words of a historian of the American labor movement: "To this early

labor movement more than to any other cause we owe the great edu-

cational revival of the '30's and our common school system of today.'

But it was the organized labor movement which led the way. In the

Profits from the exploitation of child labor in the expanding fac-

about the truant officer. In fact, Johnny and the rest of the working class kids in the country didn't have to go to school at all. There wasn't

road for fulfillment of their long-

lobby based on power politics."

By Susan Green program that LABOR ACTION and the Workers

Party stand for!

of medical care

Since the start of the war child mortality in

Europe has risen thirty-one per cent. At least 50,000,000 homeless, orphaned children wander about Europe, trying to find food and shelter in the woods, or in any way conceivable, be-

coming little animals. In some places the population is 100 per cent diseased, suffering from one ailment or another due to hunger, homelessness, shock, infection, lack

Tuberculosis plagues up to fifty per cent of the population in some localities of war-rayaged Europe.

In her column, "My Day," Mrs. Rooseyelt callously commented on the situation described above: "I know that one of the arguments is that feeding children will help us to win the war. It is said that the people in the occupied countries are becoming weaker and bitter, and that they will not feel that we are any better than their present suppressors when we attack. That again is a question for the military to decide. We have not as much information as they have, but even a layman like myself cannot believe that the peoples of the nations now subjugated can be so shortsighted."

This column, in which the First Lady accuses the starving, dying people of Europe of shortsightedness for wanting to eat, starts with this sentence: "FRIDAY NIGHT THE CABINET DIN-NER WAS GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT IN THE WHITE HOUSE..."

What more information is required about the miserable European masses than the facts printed above-which cannot be disputed?

These days every inhuman or reactionary policy is excused by so-called "military considera-

In the case of withholding food and medical supplies from the European people-to the extent that it is possible to get these there—the reason is not military but political. What does that mean? Simply this:

Saving lives and relieving the suffering of people are not really the concern of the powers that be. What kind of government will the European masses support? Will it be the kind Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin will approve of? These are the questions. Food and medical supplies will be handed out through a government of THEIR choosing when they see fit. Food and medical supplies will be used as "arguments" against workers' socialist governments being formed.

In the meantime, you wretched ones, don't be shortsighted! The Cabinet dines in the White House.

# LYNN GASE

Negro votes for promises that are never fulfilled? What has Roosevelt Sharp protest was voiced by the' given to Negroes in return for their National Citizens' Committee for support except to pronounce Jim Winfred Lynn against the attempt Crow as the unbreakable law of the by some Negro editors, notably Adam armed forces, silence on the poll-tax Clayton Powell, Jr., editor of the and despicable compromises with the People's Voice, "to act as apologists race-baiting Democrats of the South? for Ole Man Jim Crow and to whitewash the rigid segregation policy of Aware that millions of Negroes the Navy." are turning in disgust from such

At the same time, the committee disclosed further progress in the denied aspirations, Powell and the Winfred Lynn case, the only legal Communist Party gauleiters who test yet made of the Army's racial guide him are making a desperate policies, in its march to the United attempt to save the important Negro States Supreme Court.

> NAACP and the Workers Defense League will file individual briefs of certiorari.

The purpose of the amicus curiae briefs is to give added weight and importance to the basic issues in the case. At the same time, the supporting briefs serve to focus attention on fact that Corporal Winfred Lynn's fight is strongly endorsed by national Negro and labor organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of people, both colored and

against Editor Powell was based on the fact that any small concessions made by the authorities have been the result "of repeated protests and outcries from the colored people against second-class citizenship, of which the Lynn case is itself an outstanding example."

"Mr. Powell's emotional outburst The case took a step forward with arrived tends to disarm the Negro the announcement that both the and confuse and weaken his strugamicus curiae with petitions for writ Richard Parrish and Alex Rose, is

white. The Lynn committee's protest

> to the effect that 'emancipation' has gle," it was asserted in a statement issued by Wilfred Kerr, who, with co-chairman of the Lynn committee.

# Steel Workers

1942, of 5.5 cents an hour. THAT IS WHERE THE STEEL WORKERS STAND IN RELATION TO THE COST OF LIVING.

It was also pointed out by Philip Murray in his presentation that while corporations received in 1943 five per cent MORE of the national income than in 1939 and that farmers also increased their take by 1.2 per cent, the workers of the country, on the other hand-even with the tremendously increased labor force—got 6.7 per cent LESS of the national income than in 1939.

With well-placed humor the editor of the CIO News in its recent issue stated: "With a certain appropriateness, the hearings were held in the auditorium of the National Museum. For the wage-freeze is by now so far unrelated to the present conditions of our wartime economy that it is a museum

We stated above that the fight of the steel workers has only begun. There is no doubt about this. For it is the intention of the steel magnates to get the matter buried in Congress, on the theory that the War Labor Board has no right to change the Little "Steal" formula. The capitalist press is ably supporting the steel corporations in their stand that the WLB is not a "policymaking body" and that the matter is up to Congress.

William H. Davis, chairman of the WLB, probably indicates the opinion of the "public" members of the WLB, when testifying in the Senate that "We have no purpose to ask Congress to up the formula."

The crux of the matter, therefore, is: Are Murray and the CIO leadership realistically preparing themselves for the stiff fight ahead when they reaffirm-in every other sentence they utter-the sacredness of the no-strike

Just what power do the steel workers have to back up their eminently just claims if they do not have the right to strike?

The most elementary logic requires THE RESCINDING OF THE NO-STRIKE PLEDGE.

Furthermore, since the present hearings before the WLB are nothing more than a delaying action on the part of the anti-labor contingent, and the jurisdiction of the WLB to go beyond the Little "Steal" formula is in question, the union demand for the restoration of collective bargaining and withdrawal from the WLB is a step that must also be taken to strengthen the po-

Other demands of the Steel Workers Union, such as a guaranteed annual wage and lay-off pay, are so basically necessary to the welfare of the workers that they must and will become demands of the whole labor movement.

This, together with the fact that the outcome of the steel workers' fight to break the Little "Steal" formula will, in large measure, determine the wage position of all other workers, makes the case of the steel workers of prime importance to all workers.

The Steel Workers Union, CIO, has the responsibility of taking the correct action in the situation, namely: Rescind the no-strike pledge; restore collective bargaining; get off the WLB.

# **Motives Behind** The Arabian Oil Scandal

By JESSIE KAAREN

The recent Middle East oil deal is agitating a great many people. The United States government pays \$25,-000,000 to Ibn Saud, King of Saudi Arabia, for oil concessions to be turned over to the Standard Oil Company and the Texas Oil Company; agrees to build three pipe lines for the companies at a cost to the government of about \$100,000,000 and finally arranges to buy the oil after it is pumped at a cost that will make it higher per gallon than the oil obtainable on the domestic market.

The excuse of military necessity does not explain why the deal is being consummated now at such great expense, since the project will take a few years to build and the military authorities are not banking on the oil from the Arabian oil wells-at least not for this war.

### REACTIONS TO THIS DEAL

Newspaper editorials imply that the government is having something put over on it by the smart executives of the oil companies. The liberals are objecting to the oil deal because they don't like to see the government build up huge profits for private companies. A lot of money is passing over the counter and the result, they say, will be that Standard Oil and the Texas Company will become the owners of a fabulously valuable property for a song-at the expense of American taxpayers.

The smaller oil companies in the United States are raising a cry because they fear that with the government committed to buying the oil from the new oil wells, their domestic product will suffer. They, say America does not need this new oil.

Congressmen and senators are suspicious of the oil deal because the negotiations have been going on behind their backs for three years and they are only now presented with an accomplished fact. They are afraid that American diplomats won't be able to handle themselves well on the "big time" stage of world imperialism, particularly in a section of the globe that has been strictly under British control until now. Some sections of Congress are worried that the United States is venturing out too far, while other sections are concerned solely with protecting the American market.

Leaders of Zionist organizations in the United States don't like the smell of this oil because it may defeat the Palestine resolution which they managed to have introduced into Congress after several months of lobbying in

But in spite of the criticism it is obvious from the strong position taken by the higher-ups in government circles that the United States plans to go ahead with the exploitation of the oil well sa described, and that it will not back down one inch.

To understand why the government is pouring such vast sums into a far-off country, why it is willing to run the gamut of all the criticism, antagonize Great Britain for nosing in on "its" territory, reneg on its promise to help the Jewish people attain a homeland in Palestine, run into possible trouble with the Arab masses as a new aggressor in their country, we must lift the curtain a little and see what strong motives there are behind this latest venture.

## WHAT THE MOTIVES ARE

A recent Truman Committee report on oil complains that the United States oil reserves will not be able to "fuel another war." Apparently this is not the war to end all wars any more than the last one was. The United States is therefore looking forward to its oil needs for World War III.

The newspaper PM complains that the Atlantic Charter principle guaranteeing "access on equal terms to the raw materials of the world" is being violated by the United States. It has no objection to foreign exploitation of the Arabian oil wells, but wants this done in a gentlemanly manner and the spoils divided neatly among the United Nations instead of being monopolized by the American oil companies.

LABOR ACTION, on the other hand, is vitally concerned with checking the forces that are marching toward a third world slaughter.

The fact that the government finances the Arabian undertaking and then turns it over to two private companies demonstrates that the government advances capitalist interests in whatever part of the world profit can be secured-regardless of the international conflicts and inevitable war that follow.

The Standard Oil Company is concerned about the oil in Saudi Arabia and everywhere else in the world. But the American people have no interest whatsoever in dispossessing the Arab masses of their oil reserves. The kind of government that backs the Standard Oil in its oil empire cannot insure peace and security for the common man, regardless of how many post-war plans and blueprints it publishes or talks about.

# PLENTY FOR ALL

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By Ernest Lund

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# Editorials-

# Eire Is Not Intimidated

What a degraded thing American "liberalism" has grown to be is indicated by the comment in the March 18 issue of The Nation on the American assault on the sovereignty of Eire.

The only fault the editorial writer can find is that equal firmness has not been used on Franco, asking him to clear all Germans out of Spain, and so on.

Franco is a fascist, head of a fascist regime, and he aids the Nazi because of political affinity. De Valera is a capitalist "democrat," and Eire won what independence it has as the result of long, bitter and bloody struggle against British imperialism. Eire's policy of neutrality is real—chosen as the only chance for a small, almost defenseless nation among martial monsters, to survive as an independent nation. Foremost in the minds of the citizens of Eire was, and is, the purpose to maintain their so hard-won national independence by remaining strictly neutral. To put fascist Spain on the same plane as Ireland is to give up all claim to unbiased thinking.

Like the United States government, the rubber-stamp writer in The Nation talks about the military necessity to close the German and Japanese consulates in Dublin, giving little thought to the fact that in modern diplomacy such an action is tantamoun: to a declaration of hostilities. What would happen to Eire's independence then?

Few dare even hint that de Valera is pro-Nazi. The sincerity of his claim that every precaution is taken to prevent the operation of spies from Eire is not questioned. Some reports are to the effect that "military experts believe the Axis taps surer and quicker information by channels other than Eire, such as the diplomatic pouches which go weekly from neutral embassies in London to the continent."

It is also bruited about that the United States presented Great Britain with a fait accompli in respect to the demand on Eire -Great Britain knowing better than to arouse the fighting Irish on her western

Eire has not been intimidated by the colossus across the sea. De Valera urges the people to be ready for any eventuality. They aim to make the country as self-supporting as possible in food and fuel in case economic pressure is used against her. Her troops are drilling and practicing machine gunnery. With no illusions as to her strength, she is still determined to protect her independence—which today is to her synonymous with neutrality. .

# Interpreting the **Atlantic Charter**

Those who have waited with bated breath for some clarification on the Atlantic Charter from the higher-ups, have received one disappointment after another.

Ears pricked up when seventy members of the House of Commons demanded debate on the subject of the application of the so-called principles of that documentwhose primary purpose is obviously propaganda. But spirits fell when Churchill cleverly avoided a debate on the ground

that since a vote of censure of the government was not involved, the crowded session could not give time for the discussion of such matters.

Then Secretary of State Hull reaffirmed the Atlantic Charter "principles," enlarging them into seventeen points, but nary a word as to the practical application of these seventeen points-or even of the original

Finally, Churchill went on the air on Sunday, and on international hook-ups spoke for fifty minutes, mainly in justification of his own administration. The interpretation of the Atlantic Charter, which was raised in the House of Commons and in the British and American press, he skirted as if it were a pool of burning lava. No clarification came from .Mr. Churchill as to the practical application of the Atlan-

But why the fuss to get from the top statesmen verbal expressions of the interpretation of the Atlantic Charter, when it is daily being interpreted by the acts of these very statesmen? Actions have always spoken louder than words.

So we see Russia giving her interpretation in Eastern Europe — and the United States and Great Britain willy-nilly acquiescing in this interpretation. For it is obvious that Russia is going to absorb the Baltic States, Poland, Bessarabia and part of Bukovina—as a beginning. Elements in England and here rendered uneasy by this un-Atlantic-Charterian expansion on Russia's part, raise the howl not because of any higher morality than Russia, but because they fear Russia's power in Europe.

Or, again, application of the "principle of self-determination" is being made right now in Italy. What kind of self-determination is it when the Allied Control Commission presumes to dictate to the Italian masses whether or not they may hold a strike demonstration to express their disapproval of Badoglio?

Or look at the Arabian ail deal of the United States, by which the Arabian people are robbed of their natural resources by crossing the palms of their chiefs with a few millions. This is the way the clause of the Atlantic Charter regarding the natural resources of the world is being applied

Only those political lost sheep who willingly follow their leaders to slaughter, think something will be essentially changed by an open expression or clarification from the most high statesmen. Capitalist and imperialist interests make the only applications that count, regardless of the spoken and written word-no matter how reassuring that word may sound.

# LABOR ACTION

A Paper in the Interests of Labor

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# **Platform of Workers Party**

For a People's Peace and a Workers' World! Against Both Imperialist Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

The Workers Party recommends this platform for adoption as the fighting program of the trade union movement and of the national Independent Labor Party which it must form.

### LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF NOW!

1. For the defense of all democratic rights! Against wartime dictatorship measures! Abolish wage-freezing and job-freezing!

2. Restore full and unrestricted collective bargaining rights of the unions! Rescind the no-strike pledge! Repeal the Smith-Connally anti-strike law!

3. A higher, not a lower, standard of living! For a \$1.00-an-hour minimum wage law, with time and a half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and equal pay for equal work for all industrial and agricultural workers! An "escalator clause" in all wage contracts, hitching wages to the rising cost of living, plus a margin for comforts-a "cost-plus" wage!

4. No tax on wages and no sales tax on consumers' goods! Abolish all taxes on annual incomes of \$5,000

5. Down with control of rationing and price-fixing by the monopolists and the government bureaucrats! For democratic control of rationing and price-fixing by joint committees of working class organizations, farmers' organizations, cooperatives and consumers' organizations and housewives' leagues.

6. No government contract to plants without a union contract.

7. Maintain and increase all government social services and establish adequate federal medical service, health and accident insurance, old-age pensions, child care, protection for the unemployed!

### SOAK THE RICH-LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

8. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the plutocratic three per cent of the population who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth! 9. A one hundred per cent tax on all war profits

above a five per cent maximum on invested capital! Immediate renegotiation of all war contracts to cut the fabulous profits to this level!

10. A \$25,000 ceiling on total individual incomes! 11. A graduated capital levy on all accumulated wealth over \$50,000 to cover war costs and provide post-war security for labor!

### PREPARE NOW TO WIN POST-WAR JOB SECURITY AND PLENTY

12. Government planning to guarantee the highest national production and income, a year-around job and a minimum annual wage to all, and a rising standard of living!

13. Conscript all war industries! Nationalize the banks, big industrial monopolies and transportation systems. No handing over of government-built and owned plants and facilities to private ownership! 14. For a two hundred and fifty billion dollar five

year program to provide decent housing for all, extensive public works, rural electrification and mod-15. For a guaranteed \$5,000 annual income to all

workers' families, made possible by a planned rise in the total national income and a thirty-hour maximum

### DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES 16. The right of free speech, free press and free

assembly for the men and women in the armed forces! The unrestricted right of the armed forces to vote in all elections and participate in all political campaigns!

17. For doubling present dependency allowances paid by the government with no deductions from the serviceman's pay!

18. For a two years' base pay grant to all demobilized veterans, with option of trade school and higher education facilities at government expense, and guarantee of decent jobs!

### DOWN WITH JIM CROW AND ANTI-SEMITISM

19. All discrimination against Negroes, Jews or other minorities in the armed forces or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!

20. For complete political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

21. For lifting all immigration barriers against Jewish and other victims of fascist terror! For government aid in rescuing and transporting these victims to safety!

### PROTECT THE FARMER

22. Adequate government provision of land, technical aid, machinery and supplies to all small farmers! Cancellation of all small farmers' debts to government and banks!

23. Nationalize all absentee-owned farm lands. Abolish tenancy and sharecropping by turning over the land to those who till it.

### PROTECT THE YOUTH

24. Adequate government provision for free education of all youth, including trade schools and universities! The right of all youth, male and female, to vote at the age of eighteen! Government-maintained nurseries for the children of working mothers.

### AGAINST REACTION-FOR A LABOR PARTY AND A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

25. For Union Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, to defend labor, the Negroes. Jews and all racial minorities from native fascists, Jim Crow rioters, anti-Semites, Klansmen, Silver Shirts and other capitalist tools!

26. For a break with bankrupt and reactionary capitalist politics and politicians and complete independence of labor from them! No political support to the Roosevelt government! For a party that is labor's own, an Independent Labor Party, based on the unions and controlled by them!

27. For a workers' government to organize the country for freedom, security, peace and plenty for the masses of the people!

28. Operate all big industry for the welfare of the plain people, with workers' control of production through the unions and plant committees!

29. Democratic control of the distribution and price-fixing of consumers' goods by the labor unions. farmers, consumers' and cooperative organizations.

### FOR A DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S PEACE AND A WORKERS' WORLD

30. For an end to the war and fascism by a democratic people's peace, without annexations, indemnities, tribute, or the dismemberment and oppression of sovereign nations and peoples!

31. For complete, immediate national independence to all colonial or semi-colonial peoples! Against all old or new annexations, or depriving nations of their sovereignty and independence, by American, British, Russian, German or Japanese imperialism!

32. For a Socialist United States of Europe and a World Socialist Federation! A socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism, recurrent wars, fascist barbarism, oppression and exploitation, and establish a new order of freedom, plenty, peace and security, and world brotherhood!

# In This Column We Discuss the Need For A **New Economic System**

# OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS

By NANCY NATHAN

Since the government made known its plan to give political and financial support to the American oil trust in building a pipeline from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean, oil has vied with the war itself in making front-page news. And no wonder. Oil is the fuel for which wars are fought-and without which modern wars cannot be fought. ICKES HITS BULL'S EYE

Secretary of the Interior Harold L. lickes hit the bull's eye when he recently wrote: "Tell me the sort of agreement that the United Nations will reach with respect to the world's petroleum resources when the war is over, and I will undertake to analyze the duration of the peace that is to come."

If it were widely known that wars are fought for things like oil, there is no working man or woman in Great Britain, the United States, Russia, Germany, Japan or anywhere else on earth who would not shout: "To hell with oil. Let my children be!" And rightly so.

### THERE MUST BE A SOLUTION Yet the whole world does need oil!

LABOR ACTION is, of course, concerned with peacetime needs-not with oil as the fuel for waging wars in which tremendous quantities of HIGHLY REFINED oil are destroyed to get territories rich in UNDEVELOPED oil. Modern industry cannot function without oil; it is indispensable to modern transportation by land, air and sea; modern agriculture cannot do without it.

Plainly, we cannot dispense with the development of oil resources unless we want to turn back the wheel of industrial progress to the unmechanized era when oil was used mainly in kerosene

There must be a solution-something to replace international rivalry among imperialists, leading to war.

LABOR ACTION is rooting for international socialist cooperation in dividing the raw materials of the earth for the best interests of the people of the earth.

How would it work-this international socialist cooperation?

### HOW IT WOULD WORK

In the first place, the oil of any backward country-like Arabia-must be considered as belonging to it and not to any gang of international marauders who are powerful enough to lay hands on it. The natural resources in which a backward country may be rich must be considered the means by which it can pull itself out of its backwardness.

The development of the oil of a country like Arabia would, of course, have to be a project of international socialist planning. For the Arabs would have to get from more advanced countries industrial, engineering and other assistance. BUT THE ARAB PEOPLE SHOULD BE THE ONES TO BENEFIT FIRST AND FOREMOST FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN OILnot the oil trusts of the great imperialist countries, with a rake-off to a few Arab chiefs!

But who would get the surplus oil not consumed directly in fulfilling the needs of Arabia? For there is an awful lot of oil there which the Arabs would, of course, want to exchange for other things they need. This point could be settled very easily, with international cooperation and good will as the guiding principle.

In a normal, well regulated family, the member of the family who needs something most is naturally entitled to have his needs fulfilled first. Similarly in a family of nations, those without oil resources and needing oil supplies most would be entitled to get them first.

# WOULD THAT HURT US?

That would mean, for instance, that the United States, the greatest oil producing nation in the world, and other great oil possessing countries, would be low on the list for Arabian oil-just as a member of a family already having several good pairs of shoes would not take precedence over another member whose shoes are down at the heels and out at the toes.

Would that hurt the working people of America any? Not in the least! For if you consider what a quantity of excellent oil is absolutely wasted in the destructive enterprises of a war, you will see in a moment that in a world of international socialist cooperation - WITH WARS BANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH—the stocks for peacetime use will be plenty for all purposes.

But even if we had to mark time a little to let our poorer brothers in other countries catch up with us, what matter? Progress must be peaceful, international, cooperative-or it ends in the horrible shambles of global wars like the present one! AWAY WITH THE MARAUDERS.

But such international cooperation and good will among peoples are possible only if a new economic system is born to replace the capitalist system of "free enterprise" for FREE PROFITS.

If the working masses of all countries allow this dog-eat-dog system to continue, oil will remain the most precious prize to be fought overfor the gang of international robbers that has the most oil can be the most powerful as a military force and become top dog.

# WE CAN MAKE THE FUTURE

The Atlantic Charter has a clause about allowing all nations to share in the raw materials of the earth. It has other nice-sounding clauses too, like the one about every nation having the right of independence. They come in very handy for speechmaking by the big-wigs-these clauses do. Actually the fight for the monopolization of raw materials and for the subjugation of little nations goes on openly among the big powers-and is reported in detail in the daily press of the capitalist class.

Do we want endlessly to be fighting over oil or tin or other resources of other countries for our capitalist masters?

The future of the human race depends upon the working people establishing a new economic system. The capitalist class in each country must be ousted from the industries, monopolies, cartels, places of power. The capitalist governments must be replaced by workers' governments. Industries must be socialized, and operated and controlled by the working people themselves through their elected committees from the unions and the shops, plants, shipyards, mines, etc. This is the NA-TIONAL BASIS for international good will and cooperation among the peoples of the earth-for international socialism.

This is the answer to the serious oil situation which is laying the foundation of World War III while World War II is still in progress.

# Coughlin Lies to Workers --(Continued from page 1) audaciously challenged. Exposing and their representatives in Wash-

masquerades as pro-labor, as interested in post-war social justice, as anti-imperialist and anti-warthough recently he has come out with a statement that he is not only in favor of the war but an admirer

of Stalin. The fact is that Coughlin has always been viciously anti-labor. In the fight to unionize the auto industry-a fight to better intolerable, back-breaking, starvation conditions -Coughlin was the bitterest, most vicious opponent of the CIO, and the staunchest supporter of the auto

magnates. His crocodile tears for the workers in the post-war world will not impress workers who remember Goughlin saying that his ideas of "social justice" were carried out in Italy and Germany! "Social justice" in the fascist countries means grinding labor under foot, stamping out any fight for better living conditions and solving the unemployment problem by slave labor This is the "social justice" of Germany and Italy, and this is precisely what Coughlin wants here in America

Coughlin is a bigoted anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, anti-foreigner fascist who wants the workers to be so busy fighting each other that they won't fight the bosses

Until his recent protestation of support of the war, Coughlin has been "anti-war" But this wolf in clerical garments is no pacifist. He has never spoken against the war that fascism waged. He always said that the fascists were taking what was "rightfully" theirs, and we should mind our own business about it. Coughlin is not anti-imperialist. He did not lift his voice when Japan stepped into Manchukuo or Germany into Czechoslovakia, except to mumble a thinly-disguised approval. A Challenge to Labor

Labor must organize against the political comeback of Father Coughlin. And in the forefront of the fight should noturally be the leaders of the UAW-CIO, whom he has most Coughlin in the public press as a . ington. "traitor" whom the government Coughlin, Gerald Smith and the ought to prosecute is not sufficient. Labor must meet Coughlin on two fronts.

Rank and file unionists must be encouraged to organize defense guards against Coughlin and his Christian Front hoodlum gangs. In the coming period these gangs will no doubt try to provoke anti-labor race riots in places like Detroit, where the fascist agitators of the last riots were never

Politically, labor must meet Coughlin's demagogic slogans by organizing labor so that it can put over real post-war demands and a real social works program, and for now prevent the masses from bearing the terrible burden of the war from which the capitalists have profited.

The CIO leaders cannot do this by hanging desperately to Roosevelt's coattails while he contemptuously drags them through the mud. The ranks of labor might listen to the lies of the fascist demagogue so long as the leaders permit the living standard of the workers to go down under the assault of the profiteers

taken care of

Be Sure to Read the MARCH ISSUE OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

The best political weapon against

other ambitious fascists is a cam-

paign for and by labor, independent

of the capitalists of both "democratic"

and fascist coloration. The answer to

Coughlin's political campaign is an

INDEPENDENT political campaign

Coughlin knows this. He has al-

ready characterized political activity

by the CIO as "Godless." But today

the labor leaders are tails to Roose-

velt's political kite. This is not the

way to fight fascism. In its fight

against this threat to labor, the

workers must rely on their own in-

dependent strength.

# From Their Own Mouths

Father Coughlin is again in the news. He has come out of the "underground" into the open to peddle his anti-Semitic, fascistic propaganda. We will let him accuse himself from his own mouth. Said Coughlin in the halcyon days, before the war:

"Rest assured we will fight you in Franco's way, if necessary. Call this inflammatory, if you will. It is inflammatory. But rest assured we will fight you and we will win."

And what is Franco's way? It is Mussolini's way. It is Hitler's way. It is the murderous fascist way—the way that wipes out every scintilla of democracy, that snuffs out every breath of mass freedom.

That is Coughlin's way-by his own words.