

# War Costs: One Trillion Dollars, Sixty Million Men!

By SHIRLEY LAWRENCE

There's nothing like a war for trotting out figures like billions, or even trillions! The following figures on war expenditures, based on the report of research experts of the American University at Washington, D. C., tell us a grim tale of the gigantic war costs that have accumulated thus far, used solely for destruction and killing.

Direct expenditures for the war have totalled so far more than \$1,030,000,000,000, which still does not include figures for "the destruction and damage of public and private property," nor the expenditures of China. Of the total, Allied war figures were \$558,000,000,000, and Axis war figures, \$442,900,000,000. Listed by countries, we have:

WAR COSTS	
<b>Allies:</b>	<b>Axis:</b>
U. S. .... \$280,600,000,000	Germany ..\$258,900,000,000
Russia ..... 170,000,000,000	Italy ..... 94,000,000,000
Gt. Britain.. 64,200,000,000	Japan ..... 44,000,000,000
France ..... 13,000,000,000	

Added to this picture of human futility we have the total military casualties of the European War, which, according to tentative War Department estimates, were about 60,000,000—the greatest recorded toll of any war in history. Of this number, about 14,000,000 were killed or died from other causes, compared with about 8,538,000 killed or died from other causes in the First World War. We are becoming more skilled in methods of death and destruction.

The War Department's breakdown is as follows:

WAR CASUALTIES	
Killed in battle and dead from other causes.....	14,000,000
Permanently incapacitated .....	5,500,000
Wounded, returned to duty .....	30,300,000
Captured .....	10,200,000

It is noteworthy that these figures do not include civilian casualties from bombings, nor the number of civilian deaths due to starvation, malnutrition or war disease.

THESE WAR CASUALTIES EQUAL THE TOTAL POPULATIONS OF BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, THE NETHERLANDS, GREECE, NORWAY, SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN PUT TOGETHER!

These figures are extremely interesting and tell a story that is tragic in its implications. They tell us that billions have been and are still being spent on production for destruction and killing, with quite irreparable loss and waste of human lives. The figures also compel us to explain a riddle: With such tremendous productive capacity, why could we not have a society planned on the basis of an equal distribution of the good things of life to the peoples of the entire world?

## UNITED STATES AND GERMANY

War costs for the United States are seen to be above all others. The U. S. has reached an unparalleled peak of employment and production in wartime. Why, then, do layoffs, cutbacks, reductions in wages, unemployment, depressions and poverty become such terrible realities in peacetime?

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## Price Control Defeat By Business Near

By M. HOWARD

One of the most scandalous situations since the beginning of the war exists in the price control field. Meat, butter and eggs, the necessary food for any healthy diet, are all but unobtainable. When they can be gotten, sky-high black market prices must be paid for them. Clothing and shoes are also unobtainable at anywhere near fair prices for the quality offered. And—here is the joker—present prices, even though they are so high that most workers' families must go without because they cannot afford them, are allowed under the Price Control Act, a measure that was supposed to keep prices down!

On June 30 this Price Control Act expires. There is some hope that a bill to extend it until July, 1946, will be passed by the Senate this week, but even some hope in this case is mighty little. Arrayed against any such extension are all the most expert lobbyists for all of the big food, clothing and meat processing industries—those same lobbyists who have so successfully won concession after

concession from the OPA until the present Price Control Act has become a farce.

The main weapon of these big processors in combatting price control of any sort is the Thomas Amendment to the Price Control Act, which they hope to pass if the act is actually extended for next year. Presented by Senator Elmer Thomas (Dem., Okla.), the amendment is so worded that it sounds as if it isn't concerned with prices at all—only with profits. It requires that the government guarantee every processor of agricultural products a profit over and above any cost the individual processor says he incurred!

### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES

Backed by profiteers who don't care about the right of workers to have enough food in their bellies to do a good day's work, or to be adequately clothed and shod, the Thomas amendment is concerned only with profiteers' "rights" to bigger, and better profits. If passed by the Senate, it will automatically release

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## Buffalo CIO Attacks Communist Leaflet

BUFFALO—The CIO Industrial Union Council of Buffalo went on record here this week in favor of a resolution condemning the Communist Political Association for its activities in attacking the militant leadership of Bell Local 501 precisely at a time when that leadership was under attack by the company.

The resolution originated in Local 501 as a result of a scurrilous leaflet put out by the Niagara Frontier division of the Communist Political Association attacking four leaders of 501 because of the position they had taken in the union in advocating a halt to the policies of retreat and sell-out practiced by the UAW Executive Board. The leaflet praised the no-strike pledge, attacked the 501 Organizer for its opposition to the pledge and advocated a phony re-conversion program without mentioning anything of the need for a shorter work week at higher hourly wages to help solve the unemployment problem.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously by 501 before being sent to the Council, reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Niagara Frontier Council of the Communist Political

Association has caused leaflets to be printed and distributed to the Bell workers who are members in Local 501 of the UAW-CIO, and

WHEREAS said leaflets were condemnatory in nature and viciously attacked certain members and leaders of Local 501, and

WHEREAS such unwarranted attacks on members of Local 501 and interference in the affairs of Local 501 by the Communist Political Association cannot be tolerated, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Local 501 of the UAW-CIO go on record in vigorously condemning the nefarious action of the union-busting Communist Political Association, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Local 501 warn the Communist Political Association that any further interference in their affairs will result in strong action being taken against them, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the International Union, to the Buffalo CIO Council for action and support on their part."

In debate on the resolution, the Communists, who have a powerful bloc in the Council, resorted to every

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# LABOR ACTION

JUNE 18, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

## Cutbacks, Layoffs, But No Raise in Pay Yet!

### A Mask for Every Season



## The Foster-Browder Debate and The "New Turn" in the CPA

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The new eruption now making its way through the top of the Communist Political Association (Communist Party) over the Duclos "disclosures" has come before the public in a "programmatic" statement contained in a resolution by the National Board. All of the board except Browder voted for the resolution. The majority includes such political contortionists as William Z. Foster, Robert Minor and Roy Hudson.

Public "discussion" on the questions under dispute is being carried on in the Daily Worker and the Sunday Worker. So far the leading protagonists of the two points of view are Browder and Foster. It seems, from surface indications, that Foster is the leader of the "opposition" while Browder remains the sole defender of the wartime line of the American Stalinists. Both have expressed their points of view in writing. Both groups are resorting to "self-criticism."

The Foster group accuses Browder of "errors" and "revisionism." Foster says that Browder has taken the position that "capitalism is now progressive.... Comrade Browder's theories violated many basic principles of Marxism-Leninism. They were a complete departure from Lenin's analysis of the present imperialist stage of capitalism."

What were some of the "errors" and "revisionist ideas" of Browder? Support of the Second Imperialist World War? No, that was not an error. That was not a "complete departure from Lenin's analysis of the present imperialist stage of capitalism," according to the Foster group.

Did Browder's "revisionism" reside in the fact that he did not call upon labor to break with the Republican and Democratic Parties and with the Roosevelt Administration? Was Browder, according to Foster, a revisionist because he failed to call upon labor to resort to independent political action under its own banner?

Then what was the "error"? According to the new streamlined Marxism-Leninism of the Foster

group it was "under Browder's influence, of failing to criticize many errors and shortcomings of the Roosevelt government." And what was one of these "errors" of the Roosevelt Administration? Nothing less than "our recent defense of the appointment of Stettinius, a reactionary, as Secretary of State." Roosevelt, you see, should have appointed a "progressive" as Secretary of State, say Mayor Hague of Jersey City (who was supported by the CP) or Dan Tobin of the Teamsters Union, who last year was taken to the bosom of the Stalinists, Foster, Minor, Hudson and the others.

Was one of Browder's "errors" the fact that he did not call upon labor to break with the Republican and Democratic Parties and with the Roosevelt Administration? Was Browder, according to Foster, a revisionist because he failed to call upon labor to resort to independent political action under its own banner?

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By SUSAN GREEN

CIO President Philip Murray and AFL President William Green have again put the Little Steel formula at the top of the agenda. They have gone to the White House and meekly submitted to their new "friend" there the demand that the basic wage rates be increased by twenty per cent. That means breaking the wage freeze.

About one and a half years ago the fight against the wage freeze began with the demand of the steel workers for a seven-teen-cent an hour increase. Lengthy hearings were held before Congress and before the War Labor Board. Statistics were gathered on the rise in the cost of living. Labor's case was strong. However, Murray allowed the matter to be kicked around, prevented the workers from taking strike action, and before long election was here. And how could Roosevelt's labor lieutenants bother the President at election time with such a trifling question as breaking the Little Steel formula!

Instead, labor leaders, especially in the CIO, talked as if wage increases were actually in the bag. According to them, the first thing Mr. Roosevelt would do after election would be to order the lid lifted off wages. But nothing like that happened. The steel workers' case was settled by throwing them a bare bone. The Little Steel formula still stands.

So what is the general wage situation today?

## UAW #719 Stops Work On Cutbacks

CHICAGO—In a tremendous demonstration of solidarity, the workers of the Electro-Motive division of the General Motors Corp.—members of Local 719, UAW-CIO—showed the corporation that they are not going to lie down before the monopolists' attempts to lower their standing of living and wreck their union.

All but about 200 of the approximately 10,000 workers in the plant stayed away from work on Saturday, June 9, to show the company officials that they still had a union and that they meant to fight for it. These same officials had sneeringly told the shop committee that they didn't have to bargain with them seriously since they represented only about ninety-two people in the shop (the number that was supposed to have attended a local meeting). This splendid demonstration of solidarity with the committee was the answer of the rank and file of the union to the company's refusal to negotiate on some of the pressing problems in the shop.

### WORKERS ACT

The workers in the plant felt the first impact of production cutbacks when their hours of work were reduced from fifty-eight to fifty hours per week starting May 29. This meant a cut in the weekly pay check of twelve hours' pay—quite a bit of money at any time but especially in these days of inflated living costs. In addition, there are also the problems of re-evaluation of forty-eight

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AFL President Green estimates that the take-home pay of the workers is due to be cut by \$23,000,000,000 in the reconversion period. That's an enormous sum. Overtime is going, going, and will soon be gone. Workers will be lucky if they get pay for forty hours. Part-time jobs will once more be in style. Many workers will be down-graded to lower paying jobs. Skilled workers will be forced into unskilled work. The take-home pay will all but fade out in many cases.

But these considerations have not moved Mr. Truman. He remains loyal to the late President and to the capitalists. After Messrs. Murray and Green respectfully left the White House, Mr. Truman informed his press conference that the Little Steel formula stands as firm as the Rock of Gibraltar—but, of course, he would take the requests of the heads of the CIO and the AFL under advisement.

Yet the demand for a twenty per cent increase in basic hourly pay is modest enough. Murray states that the object is to bring about the same relation between wages and prices and the productivity of labor as existed in 1940. However, the twenty per cent increase would not do that, as the following simple arithmetic will show.

Murray says that ten per cent of the twenty per cent asked for is to take care of the increase in prices since 1940 above the fifteen per cent allowed by the Little Steel formula. But, according to the figures of the CIO itself, back in the early part of 1944, living costs had increased by over forty-five per cent. This leaves not only ten per cent but thirty per cent owing to the workers for price increases—the difference between the fifteen per cent of the Little Steel formula and the actual rise in living costs.

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## Republocrats, Demicans in N. Y. Elections

Elections are supposed to be occasions when the voters pick the candidate with the best platform for the solution of their problems. The candidate is allegedly chosen by his party, not for his nationality, good looks or winning personality, but above all as the representative of the party's program.

That's the way things are supposed to be. But the facts are entirely different. If you want to see how different, take a good look at the political circus now being staged in New York City.

As reported in LABOR ACTION two weeks ago, only the Workers Party and its candidate, Max Shachtman, have come out with a platform on the real issue of the day—JOBS FOR ALL AND HOW TO GET THEM.

### JOBS AND "JOBS"

The Democratic and Republican politicians have a burning interest in jobs too—jobs for themselves. Ever since Fiorello La Guardia, Mayor for the last twelve years, announced that he wouldn't run again (his

chances for re-election being very slim), their tongues have been hanging out, quivering to lick up the political gravy. Because principles or platforms do not count with them, the whole business of selecting candidates has turned into one big mess of conflicting personal and organizational ambitions.

The Democrats' first choices were

party hacks who would be completely at the beck and call of the party machines. But they know they could



WORKERS PARTY NOMINEE

not win without the backing of the so-called American Labor Party. The ALP is controlled by the "Communists," whose one and only principle is to support the foreign policy of Stalin. This they do by backing any old capitalist candidate who they think will be friendly to Russia. In New York the "Communists" were quite ready to string along with either District Attorney William O'Dwyer, a Democrat, or President of the City Council Newbold Morris, a Republican.

So, after weeks of back-room bargaining, the Democratic leaders decided to swallow O'Dwyer and to fill up the rest of their ticket with unknowns who are obedient machine men. At this point the Stalinists got a little balky and so did O'Dwyer, especially after he saw the Republicans choose several well known candidates. As this is being written, the Democratic national chairman, Han-negan, has been called in to restore

order out of chaos. But still nobody knows who will get the gate—O'Dwyer or the fellow candidates whom he so rudely rejected.

### "HIGH POLITICS"

The opposing camp, too, is a beautiful sight to behold. The Republican, Liberal and Fusion Parties—none of which could elect a dog-catcher by themselves—for a period of a month or more had only one plank in their combined platforms: to wait until the Democratic nominations were made before making theirs.

Finally, after rejecting City Controller McGoldrick (who is supposed to be a Democrat) as too colorless, they hit upon another Democrat, an "independent" and "discarded" Democrat, Judge Jonah Goldstein. McGoldrick is to run for Controller again. But then up steps their candidate for President of the City Council, Newbold Morris (who really is a Republican—no fooling) and

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## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

## The Labor Party Problem in Hibbing

HIBBING, MINN.—FINIS, with a capital "F," was written to the brief and short-sighted existence of the strapping Joint Labor Council in the school election of May 15. Principal Organizer and chairman of the Joint Labor Council, Peter Stark; Officers Charles Gardner, Glenn Peterson and J. H. Wenberg; and their friends and co-thinkers, need wear no long faces over the defeat of their candidates. As was clearly pointed out to them at the first two meetings of the Council by members of the railroad delegation, their proposed organization was doomed beforehand for the following reasons:

1. Its policy was to "endorse the friends of labor"—a weak local imitation of the fatal PAC program in the Presidential election in '44.

2. Basing itself on organized labor in the Hibbing area, its purpose should have been to serve the needs of the working class, for which only an independent labor party with a strong program would suffice. It refused even to consider this advice.

3. Its candidates should have been workers from the ranks and they should have been nominated by the labor party and held directly responsible to it. Rank and file workers have had a bellyful of the so-called "friends of labor" whose "friendliness," like their promises, begins and ends at the polls.

4. Many organized workers are completely disillusioned with Democratic-Republican-PAC-Labor-Management politics. They remember that its fourth-term support and election of a President and some 88 representatives and 12 senators was rewarded by a Presidential demand for a totalitarian labor draft and the majority vote of these "labor friends" to enforce that demand.

## NOT LABOR CANDIDATES

Other reasons, many of them, could be advanced for the defeat of Hill and Jackson, the politicians who were the candidates of the Joint Labor Council, in the election. Hill, long, long ago, was a working man; for the past 23 years he has been a grocer. Jackson has been a member of organized labor for 30 years—but a small businessman for 35! The Hib-

bing workers fail to see how any small businessman can represent labor in politics. Holding nothing personal against these Council-endorsed candidates, the workers did not even bother to vote for them or their opponents. Their lack of interest was due to the fact that neither the Joint Labor Council nor the candidates they endorsed had anything to offer them but the same old hash in a different platter.

The workers WILL vote for labor candidates—real working class candidates running on the strongest kind of Labor Party ticket. As Stark and the Joint Labor Council know, the real problems facing the workers today are not puny little changes in a handful of political jobs, but 4000 ex-servicemen who will need 4000 jobs in the Hibbing area alone!

The real problems are not microscopic improvements in two or three school board jobs but the guaranteed annual wage, the 30-hour work week at high wage levels, adequate old-age pensions, jobs for all—vets AND war workers. The desperate need is also for stable price levels so take-home pay means something.

## Montgomery Ward's Profits

The employees at Montgomery Ward and the sympathetic public have been duped. Everyone applauded the heroic attempt of the workers to raise their wages from the forty-cent minimum level. Maybe they could have won if the government hadn't decided to "punish" Sewell Avery and the corporation he represents.

The Army took over the plant. Avery made a great show of protest, and public opinion was placated. The good, benevolent government could see to it that its orphaned children were given a fair deal.

Well, let's look at the record. Several months have passed since the strike. Avery still refuses to carry out WLB orders to pay increases. The employees are getting what they got before the strike. It goes without saying that they didn't receive any of the back pay. Avery refuses to recognize the union as bargaining agent for the employees.

Now let's look at the other side of the ledger. Under Army management the mail order house made profits of \$4,767,955 after taxes for the first quarter of 1945. Compare this with the \$3,430,324 profit for the first quarter of 1944. It is an increase of twenty-six per cent in net profits.

In whose interest was the government acting, then, when the Army took over?

To achieve these urgent needs, political action is necessary. Not the capitalist politics of the PAC, nor of the emerging National Citizens PAC designed to revolve around Elmer Benson, Henry A. Wallace and other "friends of labor" in the '46 and '48 elections. The political action that is needed, the only kind that will benefit the workers and fulfill their demands for full employment in the days ahead, is the political action of their own independent labor party.

A mass independent labor party, based on the trade union movement (and there has never been one in this country), would not endorse professors, or businessmen or lawyers; all these and the other "friends of Labor" would be swept into the discard and real working men voted in to office. Contrary to what the superficial thinkers and short-sighted "labor leaders" say, a labor party based on the unions can very effectively control the candidates it elects to office. The 88 representatives and 12 senators elected by the PAC-marshalled labor vote were NOT labor candidates, nor did they run for office on a labor party ticket. They

were Democrats and Republicans and, once in office and out of reach of the deluded workers who gave them votes, they acted just like you would expect any old Democrat or Republican to act—for the Money Trust and against the workers.

Since "political" organizations like the Hibbing Joint Labor Council can do nothing for the workers but confuse and mislead them, let us look for the answer in a different direction. Since everything else has been tried—slavery, feudalism, serfdom, capitalism—only one thing is left. Socialism!

## WHAT SOCIALISM MEANS

By socialism we mean plenty for all, jobs for all, a good living for all in this rich country. By socialism we don't mean Hoovervilles, WPA, food destroyed while millions live on restricted diets, depression and war, war and depression.

By socialism we mean no fatal, damaging, blind "cooperation" with the companies, but we do mean ownership of the mines, the railroads, the industries, the banks, by the workers. By socialism we mean, not what you have been told it means; not what the kept press and the big-business radio and the money-controlled movies insist it means.

By socialism we mean simply that every worker shall have a good job at a high guaranteed annual wage; that he shall live in a well-furnished, modern home; that he shall have a good pension at a reasonable retirement age; that he and his family shall have the best in medical attention and all-round security. By socialism we mean the end of the exploitation of man by man, the free and classless society.

A dream? Utopian? We turn it out to kill people; why not turn it out for ourselves when peace comes? Get rid of our reactionary labor leaders, organize our own independent labor party!

This independent labor party would be the first step towards a socialist political class consciousness on the part of American labor. It would thus be the first step toward a socialist reorganization of society.

## Reading Hosiery Workers

READING, Pa.—The AFL Hosiery Workers will demand a guaranteed annual wage and a general, blanket wage increase that will exceed the Little Steel Formula for all Hosiery workers in its new contract negotiations with three major employer groups that will begin about July 11. The present contracts will expire August 31, including the outstanding one, the National Labor agreement, which runs for two years and covers the most important full-fashioned mills in the trade. In addition the Union will seek a minimum wage scale of 55 cents, an improved vacation clause, a bonus for night shift workers and wage adjustments for certain occupations.

These proposals will be submitted by the Executive Board to a special wage and contract committee of the union which will be in session on Friday, June 8, in Reading, Penn., to formulate the union's demands in the forthcoming negotiations. Ordinarily, the Executive Board would present its recommendations to a National Convention of the Union, but because of the ODT's restriction of transportation a Wage and Contract committee, representing all of the locals in the country, was created as a substitute. The Executive Board met earlier in the week to consider resolutions to be presented to the Committee.

## AGAINST "LITTLE STEEL"

The American Federation of Hosiery Workers has now joined a growing army of organized labor that is demanding the breaking of the infamous Little Steel formula and is striking

out for a secure and decent standard of living for labor in the Post-War World. All hosiery workers will heartily support these proposals because the achievement of these aims is needed urgently to elevate their present standards. This is especially true of Reading and Berks County workers because the Hosiery Industry has always been one of the largest industries in this area and will become increasingly more important in the Post-War period.

But while every hosiery worker hails these demands, every thoughtful worker realizes that there is cause for concern for the future of the goal set by the AFHW. Not that it cannot attain this goal of security and decency. But can it get these demands by depending upon a whole network of government boards, the most important being the War Labor Board? Can it afford to let the future rest in the hands of these boards and permit them to make the final decision on its economic needs?

To ask the question is to answer it. The experiences that labor has had with the War Labor Board are too fresh in every worker's mind to make necessary a long review of the decisions of the Board. LABOR ACTION contains articles every week that analyze how some union local has been denied its demands by the WLB which applied the Little Steel formula very rigidly. This is generally true.

The main purpose of the WLB has been to freeze wages. A real example is the verdict that this Board handed down in the case of the United Steel Workers of America. In these long-

drawn-out negotiations the chief demands were the same that are now proposed by the AFHW; that is, a general increase that would break the Little Steel formula and establish a guaranteed annual wage. All that was granted were a few fringe demands. The demand for a guaranteed annual wage is being kicked around by some Presidential committee.

## THE NEW CONTRACT

Hosiery workers want to enter these negotiations with a good assurance that they will achieve the kind of contract needed. They want to enter this fight with the odds at least even. This means that they do not want any Anti-Labor Board to decide their case. This Board uses a formula that pre-judges demands not on their merits but by its own arbitrary intention of stabilizing wages. Not to depend upon such a Board, MEANS TO DEPEND UPON UNION STRENGTH. The American Federation of Hosiery Workers must get back that instrument, that weapon, that is absolutely indispensable if it intends to win its union demands. That is, it must get back the right to strike. It must rescind the no-strike pledge.

It should be rather obvious by now, in the light of the experiences of the past several years, that what weakened the labor movement, what made it a victim of vicious attacks by the big corporations, what made it bow at the mercy of the War Labor Board has been the fact that the labor movement, through its top officials, gave up the right to strike and gave a no-strike pledge in return for promises that were not kept.

## West Coast Labor Round-Up

## By AL MARKS

Maintenance of membership, not in original contracts, cannot be instituted by arbitration award, even if made under terms of contract. This was the decision of the Court of Appeals of Los Angeles on the Vultee Aircraft court action May 5. The original UAW contract reserved for management the right to hire and fire. By arbitration in 1943 the union maintenance of membership as a condition of continued employment was given, but this was reversed yesterday. This does not invalidate maintenance of membership in original contracts.

Now we see the solons fighting against what they term "cradle to the grave" security. Their efforts are to try to shame the people into not admitting they can no longer earn a living under a free enterprise system. Puff out your chest, pull up your chin and say: "I can be a millionaire too, someday, if I starve at \$12 a week long enough and save my 'extra' money."

Article after article ridiculing the exponents of social security, government projects, etc., are to make the people believe the majority doesn't want any help—being "self-sufficient." The fact that the majority do

want and demand that we have security through government help makes it plain that the people understand that this system can no longer give us jobs or protect us from starvation on its own free initiative.

The right way is through mass action of the people to demand help. The free enterprise system can no longer protect jobs during normal times. This heralds more plainly than words the bankruptcy and degeneration of the capitalist system. Government-owned and worker-controlled factories, plus production for use, not profit, would give jobs to all.

Thirty-seven thousand AFL workers at Lockheed Aircraft in Glendale, Calif., signed a labor-management pact of no-strike-no-lockout provisions. While a great many good points were won, it was a sad loss to enter into a pact of this kind with any company. Lockheed, at the first opportunity, will attempt to break the union. To give a no-strike pledge is to give away your only bargaining power.

The president of Lockheed said he was deeply hurt to think that those whole-hearted, patriotic men would do such a dastardly thing as to vote for a strike, which would hurt the

profits of Lockheed. (You know how the bosses need your profits—otherwise, how would they fight the union? We deeply sympathize with him and his hurt pride, that the men would strike for such an excuse as refusals to adjust wage and other grievances.)

A decision handed down by Superior Court Judge Raymond Thompson ruled that Negroes were to have equal rights in Local 92, AFL, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Their auxiliary union was either to be given as full rights as the parent union or be admitted into the parent union. This gives them full voting powers and equal rights to help run the union. All workers, regardless of height, weight or color should have equal rights in their union. Five thousand Negroes in the shipyards will be affected.

The Studio strike is still unsettled. The newest development is temporary limit of AFL picketing to not closer than fifteen feet to pedestrian walk and twenty-five feet from auto entrance. The strikers stated that a list of actors who continue to pass picket line to work in the studio will be printed and publicized to all affiliated members next week.

## Cutbacks, No Wage Raise--

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The other ten per cent of the twenty per cent asked by Murray is for the rise in the productivity of labor per hour since 1940.

But ten per cent is too low a figure. Twenty per cent increase in labor's productivity per hour is nearer the truth. It is estimated that 38,000,000 workers will be able to do what 46,000,000 did in 1940, and that means an increased productivity of labor of more than seventeen per cent.

Certainly, in view of the above, a twenty per cent basic wage increase is modest enough. AFL President Green estimates that it would cover only \$13,000,000,000 of the \$23,000,000,000 lost take-home pay in the reconversion period. But still Mr. Truman says NO.

Can industry "afford" to raise wages? It, of course, claims it can't. But let us see.

Industry's profits for 1944 before taxes reached a high of \$25,000,000,000. Industry's capital reserves in cash and government bonds will amount to \$58,000,000,000 after government contracts have been cleared up. That answers the question of whether industry can "afford" to raise workers' wages.

What have the workers in reserve? Back in 1942 the OPA found that two-thirds of all the consumers earned less than \$50 a week, and that these two-thirds owned only one-ninth of the nation's savings. Last September the Department of Commerce again substantiated this fact. Since then from other sources comes proof that workers' families have been able to accumulate little if any savings.

For this situation the Little Steel formula is directly responsible. It has prevented labor from getting its share of the tremendous wealth it has produced during these war years. In fact, there are outstanding cases of labor's share in corporation revenue having decreased steadily during the war years. A few examples are in order.

While the revenue of Douglas Aircraft increased from \$61,000,000 in 1940 to over a billion in 1944, wages and salaries decreased from 44.4 per cent to 33.6 per cent of the total.

While the sales of General Motors rose from over three billion in 1943 to over four billion in 1944, the percentage that went for wages and salaries dropped from 34.8 per cent to 32.4 per cent.

The business of General Electric rose from \$411,900,000 in 1940 to \$1,353,000,000 in 1944, but the share of wages and salaries decreased from 37.3 per cent to 34.3 per cent.

There are scores of other examples, along these lines. And remember that the tremendous war salaries of corporation officials are included in these percentages, leaving even less to the workers.

## WAGES AND PROFITS

Above, in graphic form, is the purpose of the Little Steel formula. As always, wages and profits stand in this simple relationship: The more there is of one, the less there remains of the other. The war profits of in-

dustry prove that the legalized robbery of the workers by the capitalists has been intensified. For this, the labor leaders must take their share of blame. In tolerating the Little Steel formula, when it is so flagrantly a weapon of the capitalists, and in crippling labor's striking power with the no-strike pledge, the Murrys and Greens have willy-nilly played the game of the profit-grubbing capitalists.

It is high time to change this treacherous technique.

The Little Steel freeze must end. Wages must be raised.

The technique of the Washington run-around will not do.

Workers must again assert their freedom to strike, and make their demands with the economic might of organized labor behind them.

The Workers Party calls for a reduction of the work-week with no reduction take-home pay! For a guaranteed annual wage! For a 100% tax on all war profits! For government operation of government-owned plants under workers' control.

## The RWJAC Progressive Group

(From Joint Action News, paper of the Railroad Workers Joint Action Committee)

Railroad labor is pitifully divided. Twenty-one unions represent as many crafts in bargaining with employers, who are united in their policies toward all their workers. Each craft union, relatively weak in defending and representing its members, is weakened further by constant disagreement and conflict with its sister unions. The operating and non-operating workers have almost no contact with each other. Their unions negotiate with the employers in separate groups. And even the operating unions cannot pull as one, but spend money and effort to attack and discredit each other.

Who benefits by this whole situation? First and foremost, the employer, who can play the old game of divide and rule. Secondly, the large number of union officials who batten on the craft division of the workers. And the rank and file who pay the bill? They get the short and greasy end of it, both in excessive dues and inadequate representation.

The Railroad Workers Joint Action Committee is in favor of the uniting (amalgamation) of the present craft unions into one powerful industrial union on the railroads. Separate, lo-

cal representation on matters concerning the separate crafts — one united organization, one united policy on matters which concern us all!

## RWJAC—A NEW UNION?

Many railroad workers, when they hear that we are for one industrial union on the railroad, assume that the RWJAC is itself this new union. In this they are mistaken. We are not a union. We are an organization of the progressive railroad workers who want to work within their unions and through their unions for our program.

We tell no man who joins the RWJAC to drop out of his own organization. Quite the contrary. The RWJAC has convinced many men who had become discouraged with the weakness, conservatism and lack of democracy in their brotherhoods and had therefore dropped out of them, to rejoin. The RWJAC exists as a rallying point for all rails who want to be really effective in their efforts to make their unions fighting organizations of and for the rank and file. United across, craft lines, the members of the RWJAC can be certain that when they work for the adoption of our program in their own lodge they are backed by hundreds of men who are working for

the adoption of the same program in other lodges of their own brotherhood as well as in the lodges of all other brotherhoods on the railroad.

## WAGES, CONDITIONS, PENSIONS

We are not simply for the amalgamation of the present brotherhoods, with their present programs and their present leadership into an industrial union. The RWJAC knows that hand in hand with its fight for amalgamation, for democracy and rank and file control within the craft unions, must go the fight for a program of wages and conditions and pensions which will make the RWJAC the spearhead of all the progressive demands of railroad workers in the country. We support the brotherhoods in every demand they make which will improve the lot of railroad workers, but over and beyond that we work within our unions for their adoption of a program of demands which will really meet the pressing needs of railroad labor.

This program is fully outlined in our pamphlet, Action and Reaction on the Railroads. Read it, talk it over with your fellow workers, and get them to join the organization which stands behind it, the RWJAC! The RWJAC has been leading the fight for retirement after thirty years' service, regardless of age. We

have found that railroad labor is overwhelmingly in favor of such a pension plan, and that groups of railroad workers all over the country have been conducting campaigns for it. In union after union they have passed resolutions for the thirty-year pension. But there was no organization to coordinate their activities and so they became lost in the red-tape and disunity of the craft union structure. But the RWJAC was able to bring this demand of railroad labor into national prominence, and to force the Brotherhood Chiefs to declare themselves openly opposed to it.

## THE RWJAC AND YOU

The RWJAC can truthfully say that to date it has not received one valid criticism of its program from a railroad worker. Almost everyone agrees that "we need a change"; that "something has to be done" about the division and internal squabbling of the craft union structure.

The RWJAC exists as a functioning, growing, democratic organization. All its leaders and members are working railroaders, and we have no support from anyone but working railroaders. If you want to change words into ACTION, it is up to you to join the RWJAC.

## UAW, Stalinists, Farm Equipment

## By PAUL NEWMAN

CHICAGO.—Since the beginning of March the International Harvester Company has been having a hey-day. At the McCormick Works in Chicago the company has started on a vicious wage-cutting campaign. Piece-work rates are being cut as much as 10%, and even more. Workers working 48 hours a week are taking home, after deductions, as little as \$30.

The Stalinist-Communists, who are in control of the union, are doing nothing to stop this open and determined attack of the company on union standards. They stand idly by while the foremen get tough and speed up the work, while the company continues to cut wages at will, and while grievances of all kinds pile up.

The open shop conditions that the McCormick workers finally broke when they organized the union in the big strike of 1940, are returning—this time with the help of the Communists. The company is able to chop away at the workers' necks, while the Communists hold their heads. One of the main reasons for this is the delay of the CIO bureaucracy in deciding the jurisdictional dispute between the Farm Equipment & Metal Workers' Union and the UAW-CIO.

In the latter part of February, as reported by LABOR ACTION, the UAW began an organization drive on the tiny Stalinist controlled FE union. The campaign began at that time as a result of the agitation of the progressive workers in the McCormick & Tractor Works of the International Harvester in Chicago, and in the Caterpillar Tractor Works in Peoria. The UAW was more than willing to take over the jurisdiction of these FE workers, as many of the automobile manufacturers are going into the farm equipment business after the war and the aircraft industry would experience a sharp decline.

The workers were told, when the campaign began, that all they had to do was to sign up a majority of the workers, call for an NLRB election, and bingo—the UAW would be in. After about three weeks of passing out leaflets, signing up workers, and receiving beatings at the hands of the Stalinist thugs, the workers found that things just don't work out so easily. They found that an organizing drive of one CIO union against another is a little more complicated. They found that the decision of their jurisdiction was to be decided by a three-man board set up by the CIO Executive Board.

After about six weeks of stalling

around, the board, composed of Green, Dalrymple, and Rosenbloom, handed down a decision that there should be a "negotiated merger" of the FE into the UAW. This means, of course, that the proper deals must be made on top in the way of jobs, control of locals, etc. This decision was handed down six or seven weeks ago, and the boys are still in the process of "negotiating."

## STALLING THE WORKERS

Meanwhile, the conditions of the workers are becoming steadily worse. The majority of elected stewards have been dismissed by the Stalinists, and those that weren't dismissed resigned when they thought the UAW would take over in a matter of a couple of weeks. The result is, with Stalinist stooges holding all the offices, the workers have no real representation.

However, the progressive workers are at last learning something from this pitiful mess they're in. They are at last learning that to defeat the Stalinists they must be well organized and must carry on organized campaigns. They have learned through this experience that the existence of their union as a militant

and fighting organization depends upon them, the powerful rank and file.

## Philadelphia, Attention!

## LECTURE WHO ARE THE REAL WAR CRIMINALS?

Who financed Hitler's rise to power? What was the attitude of British and American capital toward Nazism BEFORE the war? What is behind the atrocity story campaign? Should American workers support plans for using German labor as slaves?

Speaker: STEVE PARKER  
Labor Action Staff Writer  
FRIDAY, JUNE 22nd, 8:15 P. M.  
LABOR ACTION HALL  
1105 Walnut Street

## New York Readers—Attention:

## The Real Issue: Jobs!

A Socialist Program for Full Employment

HEAR  
The Program of Action of the Workers Party  
How to Achieve Jobs for All at a Living Wage

## QUEENS

Monday, June 25, 8:00 P. M.  
Cracker Workers Hall  
24-20 Jackson Avenue

Speaker  
Ernest Lund

**A PAPER IN THE INTEREST OF LABOR**



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**Editorials**

**Post-War Military Training for Youth**

The question: *For or against post-war military training?* is inseparably linked to the question of war. That the proposal for post-war conscription is made at all indicates the failure of this Second World War and its "peace" to solve the question of war. Two times within a generation the world has been ignited in the flames of imperialist war—with some thirty small wars occurring between the two big ones—and the end is not yet in sight.

No army of any modern capitalist country like the United States is a purely "defensive" army, just as no war between modern capitalist states is a purely "defensive" war. An army may be used "aggressively" or "defensively" in the military sense. But in wars between capitalist-imperialist states "aggression" or "defense" is scientifically inaccurate. The wars arise inevitably out of economic rivalries and can be predicted in advance regardless of which nation "starts" the war.

"Preparedness," argued for by those who favor peacetime conscription, is no panacea for preventing war. It is, rather, one of the concomitants of war. It merely guarantees that a country will be able to strike out at an opponent more quickly and bring war on earlier. The compulsory military training that characterized all of Europe did not save her from war.

**WHO'S BEHIND IT?**

Let Senator Edwin C. Johnson of the Senate Military Affairs Committee say who is backing the movement for compulsory military training in the post-war period:

"Certainly Congress should examine the backers of the proposal and explore some of their motives. America has a well-organized group of capitalists—the dollar diplomacy crowd—who are looking the world over right now for profitable investments for themselves and their clients.

"It is their purpose to exploit the world's supplies of natural resources and by utilizing foreign cheap labor seize the world's markets. They must have the protection of our flag. Therefore, they would have a conscript American army to awe and put the fear of God in puny foreign rulers."

This movement to inflict the goose-stepping routine on young men in their most impressionable years is not limited to the United States. All the victor nations will be placing guns into the hands of the youth and instilling the military precept of blind obedience into their spirits. Russia is already giving strenuous training to her fifteen-and sixteen-year-olds.

The World Security Conference at San Francisco did not pause for a moment even to consider the question of disarmament, as did the first League of Nations. It made little pretense of being anything other than what it was: a combine of the big victor nations of the world to check the smaller nations and divide up the dependent ones.

As soon as a decisive conflict of economic interests occurs among them they will resort to war. If they all train their youth in the arts of warfare during the peace interval, that will merely mean that all the young men will be more skilled in the art of murdering each other.

**WHO PAYS FOR IT?**

If two million youth receive compulsory military training each year, the approximate cost at the present rate of \$2,000 per trainee will be four billion dollars. Contrast this figure with the figure of \$3,181,364,876—the total cost of all elementary, secondary and college education, public and private, in the entire United States!

We believe imperialist war can be eliminated only by eliminating the system which breeds it: the system of capitalist private property, which periodically goes to war with its competitors for profits, markets, raw materials and other booty. Therefore, to eliminate compulsory training is not to eliminate war. But insofar

as compulsory military training nazifies the youth with doctrines of militarism; provides a permanent large military force which can be used against striking workers as well as the duped and unformed youth of other nations; necessitates further reduction in the standard of living of the people who will pay the bulk of the military budget, the working class—insofar as a peacetime draft of youth does all of these things, it expedites the next imperialist war. Therefore, it must be opposed. Let the billions proposed for training to kill be used for education for those youth who escaped the slaughter in this war!

**On the Nature of German Fascism**

The defeat of Germany was accompanied by a number of curious events. Once the tide of Allied armies began their sweep the collapse of the Wehrmacht proceeded rapidly. It was quite unlike the collapse we usually observe in defeated armies. In this case, the whole organization of German arms seemed to collapse like a house of cards. Up to one particular moment, the German armies appeared to be fighting with great valor and skill and then, suddenly, they disintegrated on both fronts.

One of the reasons for this phenomenon, we believe, is the nature of the fascist system. During the early years of German victories which swept the continent of Europe, many people became overawed with the blitzkrieg and went so far as to say that the reason Germany was winning was not because it had been fully prepared for this war, or that the Allies were totally unprepared, but because German fascism was really a new society which had more vigor than the old capitalist social order.

The revolutionary socialists rejected that false conception and conclusively proved that the strength of German fascism had to be sought in its preparation for war long before it came and not in the idea that fascism was a superior social order. We pointed out that fascism was a certain type of political régime which served the interests of capitalism and its most important sections, the monopolists, the owners of heavy industry, and the financiers. Fascism was powerful in Germany because that country was the strongest industrial nation in Europe. Italy was fascist too, yet it could hardly be called a strong second-class power.

**POLITICAL RULE OF BIG BUSINESS**

Fascism came to power in Germany as the instrument of the capitalist class to prevent the workers from seizing power in the country. It is a political system, a totalitarian system, employed by big business in times of great danger, to defend its profits, property and wealth against the people.

The fascist movement is usually composed of declassed elements: middle classes which have been destroyed by big business, unemployed militarists, i.e., professional soldiers, unemployed workers whose morale has been destroyed by years of idleness, youth who have no hopes for the future under capitalism. These were the forces whom the degenerate leaders of the Nazi Party won to their program. This program promised everything to everybody but really adhered to one aim: strengthening the power of the capitalist rulers of Germany, guaranteeing their profits and waging war to extend their interests on a world scale.

The leaders of the fascist parties were themselves degenerate social elements produced by a society which is capable only of destruction, inequalities, poverty, mass unemployment, starvation and annihilating wars.

These Nazi leaders, beginning with Hitler and ending with the small-fry murderers, were brave men when the going was good. But they revealed themselves in their true colors in defeat. The great fuhrer himself, Hitler, may or may not have died a "natural" death. Goebbels and his

family committed suicide. Himmler destroyed himself. Nor were the big leaders alone in taking their lives. Hundreds of other first and second rank fuhrers took the easy way out.

And those who didn't die at their own hands? They experienced "deathbed conversions," blaming Hitler for all the foul deeds of fascism. Goering is the most prominent example of the latter.

We are not greatly interested in which one of these fascist beasts was No. 1 in the country. To us the whole gang of them should be strung up on the trees and lamp-posts of Germany.

If these fascist leaders really represented progress, a new social order, a new life for humanity, they would have fought valourously to the end. The great leaders of humanity were not moral cowards. They were brave men who died for their ideals so that humanity could advance a few steps forward against the resistance of entrenched wealth and reaction. The fascist scum who led Germany and Italy revealed by their conduct in adversity that they were merely the servants of the reactionary German economic rulers, fighting in the interests of German imperialism. Left alone, fearful of the people's revenge, they took a coward's way out.

**GERMAN LABOR CAN RESOLVE IT**

The fascists are social scum. They are of no importance by themselves. They are only strong because of the support they receive from big industrialists and financiers who are the real backers of fascism. But the latter are precisely the ones who get away with it. They remain in power in Italy, almost two years after the "liberation" of the country. They retain their power, posts and privileges in Germany under Allied occupation. And why not? The Allied ruling classes have investments in their factories, mines, mills and banks. They are economic blood brothers of Italian and German capitalists. These ruling classes are enemies only when they try to rob each other; against the people, they are allies.

In the midst of all this claptrap about war criminals, who is guilty in Germany, and the necessity to punish all the Germans, we know that if the German workers, enslaved all these years under the heel of fascism, were given freedom of action, you would not have scenes like that enacted by General Dahlquist and Goering. Goering instead of being wined, dined and interviewed, would now be where he belongs, under a plot of earth. And the same goes for the whole gang of fascists. And it would go, too, for the German capitalist rulers who placed these murderers in power.

**Pay Raises for Poor Congressmen**

Both the House of Representatives, having just voted itself \$2,500 per year expenses in addition to the regular salary of \$10,000 per year, and the Senate are happy over President Truman's nod to go ahead and vote themselves a big increase in salary.

Representative Carl Vinson, Georgia Democrat, has introduced a bill which would give the senators and representatives a FIFTY PER CENT (shades of the Little Steel formula!) increase in salary, hiking it up to \$15,000 yearly. The President's salary would be lifted from \$75,000 to \$100,000 yearly and these of other officers of the government would be proportionally raised.

True, these "representatives of the people" are not making millionaires of themselves. They are mere servants of the millionaires. But what a colossal nerve they have, in the face of their treatment of the working people who voted for them!

Congress, throughout the years of the war, has, by its legislation, guaranteed the millions in profits of big business and kept the workers to what amounts to a bare existence at wartime price levels. There has not yet been any revision of the Little Steel formula. Many congressmen who vote salary increases for themselves are opposed to raising the unemployment compensation level to a MAXIMUM OF \$25 a week for a MAXIMUM OF TWENTY-SIX WEEKS! This, when cutback unemployment stalks the land!

Congress sent ten million soldiers and sailors to the hell of battle for \$50 a month (meals free, of course) without batting an eye. What is returning of that army faces unemployment or low wages, mocked by a GI Bill of Rights that guarantees virtually nothing.

Just one more reason why labor should elect its own representatives on its own ticket and its own program to Congress.

**One-Tenth of the Nation**

*Southern Liberal and F.E.C.P.*

*By J. R. Johnson*

Here is another phony liberal who has betrayed those who believed in his liberalism. He is Senator Claude Pepper of Florida.

The bill for a permanent FEPC is struggling its way through Congress. It has been on the House desk for three weeks and has gathered no more than 100 signatures.

The present FEPC bill is distinguished by the fact that it has no enforcement powers. You listen to the committee's investigations. You read its recommendations or throw them into the waste-basket, as you please. No one can do anything. Naturally that sort of bill suits the capitalists very well.

This new bill, however, provides for law enforcement against those who fail to comply. Senator Taft declared himself for the bill but wanted the enforcement clauses taken out. But everybody knows that the Republican senator is a reactionary.

**THREATENED FILIBUSTER**

Sensors Ellender and Johnstone have threatened a filibuster. Johnstone said he would speak against the bill for three weeks. Ellender

said he would speak for five months. But everybody knows that Ellender and Johnstone are reactionary Southern-ers.

But Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, ah! he is a liberal. He is a friend of Henry Wallace, that friend of the common man. Pepper has been a staunch supporter of the New Deal. Well, a few days ago Pepper encountered the bill in the Senate Education and Labor Committee. Pepper made an "impassioned plea" for withdrawal of teeth from the bill. The Southern senators were both surprised and pleased.

They had cause: Pepper, this liberal, said that he could not afford to have a Negro stenographer in his office and therefore he would not force his constituents to do so. Previously Pepper had supported the bill. Hill of Alabama and Fulbright of Arkansas also opposed the bill. These two also are Southern liberals. But the most outstanding of all the Southern liberals is Senator Pepper.

**PEPPER'S CAMPAIGN**

We trust no reader of LABOR ACTION is surprised. But we can give

some more data about Pepper. He came up for re-election in 1944. He waged his campaign on the issue of white supremacy. This darling of the liberals (and also of the Communist Party) stumped Florida, out-vying his rival in abusing and slandering the Negro people and feeding the crudest prejudices of the Florida whites.

For our part, Pepper's antics are no surprise. Liberals are yellow enough, but a Southern liberal! Whoever is deceived by them deserves all he gets.

The first FEPC bill, miserable as it was, was placed there because of mass action—the threat of the March on Washington. Proponents of this bill have never hidden their reason for advocating it. They fear the struggles of Negroes in the post-war period. This was said from the floor of Congress.

The Negro masses have one way of ensuring that this bill will retain some teeth. They must let Washington know in no uncertain terms what they think. And then, who knows, why even the liberal Pepper may support it!

**War Costs, Casualties--**

(Continued from page 1)

Because our economy is capitalist, meaning chaotic and anarchic, based on competition, monopoly, producing not for public need but for private profit.

Capitalism, which was progressive in its beginnings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, because it overthrew the feudal method of production, has now become an anachronism, with its depressions and wars standing in the way of progress and the intelligent, socialist planning of society.

The latter would have as its goal economic security for all, so that with this minimum requirement, "human" beings will have the potentialities for the full growth of their "humanity."

We also see from the figures for Germany that her war costs nearly approximated those of the U. S., indicating that she was the greatest European industrial power, having the means for tremendous output of goods. This was demonstrated in this war, when she almost won a world empire for German imperialism. But above all it showed what slave labor means to a capitalist economy. Germany was able to have this tremendous production by enslaving German and European labor.

But Germany is to be reduced to a vassal country and her industries smashed. The workers are to suffer alongside of the fanatical Nazis—still more evidence of the futility of capitalism. For the German workers, together with the American workers, and the workers in all other countries, could produce enough for a society that would supply "plenty for all"—food, clothing, houses, schools, even radios, automobiles and refrigerators.

It is no myth that there is plenty for all. Here are the facts: More food can be raised today than we could possibly eat—through widespread use of tractors, combines, fertilizers, improved seeds, irrigation, insect control, etc. Here is what the Yearbook of Agriculture, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has to say: "Two billion acres (about five per cent of the earth's land area, and 42 per cent of the present area under cultivation) would, under scientific agricultural methods, provide an optimum food supply for the population of the entire globe."

Yet people starve in the midst of plenty and food is dumped overboard in peacetime when people cannot buy for they may not have the jobs or the money.

In industry, progress has been even more outstanding. Mass production increased the productivity of labor by fifty per cent in manufacturing industries for the fourteen-year period of 1923-37 alone, and everyone knows the miraculous feats of war production today.

We have the natural resources, the machinery, the labor. Modern science has made comfort and culture and leisure possible for all. Who will

deny the great potentialities for good inherent in our advanced economy?

The owners of production have at their disposal all these wonderful opportunities, but have they used them to end poverty, maintain security and a high standard of living and keep the peace? No, for they have flagrantly and wilfully mismanaged.

This is the record of average weekly wages for factory workers under capitalism in this age of mass production:

1927—"Prosperity" wage, \$23.38. (The National Industrial Conference Board reported in 1926 that \$36.88 was essential for a decent living for a family of five in New York City.)

1931—Depression wage, \$20.31. (Not everyone worked all year around.)

1938—New Deal "Recovery" wage, \$22.70. (Relief, WPA and an alphabetical era flourished.)

1942—Wartime wage, \$40.27. (Of course, working long hours increases the weekly wage, but wartime wages only seem high when we overlook wartime taxes and prices. Wartime wages buy less and less every day.)

Where, then, does all the wealth go to? The Federal Trade Commission's Report on National Wealth and Income showed that one per cent of the population owned at least fifty-nine per cent of the wealth; that twelve per cent (middle classes) owned thirty-one per cent of the wealth and that eighty-seven per cent (workers, farmers, small shopkeepers) owned a bare ten per cent.

**WHO OWNS AMERICA?**

In 1929, the big boom year of capitalism, 513 men each received over a \$1,000,000 income; their combined income was equal to that of over a million ordinary workers. In the New Deal year of 1936, forty-two per cent of all families received less than \$900 a year income. President Roosevelt was being overly conservative when he said that ONLY one-third of the nation is "ill fed, ill clothed, and ill housed." The war has not changed this alignment of force either, for corporation profits have increased enormously.

That the rich get richer and the poor get poorer is always true under capitalism.

The war has a neat way of obscuring the failures of capitalism, for under peacetime capitalism it is inevitable to have crises and mass unemployment. The purchasing power of the people cannot increase fast enough to provide a market for the growing volume of production. When the capitalists realize there is no profit in selling their goods, there are layoffs and slashing of wages. Food is left to rot in the granaries and storage houses, and hungry people starve in the midst of plenty.

**A CONTRADICTION**

The capitalist system won't work, for the very root of capitalism is all wrong. It is based on a contradiction, namely, that the man who owns the tools of production (the capital-

ist) does not work them, and the man who works them (the worker) does not own them.

Before the coming of capitalism, the owner of the tools and the worker of the tools were the same man, but with the industrial revolution the product no longer belonged to the producer—the worker at the machine—but belonged to the capitalist owner of the machine, who sold it for the best price the market would pay, and gave to the workers the smallest wage they would work for.

There is a way out of this chaos: The working people themselves should own and operate the industries cooperatively, through owning and operating the government.

This would end production for profit and the waste of competing corporations.

There would be planned production for the first time; increasing the output of wealth so that there would be plenty for all.

The big incomes would be eliminated and the income of a country would be more evenly distributed, to raise the living standards of the people.

Here in the United States, we have today more workers, more plants, more efficiency, more productivity and more machinery than ever before, due to wartime expansion. We have more of all the means necessary to a high standing of living, shorter hours and certainly full employment for every able-bodied person. But the workers throughout the entire country are now experiencing the first fruits of the end of the war in Europe—cutbacks, layoffs and unemployment.

Thus far the government and its agencies, which were so capable of planning production and full employment for war needs, have met this situation with words and nothing more. A solution to this threatening situation can be provided by labor, organized in an independent struggle around a realistic program for full employment at a living wage.

**LABOR'S GOAL**

To carry out this program, the workers need a political party of their own, based on the millions of organized trade union members, free and independent of the capitalist parties and politicians. Such a party will fight for a real program of reconversion and full employment, and will aim at the establishment of a workers' government. Only the Workers Party has presented a fighting program for the achievement of these aims.

The kind of planned economy we envisage would, for the first time, make possible an end to wars between nations. Because the planned economy would include all countries. The aim of the working class would be to end capitalism and all forms of exploitation everywhere, and everywhere introduce workers' governments and planned economy. Its aim would be to create a socialist world.

**Buffalo CIO Raps CP--**

(Continued from page 1)

trick in the book, first, to have the resolution tabled, later to confuse the issues as much as possible and, finally, to delay the vote by a roll-call maneuver so that the majority of the delegates would get disgusted and wander out.

The Communists also pretended that they were being attacked because they were "Reds" but several speakers pointed out that the Stalinist-Communists were about as "Red" as Herbert Hoover and that the real reason for the resolution was that

they were anti-labor scabs of the worst variety.

**VARIOUS CP PROPONENTS**

Several international representatives from the UAW and Textile Workers, supposedly speaking for the resolution, added their bit to the confusion by trying to make the question one of the right of the CPA to take a position on union affairs.

It was clear to most delegates, however, that the CPA, as well as any other political group or even individual, had a perfect right to express its opinion on a union problem and that the real issue was the anti-

labor, pro-company position taken by this organization and not its right to express an opinion.

The international representatives who supported the resolution saw in it a double-edged sword to protect themselves against all criticism, whether of the anti-labor rightist variety of the CPA or the militant pro-labor left-wing variety of LABOR ACTION. That is why they supported the resolution. The rank and file delegates, however, fought for it because they were incensed at the pro-company, collaborationist position of the CPA and voted for it in the same way they would vote for a resolution condemning Westbrook Pegler.

# BIG 4 SMELL OF OIL IN SYRIA-LEBANON DISPUTE

By SAM ADAMS

It would seem that the recent outbreak of fighting between the French and Arab nationalists in Lebanon and Syria is of no great consequence since the countries are small and the population less than that of many of our states. But behind this conflict between French imperialism seeking to maintain a stranglehold on this area and Arab nationalism fighting for independence, is imperialist intrigue involving the big powers who are motivated by the large oil deposits in the Middle East.

The movement of the Arab peoples for independence is not only a struggle against France; it is in reality a struggle against all imperialism. The consequences of the fight in Syria and Lebanon is, therefore, not lost upon Great Britain, the United States and Russia. They see in this somewhat isolated event a danger to their plans for control and exploitation of the resources, not only of Syria, but of Iran, Iraq and the whole Middle East.

Britain's sharp intervention, which was supported by the United States, and Russia's intervention in behalf of France, are based on their common interest in oil—not the independence of the Arabs—and the fear that French policy endangers their penetration and domination of these countries.

## BACKGROUND HISTORY

The fight over control of the Middle East, and Levant in particular, has a long history which it is necessary to outline to enable one to understand the nature of the present conflict.

1. Syria (of which Lebanon and Damascus are an integral part) was for many years dominated by Turkey and ruled oppressively as all subject nations are. She obtained her "free-

dom" during the first World War when Great Britain enlisted the aid of the Arab nationalists to help drive the Turks out. Of course, Great Britain promised Syria independence in exchange for her assistance against the Turks.

2. The British forces, however, were weak and their campaigns against the Turks were not very successful. To enlist the aid of the French, the British made a gift to her of the Syrian area from the Mediterranean Sea to an undefined distance eastwards. How far was never quite determined because the British were then quite unaware of the existence of oil in this area and the extent of the deposits.

3. The French accepted this gift from England, a gift which England, of course, had no right to give. But such exchanges are commonplace among imperialists who trade nations and their peoples like so much merchandise. It goes without saying that the Arab people and the highly mixed other populations of the country had nothing whatever to say about this gift.

But the French, while ungratefully accepting Syria from the British, did not repay the latter's kindness with the military assistance which they had expected. The only source of support the British did obtain were from the Arabs themselves. Under King Feisal, the Arabs pushed the war against the Turks, helped drive them out of Syria and thus redeemed British military honor. The British repaid Feisal by establishing him on the throne of Syria.

4. France, however, refused to give up this valuable possession and occupied the country despite British discomfort. Culminating the sharp struggle between them, the French drove out King Feisal and began the administration of the country with 90,000 troops. The British did the



next best thing. They made Feisal King of Iraq, which adjoins Syria to the east, and which has great oil deposits.

## MANDATED STATES

From that point on the whole history of the Middle East turned into a conflict between the British and French against each other, and the two of them jointly against Arab desires for independence and a united state of Syria, Iraq and Palestine.

The old League of Nations sought to organize the conflicts by establishing what was then called "A" mandates. "A" mandates gave total recognition to French domination over Iraq and Palestine.

The professed aims of the British and French in Syria and Iraq were "to emancipate them from Turkish oppression, to encourage and assist in the establishment of native governments, 'freely chosen by the populations themselves,' and to recognize these governments." They stated this in the Anglo-French Joint Declaration of November 8, 1918.

Article 22 of the League of Nations Covenant acknowledged that these countries "have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand

alone." These "A" mandates were regarded publicly as "merely transitional protectorates" to help lead the Arab states to full independence.

In the case of Syria, the mandate specifically stipulated that an organic law and constitution should be established "in agreement with the native authorities," and that France shall "enact measures to facilitate the progressive development of Syria and Lebanon as independent states." Britain's mandates over Iraq and Palestine were similarly worded.

## IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE

All this, like the Atlantic Charter, looked very good on paper. But twenty-five years have passed and these countries still do not have their independence. The British and French have done everything in their power to prevent such a development. As against the Arab people they were united. Simultaneously they engaged in severe struggle against each other, a struggle which is marked with intrigue, double-cross, chicanery and hypocrisy.

The French, after driving out Feisal and the native Administrators, governed the country with a ruthlessness comparable to the British in their possessions. To strengthen its rule, the French divided Syria into five units: Lebanon, Damascus, Jebel Druze, Aleppo and Alaouite. This was for the purpose of weakening the

unity of the people in their struggle for independence and to make it easier to defeat them militarily.

From 1920 on, there has been constant warfare between the French and the Syrians, just as between Britain and the peoples she dominates. The more skillful British have been able to overcome their difficulties by bribery and division in the broader areas of the territories they controlled. The French, confined to the small Syrian nation, were unable to overcome united opposition of all the Syrian people. In addition, the British, in an effort to drive the French out of the Middle East and thus leave herself in control over the whole area, have instigated, organized and financed movements against the French.

## STRUGGLE OVER OIL

What makes the British and French determined to maintain their respective control over the Middle East territories is the discovery of rich oil deposits since the last war. It is estimated that there are 213 billion barrels of oil located here. This explains not only Anglo-French interest, but the penetration of the area by the United States as well, and Russia's new interest.

Pipelines from the rich oil areas in Iraq cross the French mandate of Syria and the British mandate of Palestine. The British want to get rid of the French, place a puppet regime in power in Syria similar to the one in Iraq, continue their control over Palestine and thus insure, not her lifeline to India as Churchill falsely maintains, but the oil deposits of Iraq and the whole Middle East.

The United States which has obtained large oil concessions in this area is supporting the British position. While Russia mouths phrases of "colonial independence" and settling the Syrian dispute among the Big Five, she threatens the independence of Iran and also seeks a share of the oil riches of the Middle East. "A wave of oil" has engulfed the Middle East and this is what the inter-imperialist struggle is all about.

The other powers are afraid that French imperialist policy in the Middle East, less subtle than their own, may create the kind of disturbance in this part of the world which could ignite the whole Arab independence movement. That is why the British sent troops into the fighting zones to "keep the peace." But in this dispute, the hypocrisy of the imperialist powers is brought to light. For example, when France was defeated in 1940, the Free French, in an effort to displace the Vichy rulers in Syria and Lebanon, promised independence to the countries. And when the Free French troops, together with the British, occupied the area in 1941, a promise of early independence was made to Syria. France was to be accorded special privileges similar to those held by Britain in Egypt and Iraq.

In 1943, independence was officially promised by treaty.

## BRITISH AIMS IN SYRIA

The French now claim that Syria and Lebanon cannot have independence because the treaty has not been carried out. Syria and Lebanon say they cannot negotiate a final treaty unless they are fully possessed of their sovereignty.

The French charge that the British engineered the present fight to embarrass the French and get them out of the Middle East. The French add that they have as much right to maintain a stronghold in the Middle East to guard their lifeline to Indo-China as the British have to maintain a stronghold in Egypt, Palestine and Iraq to guard their lifeline to India.

The Arab League, a new organization presumably established for the purpose of fighting for Arab independence all over the Middle East and North Africa, and which has intervened in behalf of the Syrians and Lebanese, is really a creation of the British. All its efforts are directed against the Jewish immigration to Palestine and against France. None of its efforts is organized against the British.

The British hypocrisy in this case is in keeping with its imperialist tradition. But this time the United States and Russia chimed in. All of them pretended to be interested in the freedom of the peoples rather than in oil.

## SAN FRANCISCO AND OIL

Britain maintains the same kind of control over Iraq and Egypt as the French over Syria and Lebanon. If we leave out for the moment the conduct of Great Britain in India, where for centuries it has engaged in the most cruel, violent and limitless exploitation of the population, and look only to Iraq and Egypt, we find:

1. Britain "maintains similar unwavering protectorates over 'independent' Iraq and 'independent' Egypt." Yet the British drove the legal Prime Minister of Iraq out of the country. British tanks surrounded the palace of the King of Egypt and forced him to maintain a Prime Minister he did not want. British troops remain in these two countries and there are more British troops in Syria and Lebanon than French.

2. In Greece, the British, by military force, established the government they wanted over the protests of the Greek people.

But if the British this time acted in their own imperialist interests against the French, the two will unite if the Arab struggle for independence envelops the whole Middle East and North Africa. As the well known journalist, Edgar Ansel Mower, put it: "Imperialists will have to stick together to uphold their empires."

The final interesting aspect of this struggle is the complete ineffectiveness of the World Security Organization in San Francisco to have intervened. On the basis of the decisions adopted there, France could have "legally" prevented, by virtue of Big Five veto rights, any intervention by the other powers, either military or economic. Moreover, it could have vetoed any investigations or inquiries. What then could this organization do? Just what happened: intervene by armed force and thus create war or the basis for war.

National independence, freedom of the peoples, the right of self-government, all these are but words in the mouths of the imperialists to fool the people of the world. Economic, political and military interests dominate the course of all the powers. In the case of the Middle East, the rights of the peoples are subordinated to oil imperialism.

# New York Election--

(Continued from page 1)

says he can't run on the same ticket with Democrats turned down by their own party. Morris, a great favorite of La Guardia, feels that he himself ought to be Mayor.

The crowning touch to the whole situation is that many Democratic leaders now want to nominate Goldstein, the "discarded" Democrat, who has already been nominated by the Republicans. You aren't getting confused, are you? All that's needed now is for La Guardia to re-enter the picture dramatically. There are rumors that this will happen.

Search high, search low in these squabbles, nowhere do you find the slightest concern for principles or policies. The bosses of each political organization are for the candidate, no matter what or who he is, who can be elected and who is at the same time ready to take orders from them. Some of them try to cover up a little bit by mouthing meaningless phrases, like "good government," "honest administration," "forward-looking," "progressive-minded ideas."

## REAL ISSUE—REAL PROGRAM

The real issue today in New York, as in the whole country, is jobs. With cutbacks, reconversion and the end of the war in Europe, everything else fades into unimportance compared with the mounting problem of unemployment and how to solve it. Not one peep has been heard from

these capitalist politicians about their plans to solve it. They consider their responsibilities finished when they have claimed, lyingly or not, that their candidates are clean and honest.

So far as platforms go, there's no reason in the wide world, why the Democrats and Republicans and the parties that trail after them shouldn't all have one and the same candidate. They all have exactly the same capitalist offering for the workers—that is, nothing but a bigger and better depression. Of course, the Stalinists of the American Labor Party add one point to this platform: undying loyalty to the needs of Stalin and his bureaucracy.

The Workers Party, by contrast, campaigns now and all year around for a program, a real labor program, based on this central idea: All capitalist parties and governments have been able to achieve full employment and full production only during wartime. Labor must fight for a workers' government, which through planning will assure a decent annual wage in peacetime to all who want to work.

New York workers! By voting for one or another capitalist hack, you succeed in saying nothing at all. You waste your vote. To make yourselves heard all over the country, vote for Max Shachtman and the program of the Workers Party.

# Shachtman Tour

AKRON—Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, addressed an excellent meeting held here under the auspices of the Akron branch, Friday, June 8.

Approximately fifty persons, militant trade unionists and university students, assembled together to hear him speak on "Labor in the Peace."

Comrade Shachtman delivered an exhaustive analysis of the San Francisco Conference. In a clear and decisive manner he outlined the preparations for a Third World War at the Conference, while the Second World War still rages.

The audience showed its enthusiasm and appreciation of the speaker with donations of "folding money" and asked many questions.

The Akron branch looks forward to the further recruitment of members as a result of this stimulating meeting.

To the Editor of Labor Action:

The Streater Labor Action Branch wishes to thank our national secretary, Max Shachtman, for the most inspiring address which he delivered to the members of our branch and LABOR ACTION readers of Streater on the night of June 5. His subject, dealing with European and American post-war problems, was a master stroke. His address was delivered so simply that any schoolboy could have understood him.

We trust that some day he will come to Streater and deliver an address to a thousand workers!

Trusting that our movement will grow from day to day, because it is the only movement that will bring permanent prosperity and happiness to all the peoples of the world.

Fraternally yours,  
J. S. Streater, III.

# Foster and Browder Debate--

(Continued from page 1)

ner and form an independent Labor Party? No, this was not Browder's error. He erred in that he did not "demand that organized labor be admitted into the Roosevelt government on a coalition basis"; Browder did not demand that labor "be given adequate representation in the Roosevelt cabinet."

The Foster group saw this coalition work so beautifully in the War Labor Board, in which labor had representation. They conclude that the Roosevelt cabinet was the next place to try this noble experiment.

Was Browder a "revisionist" because he did not call for the expropriation of the "Sixty Families," the conscription of the war industries, the nationalization of the banks, the big industrial monopolies and transportation systems? These were the demands put forward by the "Trotskyist" Workers Party during the Second Imperialist World War. But this failure was not Browder's "error," according to the Foster faction in Stalin's American party.

## TWEEDLEDEEM-TWEEDLEDEE

Browder's "revision of Marxism-Leninism" was that he failed to "attack the trusts as such." He was very cool to demands inside the leadership that the party should stand firm for the regulation of the big monopolies; not to "give the monopolists a free hand" and not "to leave the people at their mercy."

Browder was only for those "regulations of monopoly practices" to which "the monopolists themselves should agree." Foster could not agree to this. He stood firmly on the foundations of "Marxism-Leninism," the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Power Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Foster group stands solidly with the trust-busters of all the ages. None of the Browder kind of "revisionism" for them. They have their own kind.

The Foster New Order "Marxism-Leninism" discovered that Browder showed a "desire not to offend the big capitalists." "Frankness compels the admission," says Foster, "that Roosevelt, Wallace, Murray and others did a better job at exposing the reactionary content of this big business slogan than Comrade Browder

did." This is the "content" of the Foster-Minor-Hudson line. Roosevelt was more "progressive" than Browder. Roosevelt exposed the reactionaries of big business. Roosevelt was for capitalism and the war and so was Browder (and Foster), but Roosevelt was more progressive in his defense of the war and capitalism. Roosevelt was for incentive pay and so was Browder (and Foster), but Roosevelt was progressive while Browder was in error. Roosevelt demanded a no-strike pledge and so did Browder (and Foster), but Browder was wrong and Roosevelt right.

Foster writes that Browder made an "attempt to exorcise imperialism out of existence." This is the "Marxist-Leninist" Foster of the present factional dispute in the Stalinist ranks. But Foster wrote a pamphlet in 1942 entitled "Labor and the War." In this pamphlet, Foster wrote: "This is a just war; one which the peoples of the world must support with every ounce of their strength. It is a fundamentally different type of war than that of 1914-18, when the struggle was between two rival groups of imperialist power." (Emphasis mine.—D.C.)

And Foster talks about Browder's attempt to "exorcise imperialism."

This is not an imperialist war, said Foster in January, 1942, it is a "great war for national liberation."

## TWEEDLEDEE-TWEEDLEDEUM

What was Browder saying about the war and imperialism in this same year of 1942? In July, 1942, Browder said in a speech, "Victory Must Be Won": "With full faith in the justice of the United Nations cause, as a people's war of national liberation; with full faith that our own true national interests coincide with those of other peoples," etc., etc.

Browder and Foster were saying the identical things in the very same words. And Minor, who now agrees with Foster, was the chairman of the meeting at which Browder made this speech. Minor said in part: "...It is fitting to present a great American who clearly foresaw the crisis in which our beloved country is now fighting for its life.... We welcome back to his place of active leadership a true leader of the great American people, a great American patriot."

Also it should be remarked that up to the time of the "new turn" Minor was one of the staunchest defenders of the war as a "sacred war" and wrote theoretical articles explaining and defending "Browder's line."

To be sure, Foster did not always think and write as he did in 1942. He held a different view in 1941. In that year he wrote in his pamphlet "Socialism" that "The Roosevelt Administration, despite its peace promises, has steadily pushed the United States deeper into the war." He called the lend-lease bill the "war-dictatorship bill." (This is the precise description of the bill used in a streamer headline by the Chicago Tribune.) Foster in 1941 goes on to say that the purpose of the bill "is to set up a military dictatorship in this country and to plunge us fully into the war." Furthermore, "American imperialism—the great capitalist interests and the Roosevelt government, supported by renegade liberals, pro-war Social-Democrats and reactionary trade union leaders—has no less mercenary objective than Britain and Germany in this war."

Was Foster in disagreement with Browder in 1941? He was not. Foster's pamphlet quoted above was written in March, 1941. But in January, 1941, Browder wrote a pamphlet entitled "The Way Out of the Imperialist War." In this pamphlet Browder said: "President Roosevelt has submitted to Congress what is called a 'defense budget'.... It is for defense only in a very special sense that it is a 'defense' of the ambitions of Wall Street, of the 'Sixty Families.'"

In this pamphlet Browder called Roosevelt a demagogue and added that "...America is in the imperialist war for imperialist aims despite all the chatter and prattle about 'liberty' and 'democracy.'" "Monopoly capitalism" was the "real fifth column." And in this pamphlet Browder talks about "Roosevelt's war dictatorship" just as Foster was to repeat two months later in "Socialism."

(Another article on this subject will appear next week)

# UAW Local 719 --

(Continued from page 1)

percent of the jobs in the plant, time off for vacations based on seniority, shift preference based on seniority, local grievance procedure and enforcement of the maintenance of membership clause in the contract.

The company officials either refused outright to negotiate or put on an undisguised stalling act. Something had to be done!

Shift meetings for both day and night shifts were called for Wednesday, June 6, after work. The membership of the local, understanding that the very existence of the union was at stake, poured out to these meetings.

One thousand attended the day shift meeting and over two thousand from the night shift squeezed into every nook and cranny of the meeting hall.

In enthusiastic and militant demonstrations, both meetings unanimously decided to hold a one-day demonstration by staying home from work on Saturday, June 9.

The company anticipated that many people would come to work and that union militants would be out in force to try to stop them. So they called the cops for help. Over forty state policemen were at the gates Saturday morning. What a laugh! Less than two hundred people, in fear of company reprisals, came to work. There was no need for pickets!

The local membership meeting on Sunday, June 10, was the best in the history of the union. Over 3,000 members overflowed the meeting hall and basement hall (where loudspeakers were hooked up).

## PREPARING THE STRUGGLE

The members decided unanimously to increase the local dues \$1.00 per month for an indefinite period, all of the money to go to the local strike fund. The need for such action was imperative and clearly indicated the temper and perspective of the mem-

bership. Nobody even bothered to discuss the no-strike pledge.

A second decision, proposed and pushed by members of the Progressive Group, was to demand of the International Executive Board of the UAW that a national conference of all GM locals be convened immediately to decide on joint action against the corporation to increase wages—to keep take-home pay up while hours of work are decreased. Copies of this decision are to be forwarded to all GM locals asking that similar action be taken, and a committee of four was elected to contact the Bulck Local (No. 6) to join with 719 in this demand.

This article would not be complete without a word about the sudden change in the attitude and action of the Communist Party element in the local. Previously these people, who supported the no-strike pledge and any other measure that would hedge the labor movement in its fight for better conditions, would have opposed such measures as were taken by the membership with every trick in their closet. But today, since Stalin has seen fit to change the policy of the American Communist Party, the CP elements were completely in support of the work stoppage. Yes, Stalin's yes-men have changed. But many of the workers understand that they are not to be trusted. Tomorrow Stalin might get what he wants in the Far East from the American State Department or some other change might take place in Russia's needs and, presto, the line will change again. And with it the policy of the Communists in the unions.

One thing is clear. Militant ACTION for the needs of the workers in the shops can get results. A duplication of the action of the Electro-Motive workers on a national scale by all GM workers would do a thousand times more good than all the pious, syrupy phrases dished out by our international leaders.

# Price Control--

price controls on (1) all woolen and cotton garments; (2) all shoes and other items made from cattle and hog hides; (3) every article of food that appears on the consumer's table!

In short, the Thomas amendment is a one-way ticket to prices workers can hardly afford to pay. If meat, butter, eggs and canned goods have been few and far between until now, we can shortly kiss them goodbye entirely. And all those new clothes we've been needing—sorry!

Price control in wartime, when every profiteer is out to do his damndest, is absolutely necessary. Price control after the war, when layoffs and cutbacks will have taken most of the jingle out of pay envelopes, is equally necessary. But it is easy to see that price controls like those we have now won't be particularly effective in keeping prices down.

Based on government guarantees that every capitalist and exploiter make his "just" profits, they are designed to keep prices UP rather than within the limits workers' pay envelopes can cover.

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