

LABOR ACTION

Don't Forget October 28 Election Dance

DOWN-BEAT BAND — WITCHES ON BROOMSTICKS
TURKEY IN THE STRAW — FOOD AND FUN
OPERETTA: "ON TO CITY HALL"
PROCEEDS TO SHACHTMAN FOR MAYOR FUND

SUNDAY NIGHT, CARAVAN HALL, 110 EAST 59th STREET
Auspices Workers Party Election Campaign Committee

OCTOBER 8, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

New York Municipal Merry-Go-Round

By Straphanger

Let it not be said that the capitalist candidates for Mayor are totally insensitive to the moods and needs of New York working-people. Some particularly astute political adviser of Judge Jonah Goldstein has whispered to the Republican-Fusion-Liberal candidate that, while of course New Yorkers are simply panting about the needs of "good government" in the city, there is some mild interest also in the problem of jobs. (Particularly among the growing thousands of unemployed.)

GOLDSTEIN'S PLATFORM

What Goldstein wants is "jobs, more jobs, steady jobs, well-paid jobs." This aim he intends to accomplish by the following:

1. Helping local business and attracting new business to the city.
2. Aiding labor and management to maintain industrial peace by setting up a Commissioner of Industry and Labor, whose job it will be to check up on labor and management agreements so that "problems can be acted on long before they reach the crisis stage."
3. Co-operation with all efforts of federal and state governments to secure full employment, high wages and expanded social security.
4. Aiding veterans by helping them to business and educational opportunities through enlisting the efforts of civilians who worked on the home front, including local draft and ration boards.
5. Gearing the public works program to the time, expanding when private industry is slack and curtailing construction when business is booming.
6. Fighting discrimination in employment "as part of our total war against all forms of discrimination and racial and religious hatreds."

The Liberal-Fusion candidates want to attract new business to the city. How? Many southern cities have found it possible to attract business by promising cheap wages. Does Judge Goldstein mean to use this method? Does he want to attract business by reducing real estate taxes and increasing sales taxes? Perhaps it is to be done by sheer animal magnetism on the part of the charming would-be mayor. HOW?

Wartime agencies such as the WLB, the National Mediation Board, busy-bodies from federal and state labor departments have amply shown themselves incapable of solving any of labor's disputes, except by undermining union positions and standards. This kind of wish for "industrial peace" leaves open the door for compulsory arbitration and other equally unfavorable substitutes for real collective bargaining. Labor doesn't want an industrial peace that is the peace of the grave for labor's demands.

WORKERS PARTY PROGRAM

The Judge has constantly stressed the fact that this is a municipal campaign. LABOR ACTION has pointed out, time and time again, that the job problem for New York cannot be solved without an extensive and nationwide program for jobs for all. Contrast with Goldstein's program the Workers Party CONCRETE plank for a job for everyone at a guaranteed annual wage, to be paid for by taxing industrial profits.

Naturally a public works program is essential in any jobs program. But the Workers Party doesn't call for a make-shift, make-work program to be abandoned any time the industrial indices shift a fraction of a decimal. We stand for a \$250 billion, well-planned national housing and public works program, of which New York would be allotted a total of approximately 12½ billions over five years. Such a program would not only provide jobs but would really clear the slums and make the city a fit place to live in.

Veterans and their wives who have had anything to do with the local draft and rationing boards must surely shudder at the thought of these ineffectual and inefficient bodies "aiding" the veterans to establish themselves: The Workers Party says: "Two years base pay grant to all demobilized veterans with the option of trade school and higher educational facilities at government expense, guarantee of adequate family maintenance and guarantee of decent jobs."

New York labor: Don't waste your vote. Vote for a real program for the working people. VOTE FOR SHACHTMAN.

Max Shachtman Only Candidate With Real Program For Labor!

Harlem and Bilbo's Party

By F. FOREST

Harlem is aroused, and rightly so, over the Bilboization of Congress. What the Negro press, however, does not realize is that Bilbo's invidious attacks against the Negro, the Italian, the Jew and other minority attacks are not merely the ravings of one madman from Mississippi. Bilbo, as a member of the Democratic Party from the prejudice-ridden South, has a voice and an influence not only in Mississippi but in New York. He is a member of the same party that is seeking to foist William O'Dwyer onto the people of New York.

Bilbo is a member of the same party—this bigot from the "Solid South"—as the most liberal Henry (The Common Man) Wallace, who has thrown his support to the Tammany-supported O'Dwyer.

The fight against Bilbo cannot succeed by putting into power the party which he represents. That crucial point is conveniently forgotten by the Negro press, from the staid Amsterdam News to the "very radical" People's Voice. That point, however, is the issue in the mayoralty campaign now facing New York.

WALLACE'S BLESSING

Recently Wallace caused a stir in the camp of mayoralty aspirants by coming out for the support of Tammany's Bill O'Dwyer on the supposed ground that had that "friend of labor" and "champion of



Backs Tammany minority groups" Franklin Delano Roosevelt, lived, his support would have gone to O'Dwyer. Of that we have no doubt. The man who forced the wage-freeze on labor, knifed the March on Washington Movement and was Conrander-in-Chief of the Jim Crow armed

forces would doubtless have been, much more interested in jobs for well-heeled politicians of Bilbo's party than in sixty million jobs for the masses.

Nevertheless, the myth of Roosevelt as a "friend of labor" is so persistent that the Liberal Party (not to mention the vociferous La Guardia of the silent No Deal Party) immediately challenged Wallace's support as based on an unwarranted assumption. For, you see, Judge Jonah Goldstein also was a Democrat and supporter of Roosevelt and, of course, a "good government man" as contrasted to a machine politician from graft-reeking Tammany Hall.

DEMOCRAT OR EX-DEMOCRAT

New York is presented with the ludicrous choice of voting for a Democrat or an ex-Democrat. As if that weren't damning enough, the labor politicians in the American Labor Party and the Liberal Party have no garment they can call their own, but must hide behind Tammany Hall and Hoover's party—that is, the two old, familiar and infamous capitalist parties which brought New York's workers unemployment, slums and imperialist war.

Harlem is especially familiar with these "good government men." During the depression fully fifty per cent of Harlem was on the slow-starvation diet of the relief rolls. La Guardia, self-styled "champion of the people," not only did nothing to relieve the situation, but he suppressed even the findings of his own commission to investigate the 1935 riots in Harlem. They remain secret to this day.

Again it was La Guardia who, when the war did bring some employment, accomplished precious little in eliminating the slums of Harlem and the ghetto conditions of this fair city where seven and a half million people

are supposed "to enjoy the benefits of democracy." He did nothing to ameliorate the conditions which brought about the 1943 Harlem riots. Yes, the Negro workers know his deal well enough.

They booed him on that momentous night in 1943 and their failure on November 7, 1945, to vote for his No Deal Party will show him plainly enough that they have not changed their opinion of him.

Until 1932 the Negro masses, where they did vote, voted for the Republican Party. When they broke with the fake "two chickens in every pot" Hoover, they, along with white labor, lined up behind the Democratic Party, which promised them a "New Deal."

NEW DEAL JIM CROW

However, the Jim Crow policy in the armed forces has been convincing more and more of the Negroes that the "New Deal" Party is only dishing out the same old raw deal of discrimination and segregation to them. A new trend away from both the old capitalist parties was shown in 1941, when many Negroes signed the Workers Party petition to put Max Shachtman on the ballot on an anti-war plank.

Today, with the end of the imperialist war and the realization that once again the Negro is subject to the old rule of being the last to be hired and the first to be fired, the most advanced Negro workers are looking for a way out. Hundreds of these are buying the Workers Party pamphlet, "How to Get Jobs for All," on the streets of Harlem.

These hundreds are spreading the message of the Workers Party platform of jobs for all, for a \$50 minimum weekly salary, for \$50 billion-a-year construction program, against all discrimination. Greater numbers are realizing that a vote for Shachtman is a vote for the only program to secure full employment, and security and equality through socialism.

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Cop to Mayoralty Candidate

By OLIVER VAUGHN

When William O'Dwyer went down in defeat in the 1941 mayoralty election he announced to reporters, with a grin: "I've still got a job. That's a great advantage."

This year, running again as Tammany's candidate for Mayor of New York City, he may well be able to make the same quip in case of defeat. Rumor has it that Hollywood has a big-money, big-name job waiting for him after he pays his political obligations by making the race for the Democratic Party that has brought him along since the early days of walking a police beat on the Brooklyn waterfront.

O'DWYER'S RECORD

To look at O'Dwyer's job record is to see in outline his political record. 1917—police force; 1932—New York City magistrate; 1938—appointed county court judge in Brooklyn by Governor Lehman; 1939—district attorney of Brooklyn; 1941—Tammany's candidate for Mayor. A familiar pattern, almost classic in its simplicity.

An immigrant from Ireland and a former student of the Jesuit University of Salamanca, Spain, while on the police force he studied law at Fordham. When he became Brooklyn's district attorney, O'Dwyer took a leaf from Dewey's book and turned gang-buster, breaking up the well-publicized Murder, Inc. gang of hoodlums and strong-arm boys.

Like most well-schooled machine politicians, O'Dwyer avoids serious questions likely to cause controversy. But in 1939 he let his convictions run away with him and came out in support of Franco, who in Spain was mercilessly slaughtering working class militants by the hundreds of thousands.

This year O'Dwyer and his backers are quite confident of victory. La Guardia, his opponent four years ago, is not running, and the American Labor Party, the decisive factor in La Guardia's victory, this year is safely lined up with Tammany. The old tiger is already licking its chops over the political spoils in view. For

Tammany is always interested in jobs—if not jobs for all, at least jobs for the faithful.

Four years ago O'Dwyer cried "Communist!" when La Guardia obtained the support of the American Labor Party, but this year he frowns and mutters "Intolerance!" when anyone mentions that that organization is Communist-dominated. He and Tammany are willing to "tolerate Communists" as long as they vote the right way.

For if O'Dwyer learned anything from his defeat in the last campaign, it was the importance of organized labor's vote. Tammany has long been adept at playing upon the prejudices of the Irish, the Italians, the Jews, the Negroes—the many sections of New York City's vast population, whose real interest is to unite. The labor vote cuts straight across these racial and national lines, so dear to the ward-heeler, and puts in danger the old-style political machine.

ALP'S SUPPORT

In New York City the politically conscious worker has long since left the direct leadership of the two old parties. For his vote it has become necessary to set a snare—usually the American Labor Party. Through that apparatus the worker who is no longer willing to enroll in the Republican or Democratic Party finds himself voting for either the Republican or Democratic candidate—but on another line of the voting machine.

This scheme, which long helped keep La Guardia in office, became a keystone in O'Dwyer's strategy for the coming election. Not only has the ALP a functioning vote-getting machine, but through its connections with the CIO's Political Action Committee many potent unions are being tied to Tammany's chariot.

This year the ALP has a competitor in the sorry task of lining up labor's vote for capitalist politicians—the Liberal Party. This right-wing offshoot of the ALP is bringing its flock to the polls to vote for the Republican candidate, Judge Goldstein.

LABOR NEEDS ITS OWN PARTY!

LABOR NEEDS CANDIDATES FULLY RESPONSIBLE TO LABOR!

That is what MAX SHACHTMAN, candidate of the WORKERS PARTY, stands for in this election.

A vote for Shachtman is a declaration of labor's political independence. It is a vote in favor of the formation of an independent Labor Party.

New York workers, you can show the way to the labor movement of the whole country.

DON'T WASTE YOUR VOTE THIS TIME!

VOTE FOR SHACHTMAN!

By RUTH PHILLIPS

The election campaign for Mayor of New York presents the curious spectacle of two so-called labor parties placing in nomination the same candidates as those of the capitalists. The American Labor Party has given its support to O'Dwyer of the Democratic Party, the same O'Dwyer whom in 1941 it correctly described as a Tammany stooge. The Liberal Party has given its support to another Tammany man who has now been adopted by the Dewey Republican machine, Judge Jonah Goldstein.

In the mayoralty election of 1941 these two groups, then still united in the American Labor Party were instrumental in re-electing La Guardia, whose affection for labor has been well illustrated by his tricky attempts to raise the five-cent fare as a gift to the bankers and real estate interests, his refusal to bargain collectively with low-paid city employees and his attempts to break the firemen's union. More recently he has been demonstrating his friendship for labor by his strike-breaking activities in the building service employees' strike.

It was undoubtedly a gray day at

the headquarters of the American Labor Party when La Guardia lipped out the news that he would not run for re-election. They and the Liberals began a frantic search for some new "friends of labor" to support. After much horse-trading and dirty political dealing, they came up with their respective prizes, O'Dwyer and Goldstein. Each of these "labor" parties is now warning the people of New York to save their city from the clutches of that reactionary O'Dwyer... or that reactionary Goldstein and to vote for that friend of labor Goldstein... or that friend of labor O'Dwyer.

The working people of New York can get off this merry-go-round by soundly repudiating both of these parties, which have nothing in common with a genuine Labor Party. The ALP, as everyone knows, is the so-called Communist (Stalinist) Party in a cleaner-looking dress. This creature of the Stalinist totalitarians would gladly ask New York workers to vote for the devil himself if it were in any way useful to Stalin.

As for the Liberal Party, it is a collection of middle-headed college professors, dried-up "socialists" and

some trade union leaders who have yet to learn the facts of life about the society we live in.

These two parties serve only to confuse the issues in the New York election campaign. Every one who works for his living knows that the crucial question which overshadows all other issues, is job security and the guarantee of a living wage for every worker and his family. To solve this vital problem the labor movement must take bold steps.

The unions can go part of the way toward achieving job security by carrying on an economic fight for the thirty-hour work week and an increase in wages. But jobs for all can be insured only as the result of a scientific national plan for full peacetime production. This is a job for the national, state and city governments of the country.

The present government could and did institute a national plan for full production for war. It cannot and will not institute a plan for full production for peace. Any such plan, if it is realistic, must strike at the profits of big business. Any plan which will bring job security means nationalization of the big factories,

By WALTER WEISS

There was a minor miracle in New York's mayoralty campaign last week. Judge Jonah J. Goldstein, Republican-Liberal candidate, actually opened his mouth about something really important, the strike of building service workers, which was then still in progress.

To the best of our knowledge, that other great "friend of labor," William O'Dwyer, Democratic-American Labor Party candidate, remained quite unaware of the fact that there was a strike. His publicity agents kept assuring New York workers that Tammany's candidate, if elected, wouldn't tolerate under-world elements in the city.

Returning to Goldstein, we are forced to report that he didn't intend to speak about the strike. The speech which he had prepared and handed in advance to the press contained not a word about it but merely offered the usual platitudes about the nobility of labor.

"Labor is one of our most constructive and progressive forces," said this prepared speech. "It is entitled to fair treatment and will get it when I am Mayor."

Then he promised his Liberal Party supporters, at whose Madison Square Garden rally he was orating, that he would set up a Commissioner of Industry and Labor to act on labor-management problems "long before they reach the crisis stage."

At this point, perhaps excited by his own eloquence, the Judge departed from his prepared text and shouted that under his administration no such situation as the building service strike would ever have a chance to develop!

If the workers of New York had to choose between O'Dwyer's determined silence during labor's struggles for a half-way decent living and Goldstein's idiotic rantings, they might as well not vote at all on election day.

In the present election, however, there is another choice. Max Shachtman, candidate of the Workers Party, who has devoted his whole life to the labor and socialist movements, is neither silent during strikes nor does he make stupid and lying statements about them.

The Shachtman-for-Mayor Committee has issued the following statement in reply to Goldstein's speech: Under the capitalist system of production for profit, "industrial peace" is impossible unless the workers tamely yield to the employers. Labor must and will wage a constant struggle for a living wage and security and then for plenty for all the people.

During the elevator and building strike the workers, badly underpaid though they clearly are, had to fight not only the rich realty interests but the "government." In fact, they had to fight the government on THREE different levels.

First, there was the national government, controlled by O'Dwyer's Democratic Party, whose regional War Labor Board issued an outrageous wage decision.

Secondly, there was the "non-partisan" city government of La Guardia, who was elected by the votes of the Republicans and the American Labor Party. La Guardia advised the workers to rely on the treacherous

WLB to review their case, used his high position and the city's radio station in efforts (futile efforts) to split labor's solidarity, and openly threatened large-scale strikebreaking in case the strike were extended to apartment houses.

In the third place, there was the Republican state administration of Governor Dewey, who is backing Goldstein for Mayor. Dewey demanded arbitration—which will probably result in some compromise settlement, in spite of the fact that the union's full demands do not amount to a living wage—and he dictatorially declared that he would see to it that there was arbitration. What right he has to limit labor's strike action in this way he did not say.

What the workers need is a truly independent Labor Party, putting up its own candidates, who will be responsible to labor and not just "friends." Democratic and Republican candidates claim to be impartial, to represent "everybody." In fact, they want votes from "everybody," but represent only the capitalists. An independent Labor Party, casting aside all such disgusting hypocrisy, need not pretend to represent equally the handful of capitalists and the millions of workers. It should openly defend the interests of the vast majority of the people.

Is there any reason why the prestige of the Mayor's office and the voice of the city's radio station could not be used to promote the cause of labor and to further workers' solidarity?

Is there any reason why the Mayor could not rally and lead the working people of this city in their struggles against not only the employers but also against the state and national governments, if these were still controlled by capitalist politicians who tried to create obstacles for the city's labor movement and labor government?

If the present and past city governments have done none of these things, it is because labor has been playing capitalist politics. Labor has the necessary numbers. Let labor organize to take the power of government, to which it is fully entitled.

These are the ideas for which the Workers Party and Max Shachtman stand in the coming city election.

A vote for Shachtman is a vote for independent political action by labor.

A vote for O'Dwyer or Goldstein is a wasted vote. It is, in fact, worse than a wasted vote, because it is a vote to continue capitalist strikebreakers in control of the government.

Don't waste your vote! Don't vote against yourself!

Vote for Max Shachtman, candidate of the Workers Party, for Mayor!

New York Workers Need a Real Labor Party

A Labor Party, solidly based on the millions in the trade unions, fortified with a program which answers the needs of the American people, will find support from all who suffer at the hands of the monopolists. The small shopkeepers, harassed by the chain stores, the small farmers who are plagued by the banks, the youth of the country who will be locked out of industry as unemployment deepens—these and others will rally to an independent Labor Party.

New York workers can become trail-blazers in building a Labor Party. Through the November elections in New York they can express their determination to build a genuine party of labor which will fight for job security. The Workers Party asks the workers of New York to fight with it for the creation of a Labor Party. It asks your vote for its candidate and its program.

A vote for O'Dwyer on the Democratic or ALP line, a vote for Goldstein on the Republican or Liberal line is a wasted vote. It is a vote for insecurity, it is a vote for Wall Street.

Don't waste your vote! Vote for Max Shachtman!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Reading USA-CIO for Labor Party

READING, Pa.—At one of its best attended meetings, held on September 14, Local 2715, USA-CIO, went on record in favor of the formation of an Independent Labor Party.

That many workers are beginning to follow the program of LABOR ACTION is the greatest honor to the paper. It is a sure indication the working class is beginning to seize upon a real, fighting program, both economic and political, for the labor movement.

gram as it advocates. We believe it is the foremost need of the working class.

Troilo and his ilk, and their masters who pull the strings, have every reason to hate LABOR ACTION. They stand for subservience to the capitalist politicians and their government.

stand for begging the "good" politicians for economic favors. LABOR ACTION stands for militant class struggle activity and the independence of the union movement.

This is one of the two main immediate tasks that the progressive and militant workers of Local 2715 face. Troilo's methods, ideas and program are supported by no one.

The second main task of the progressives is to assure that the local's Labor Party resolution becomes meaningful. This requires that they push with the greatest vigor the all-around campaign to popularize the local's position among its own members and the trade union movement.

No. 2715 USA-CIO Resolution

Whereas, labor organized fifteen million strong is entering the political arena on an ever-wider scale because of the pressing political problems, and

Whereas, the labor movement does not have its own party and is forced to rely on the corporation controlled Democratic and Republican Parties for political expression, and

Whereas, company unionism on the political field results in a complete disregard of labor's problems during reconversion and the post-war period, which finds labor without a single labor representative in Congress, and

Whereas, the magnificent electoral victory of the British Labor Party proves that labor can organize politically to run the country,

Therefore be it resolved that Buick Local 599, UAW-CIO, go on record in favor of the formation of a Labor Party, and be it further

Resolved, that Buick Local 599 submit a resolution to the coming tenth international convention of the UAW-CIO calling upon this powerful body of the labor movement to issue a call for a national conference of all labor organizations—AFL, CIO, Railroad Brotherhoods and independent unions—for the purpose of organizing a national Labor Party, and be it finally

Resolved, that this resolution be mailed to all locals of the UAW, officers of the UAW and to the Resolutions Committee of the forthcoming convention of the UAW-CIO—Local 599 Headlight, Buick Local, Flint, Mich., September 18.

At this same meeting the militant temper of the workers in this local was shown in the overwhelming defeat of the leading reactionary spokesman, R. Troilo, in his attempt to "get" the members of the Educational Committee. Troilo directed his unreasoned spleen against the newly published, hard hitting Union News of Local 2715, which the Educational Committee is in charge of editing.

But this political degenerate played to an unappreciative house. His performance was enacted to the accompanying chant of "Throw him out, Throw him out." The motion to set up a censorship over the Educational Committee was defeated decisively. After this, he had no more fight, even to speak against the Labor Party resolution.

Motion Picture Strike Analyzed

By HAL DRAPER

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 22—The Hollywood strike of 14 trade unions working in the motion picture studios, which spread to include picketing of theatres in Los Angeles, and is now spreading to eastern cities, deserves not only the support of all union men in the country but also merits closer attention.

Although the trade unions involved are all AFL, the CIO has come out in support of them and has been aiding in the picketing. This alone would make it outstanding as an example of inter-federation unity.

The press here (including the "liberal" Daily News, which pretends to be pro-labor when its advertising revenue is not involved), has been representing the strike to the public as a jurisdictional dispute between AFL unions engaged in a hair-pulling match. This is the script as written by the producers themselves.

There is as much pure fakery in this as in the recently released film biography glorifying "Captain Eddie" Rickenbacker, labor-hater No. 1.

In the first place, the IATSE (behind which the producers are hiding) is a leading contender for the title of the most corrupt union in the country. It happens to be the union in which the notorious Browne and Bloff (now in jail) ran their racket.

The present head of the IATSE, a character named Walsh, was a member of Bloff's executive board. Cappy Duval, a strong-arm man sent in at that time by Bloff to collect the 2 per cent, is still around as Walsh's henchman in Local 44. It is this IATSE

which is now being used by the producers to break the strike and forestall real collective bargaining. The original impetus to the strike was thus the desire of the studio workers to gain real union representation, democratic unions of their own, and a house-cleaning of the producer-sponsored gangsterism in the movie industry.

That was the set-up: the producers stake out the IATSE, and then Westbrook Pegler goes to work to smear the whole union movement with the Bioffs and Walshes.

The initiative in this movement was taken by Local 1421, the Set Designers and Decorators, affiliated with the Brotherhood of Painters. The others of the 14 cooperating unions are not technically on strike, but are observing the picket lines. The strike started back on March 12 with the

360 members of Local 1421. It now involves 7,000 workers in the Hollywood unions. And although it has been going on for six months, it has not weakened but gained in strength. The men and officers of Local 1421 deserve a round of applause for the record. Special credit goes to Herbert Sorrell, dynamic business agent of the Painters, and Frank Drdlik, president of Local 1421.

GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS

The studio workers have found out what the Washington run-around means. Way back in February, a WLB arbitrator's award, favorable to the unions now on strike, was rejected by the producers and just ignored. It was their refusal to abide by the ruling that brought on the strike action, in an immediate sense.

Way back in May, an NLRB elec-

tion was held to settle the "jurisdictional" angle. But before this election took place, the producers had declared many of the strikers fired, in direct violation of the law. Their jobs were given to "replacements"—otherwise known as scabs. These scabs were allowed to vote in the NLRB election. Even so, the results of the election have STILL not been made known, at this time of writing! They are promising the news "any day now," now that the strike has not been killed but is extending.

The firing of the strikers has made the struggle in reality a lockout. The studio workers have also been treated to a liberal education in strike-breaking tactics of the dirtiest variety by the associated producers working hand-in-glove with the police. The nine million dollars appropriated by the Motion Picture Producers Association to break the strike is reaching the end, as a matter of fact. Samuel Goldwyn and MGM applied for and got injunctions to limit the number of picketers; but these injunctions, obligingly handed down by judges who know which side their bread is buttered on, have been cleverly and legally sidestepped by the unions.

THE COPS

The producers have hired cops from all over southern California, to do "guard duty" for them on their days off—at \$3.50 an hour. Any fights provoked at the studio gates find these officers of the Law earning their pay by swearing to the "right" evidence. Three to four hundred police are thus being used—while a crime wave is running rampant and the police department means that it is undermanned. Still there were no less than six police on hand at one spot on Hollywood Boulevard to arrest a lone picketer who was provoked to step off the curb to hand a leaflet to an "innocent gentleman in an automobile," such action off the sidewalk being against the law.

Meanwhile, while this fight has been going on, the great "friends of labor" among the Hollywood stars have so far distinguished themselves by walking through all the studio picket lines in sight. The various "big names" who come to speak at Stalinist-sponsored rallies every now and then are included, only exceptions being individuals not working on any picture and therefore uninhibited.

Who Won the War in Steel

The Boss

Profits after taxes rose 113 per cent, from \$576,000,000 to \$1,225,000,000.

Total assets rose 22 per cent, 4,860,000,000 at the beginning of 1940 to almost \$6,000,000,000 by the first of 1945.

Dividend payments rose 82 per cent, from \$419,000,000 to \$765,000,000.

Net current assets (working capital) between January, 1940, and January, 1945, rose 68 per cent, from \$1,200,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000.

General reserves rose 288 per cent, from \$103,000,000 at the start of 1940 to \$395,000,000 by the first of 1945.

Undistributed profits rose 81 per cent, from \$585,000,000 at the start of 1940 to \$1,000,000,000 five war years later.

Total financial resources (excluding statutory and potential tax refunds) rose 131 per cent in five war years, from \$689,000,000 to \$1,600,000,000.

Funded debt, decreased 28 per cent, from \$903,000,000 to \$652,000,000.

The excess of net current assets over funded debt in five war years rose 353 per cent, from \$308,000,000 to \$1,393,000,000.

The industry earned over \$2,000,000,000 in open and concealed profits in the five war years.

Open profits acknowledged in 1944 were \$190,366,000, and concealed profits in 1944 were \$271,165,000, making a total of \$461,531,000 in actual profits after the payment of all taxes.

Tax refunds amounting to \$149,000,000, or 29 per cent more than peacetime profits can be collected by the steel industry in 1946 if it breaks even.

Profits for 1945 continue high. As this study goes to the printer the steel companies report greater profits in the first half of 1945 as compared to the first six months of last year.—(From "Five Years of War Profits," United Steel Worker's research department.)

THE WINNER—\$\$\$\$\$

The Worker

America's 475,000 steel workers, in five years of war, have accumulated not more than a total of \$285,000,000 in savings or \$600 a worker.

THE LOSER—when will he wate up?

Doublecross in Chicago UAW

CHICAGO—Joseph Matson, Regional Director of the United Auto Workers, has just been caught by his own supporters of the "Liberal Auto Workers" caucus in a scandalous, scheming deal with the Stalinists. He has stabbed these naive supporters in the back and absolutely wrecked this caucus, whose only political plank was anti-Stalinism.

The terms of this deal seem to be that Matson's UAW machine, as the balance of power in the Chicago CIO Council, will deliver that body over to the Stalinists, provided that they support him in his present high office within the UAW. There are, no doubt, other details to this horse-trade which have yet to see the light of day, such as the outcome of the UAW's raid on the Stalinist-controlled Farm Equipment Union.

The Liberal Auto Workers' Caucus, under leadership of Matson's organizers, was formed a year ago of an odd assortment of progressives and reactionaries. But on the one issue of anti-Stalinism, most of them were very sincere. Many of them were real progressives who believe in democracy in the union and who abhor behind-the-scenes deals.

At a recent meeting called to consider nominations for the Chicago CIO Council, it was only with great difficulty that Matson sold the first instalment of his deal. Hitherto an anti-Stalinist himself, Matson proposed to join with the Stalinists to replace Michael Mann as Executive Secretary of the Council. Mann, the vigorous anti-Stalinist, would be replaced by an auto worker, Cellini, also hitherto an anti-Stalinist.

This the caucus finally agreed to, as a plan to build the UAW, without actually putting the Stalinists into office. Matson was able to get

the endorsement of the group for this scheme, in spite of some opposition, when it was agreed that the deal involved only the one post of Executive Secretary of the CIO Council.

However, when the voting came, Matson got up in the Council and nominated a Stalinist who was running for some minor office against the very secretary of his Liberal Auto Workers! Furthermore, he and his UAW voted down the line for the whole Stalinist slate, including a member of the Farm Equipment Union, which the UAW is supposed to be raiding, with Matson in charge of the raid!

This was too much for a sizeable number of the UAW delegates. Amid much raging and gnashing of teeth, 14,000 UAW votes were cast against the Stalinist-Matson slate, while Matson was able to deliver 26,000 votes

Until recently, Matson and the UAW were counted among his ardent supporters against the Stalinists, who have been moving strongly for a year to unseat him. The battle raged so bitterly upon the Council floor that meetings either broke up in chaos or lasted till 2:00 A.M. with a deadlock. Sometimes the vote was as close as 90 to 90.

STALINIST TRICKS

When the Stalinists realized that they could not rule by a fair majority, they would block all proceedings by boisterous conduct, until finally last spring the national CIO and John Brophy moved in and suspended election of new council officers in an effort to "clear things up."

The key to Matson's switching horses lies in the fact that the Stalinists are so strong both in the Chicago CIO as a whole and in Matson's own region of the UAW especially since the big war plants with anti-Stalinist locals have been shut down. He is afraid of the Stalinists and thinks he has to deal with them in order to save his own skin.

This explanation, however, offers no excuse for his deals, nor for the slimy way in which they were executed. Nor does it mean that Matson is really safe as a prisoner of the Stalinists. They will use him while they can, and then kick him overboard later.

In fact, part of the deal may backfire at once. Last week's vote was inconclusive and elections will proceed at a later date, with a strong possibility that the Stalinist candidates may yet be defeated in spite of Matson. One reason for this is the fact that he could not completely deliver his own UAW.

Matson's scummy trick should serve as a lesson on the role and reliability of union bureaucrats. It should spur on the honest and decent members of the Chicago UAW to build the third caucus—the National Rank and File group which already exists in Detroit and many other cities. Only by organizing on a militant program, opposing any and all sell-outs of our rights can the workers get good leadership and build a good union.

Be Sure to Register In order to Vote for MAX SHACHTMAN October 8 to October 13

to the Stalinists. All UAW paid organizers went along with Matson, except Wesley Thompson, a Negro, who put his principles above his job.

The bloc splitting from Matson could have been larger if they had known in advance what was coming and had time to prepare. But that was part of his scheme—to spring suddenly and catch them off guard.

The background of this affair is a long and bitter struggle for control of the Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council. This body has been led by Mann of the United Retail and Wholesale Workers. As its Executive Secretary, he has proved to be a capable and honest leader.

Meaning of the Race Riots--

(Continued from page 1)

pay super-rents for their firetraps and ratholes. Whenever the Negroes have tried to get away from their ghettos the real estate has organized the tenants in the new areas on the basis of prejudice and bigotry.

For the Negro it is a hopeless situation. During the war a still more hopeless situation arose. Tens of thousands of Negroes poured into the Northern war cities to work in war industries and to escape from the slavery of the South. But there was no place for them to live except in the already over-congested Negro neighborhoods.

Housing is probably one of the most acute causes of the outbreak. The entire system of landlordism, "free enterprise" as it is so fondly referred to, is responsible. An immediate government housing program of billions is urgently required.

But much more than housing is involved. The student strikes are part of the campaign to smash labor! They are part of the campaign that the monopolists are involved in to smash the unions! What easier way than to get Negro and white workers, who work in the same plants, to hate each other and to distrust each other?

Once that is accomplished, their battle is won, and they know it. Take Gary, Ind., where the first of these strikes broke out. Gary is a

steel town. It was set up forty years ago by Judge Gary, then head of the United States Steel Corp. It is exclusively a steel town. It is a part of one of the largest steel areas in the country, beginning with South Chicago and taking in much of northern Indiana.

Gary was set up as a segregated town, as Jim Crow as a town in the South. Steel is at best a back-breaking industry, and Negroes were brought up from the South to do much of the dirty work. The United States Steel Corp. at various times has also imported Mexicans and East Indians.

At the present time it is estimated that Gary has proportionately the largest Negro population of any city north of the Mason-Dixon line.

There are over 6,000 Negroes working in the steel mills in Gary. U. S. Steel is completely organized in Gary. The union is now in the process of negotiating a contract with the company. If the company can drive a wedge between Negro and white members of the same union, they hope that they will be able to smash the union. This is behind the high school riots in Gary.

Suspicious characters lurk in the background of the Gary situation. Some, in the days before the war, appeared at meetings of the German Bund and openly supported native American fascist movements. One of the leaders has been identified, a certain Joseph Dansch. Here is the payoff on Dansch: He is a prominent member of the Democratic Party and is an appointed job-holder in the city

administration, which is Democratic! There are a number of reasons why the first manifestations of race riots after the war broke out among high school students.

There was the governmental Jim Crow in the Army and the successful drive to eliminate even the woefully inadequate FEPC.

There were the wartime riots against Negroes in Detroit and against the Mexican minorities in California and the Southwest.

There was the dislocation of family life brought about through the war and migrations of war workers. There is the decrepit state of education in all of the cities, the inadequacy of school facilities, shortage of competent teachers and a never-ending barrage on the part of socially backward reactionaries against the theories of progressive education.

And there is the certainty that the present high school generation will become a new locked-out generation.

All this is breeding discontent among American youth, and the Negro is providing the usual scapegoat.

The progressive labor movement must be on guard against all movements toward segregation, for it can only mean a weakening of unionism. Labor must adopt a program that will provide for decent housing and decent educational provisions, and fight for it.

Labor must adopt a real program of jobs for all, so that this will not be another locked-out generation.

One such generation in a lifetime is enough!

Chicago UAW--

(Continued from page 1)

vote, the appropriation of a \$1,000-a-month assessment for the strike fund and the last membership meeting to

- 1. Elect a representative strike committee;
2. Designate picket captains and assign regular picket duty;
3. Have a tent ready as strike headquarters on the union property across from the plant;
4. Get a sound truck;
5. Publish a strike bulletin.

A rank and file Strike Committee must be elected to organize the strike. Electro-Motive workers must stick together.

Let Local 719 be one of the first locals to restore genuine collective bargaining.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933 OF LABOR ACTION, published weekly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1945.

Buffalo Readers Don't miss our first big Autumn Party to be held SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 Good time headquarters for the evening is the WORKERS PARTY HALL, 639 Main (2nd fl.) There will be DANCING, REFRESHMENTS of all kinds and all the fun that good company affords Starting time, 8:30 P. M.—Adm. 35c BUFFALO BRANCH WORKERS PARTY

HEAR Election Broadcasts by Max Shachtman Workers Party New York Mayoralty Candidate FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 8:30 P. M. Over WHN, 1050 on Your Dial SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 12:45 P. M. Over WQXR, 1550 on Your Dial THREE MONDAYS, 10:00 P. M. October 15 to November 5, inclusive and THREE SATURDAYS, October 20 to November 3, inclusive, Over WNEW, 1130 on Your Dial

THREE LECTURES— Struggles of American Labor By JOHN BARNES Labor Action Correspondent WORKERS PARTY HEADQUARTERS 639 Main Street THURSDAYS AT 8:30 P. M.



A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

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**WORKERS PARTY PROGRAM FOR ORGANIZED LABOR
IN THE RECONVERSION AND POST-WAR PERIOD**

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AND VETERANS:

1. Full unemployment insurance beginning with \$30 a week for single men and women and graduated upward for dependents to all workers for whom government and industry do not find jobs.
2. Absorption of all workers thrown into unemployment during reconversion by reduction of the work-week with no reduction in weekly take-home pay.
3. Two years' base pay grant to all demobilized veterans, with the option of trade school and higher educational facilities at government expense, guarantee of adequate family maintenance and guarantee of decent jobs.

FOR THE POST-WAR

4. A job for every worker with a guaranteed minimum annual wage of \$2,500 per year. A rising standard of living, by means of government planning to insure the highest national production and income.
5. A guaranteed \$5,000 annual income to all workers' families by means of a planned rise in

the national income and a thirty-hour maximum work week.

THESE AIMS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH:

6. A \$250 billion five-year program to provide decent housing for all, extensive public works, rural electrification and modernization.
7. Conscription of all war industries; nationalization of the banks, big industrial monopolies and transportation systems, and no handing over of government-built and owned plants and facilities to private ownership.
8. A 100 per cent tax on all war profits above a five per cent maximum on invested capital; a \$25,000 ceiling on total individual income, and a graduated capital levy on all accumulated wealth over \$50,000 to cover war costs and provide post-war security for labor.

THIS PROGRAM TO BE CARRIED OUT BY:

9. Control of production by democratically-elected workers' committees.
10. An independent Labor Party and a workers' government.

**SWP Minority Resolution on
Joint N. Y. Election Campaign**

Our readers already are acquainted with the letter sent many weeks ago by local New York of the Workers Party to the S.W.P. proposing a conference at which would be discussed the possibilities of joint action between the two organizations in the New York mayoralty campaign. The letter of the Workers Party pointed to the fact that the nomination of separate candidates for mayor by the two revolutionary socialist parties would create confusion which would be eliminated by a discussion and a decision to pool the resources of the two parties. As is known the Socialist Workers Party not only failed to accept the proposal of the Workers Party but did not reply to the letter.

The minority group inside the Socialist Workers Party led by Albert Goldman, Felix Morrow, and Oscar Williams, has meanwhile taken a position on the New York mayoralty campaign similar to that urged by the Workers Party. Its viewpoint and proposal has likewise been rejected by the leadership of the Socialist Workers Party. In view of the interest that has been aroused among militant workers by this question, we are publishing below the most important portions of the statement on the problem of the New York election issue in the Socialist Workers Party by the minority group.

1. The motion favoring an attempt to arrive at an agreement with the Workers Party for the election campaign in New York, so that our candidate for mayor should not be opposed by a candidate of the Workers Party, is based on an analysis of all the factors in the particular situation that confronts us. There is no general principle from which we can deduce that we should or should not attempt to come to an agreement with an opponent workers' party in order to prevent a split in the votes of the advanced workers. All of the factors in the particular situation must be analyzed to determine what is the correct tactic. The statement of the majority is wrong primarily because it attempts to settle the question by reference to a general principle, such as the correct application of the united front tactic.

2. The situation in New York is as follows: A Republican Party politician, supported by groups of Democratic Party politicians and by the Liberal Party is running against a Democratic Party politician supported by Tammany and the Stalinist American Labor Party. The Workers Party has announced its intention of trying to place Max Shachtman on the ballot. We have designated Farrell Dobbs to run for mayor and Louis Simpson to run as candidate for the Council. Two small revolutionary propaganda parties with campaign platforms that are very similar are to conduct a campaign against the two capitalist parties and against each other.

In this particular case the tactic of arriving at an agreement to avoid an electoral conflict with the Workers Party is dictated by the need to concentrate our attack, during the campaign, against the capitalist parties and for our immediate program dealing with the question of jobs for soldiers and workers in the coming period. To have an opposition candidate from a party recognized by the advanced workers as a revolutionary party, and having a platform similar to ours necessarily injects a confusing factor into the campaign and tends to shift the issue, for the advanced workers, to the question of our relationship to the Workers Party and away from the fundamental issue of our immediate program and our attack against the capitalist parties.

3. There is no question but that class conscious workers who are opposed to capitalist parties and have sympathy for the revolutionary movement (and in New York there are many such workers) will resent being compelled to choose between parties which they deem to be based on the same general program. In general, advanced workers want unity and frown upon a division which to them seems inexplicable and unnecessary. It is not possible for us at all times, to gratify the desire of advanced workers for unity, but wherever it is possible, without the least sacrifice of principle, our party should take this healthy tendency into consideration. Any division which seems unnecessary to advanced workers tends to discourage them from active participation in the revolutionary movement. There is nothing so discouraging to such workers as fights among working class parties, fights which to them are inexplicable. The party which shows an advanced worker that it did its utmost to avoid division on a particular occasion, is most likely to get a hearing from him.

5. The first objection raised in the written statement presented by Comrade Cannon, against the motion on the election campaign, tells us that our purpose in participating in the campaign is to popularize our program and build our party. An electoral agreement with the Workers Party would not according to Comrade Cannon, serve this basic purpose but only add confusion. How an agreement, which provides that Shachtman withdraw as candidate for mayor and support us and we withdraw our candidate for councilman and give critical support to the Workers Party candidate, would prevent us from presenting our program and building the party, and how it would add confusion, is a real mystery. We would still

have our own program and popularize it. And if anyone thinks it will be difficult to explain why we give critical support to a candidate that has a similar program let him consider the far greater difficulty of explaining why we made no attempt to avoid an election conflict between two parties that have a similar program.

If we don't have an agreement an intelligent worker is bound to ask why, and if our answer is that we want to build the party, he will ask: are you are you not taking this campaign seriously? The intelligent worker is interested not in the abstract question of building the party but of fighting the capitalist parties and even an election campaign appears to him as a struggle against capitalism and he does not want a division of forces.

The building of the party is best achieved if we can give convincing answers to the questions of intelligent workers. The building of the party depends upon the adoption of correct tactics and not upon running an independent candidate for the purpose of building the party.

6. "We make no united fronts for propaganda but only for actions." So runs the second objection to the motion. Why drag the question of the united front into this discussion? It looks as if Comrade Cannon sees a united front problem in a motion which simply states that we should come to an agreement to avoid an election conflict with the candidate of another workers' party, under certain conditions. He has also evidently heard or read about the correct principle that we should make no united fronts for propaganda purposes and will-nilly drags that principle into the discussion.

The motion does not provide for a united electoral campaign with a common program and with the same propaganda. We shall have our own candidate, our own program and our own propaganda, if the agreement can be reached. Is this a united front? To consider it such is stretching the meaning of a united front to an extent where it becomes absolutely meaningless. One must be utterly confused on the question of the united front or intentionally want to confuse others in order to raise it with reference to the motion under discussion.

8. The statement adopted by the majority of the P. C. assures us that the possible confusion to the workers who are confronted by similar programs is to be dispelled by explaining that "our party is the genuine party of Trotskyism while the Workers Party is a petty bourgeois counterfeit." Is there anyone so naive as to believe that we can really dispel confusion by assuring a questioning worker that the Workers Party is a "petty bourgeois counterfeit?"

In reality the task of explaining our differences with the Workers Party is immensely facilitated once we eliminate the question why we made no attempt to avoid a conflict in the election campaign. The question then shifts to the differences between us and the Workers Party and not to the similarity of our programs and our failure to make an attempt to avoid a conflict. An advanced worker is more likely to listen with sympathy to an explanation of differences provided he sees a real effort made to avoid conflict between two workers' parties at a time when he thinks they should concentrate their attacks on the capitalist parties.

A tactic which compels our agitators to be on the defensive against any advanced worker who wants to know why we made no attempt to avoid a conflict is a tactic which harms the party and does not aid in building it.

9. Objections 5 and 6 repeat the objections raised in previous paragraphs—about the united front for propaganda only and about the Labor Party. All of these objections have been answered. The statement adopted by the majority of the P. C. is a mess of confusion and shows that if one is determined to go through with an indefensible position, he is compelled to resort to arguments that are completely irrelevant and worthless.

**Workers Party Again Initiates
Smith Picketing in Detroit**

By MARTIN HARVEY

DETROIT, Sept. 28—With only two days' advance notice, the Detroit Local of the Workers Party mobilized all its forces to support the effective picket line against Fascist Gerald L. K. Smith through a public call for a picket line and an appeal to labor and liberal organizations to support the anti-Smith demonstration.

News of the Smith meeting at Northern High School in Detroit reached the Workers Party late on the night of Monday, September 24. Realizing the importance of preventing Smith's meeting from going off unhindered and of warning Detroit workers of the danger of this fascist invasion, the party immediately went into action.

Over 20,000 leaflets issued by the Workers Party, calling on the workers of Detroit to picket the fascist meeting and pointing out Smith's threat against labor, Negroes and Jews; were distributed at plants and in workers' neighborhoods throughout the city. Everywhere they were received enthusiastically.

ROLE OF OTHER PARTIES

At the same time all interested organizations that could be contacted were asked to lend their support to this action. All of the left-wing political parties at first refused to participate. The Socialist Party of Norman Thomas replied through their Detroit organizer that they weren't interested in any action against Smith at this time, and in particular they were not interested in joint activity with the Workers Party.

The Socialist Workers Party refused to cooperate on the ground that the call for the anti-fascist action must first come from the union movement and until the unions were prepared to issue such a call the SWP would wait. The following day, however (the day before Smith's meeting), when it was apparent that there would be a large picket line, the SWP issued its own leaflet supporting the picket line called "by the Wayne County CIO Council."

The Stalinist - controlled Wayne County Industrial Union Council had made some sort of plans for a picket line but was keeping whatever plans they had a secret even from their member unions. Therefore, it was necessary to organize against Smith by going straight to the Detroit workers. The initiative taken by the Workers Party bore some fruit in that the Wayne County Council let it be known belatedly that it had some plans for a picket line.

The Socialist Labor Party also turned down the appeal for joint action against Smith.

Also approached by the Workers Party to support the picket line were the NAACP and the Urban League, influential Negro organizations. The Urban League was prevented from taking any action by restrictions placed on it by the Community Chest from which it draws its financial support. The NAACP, through its executive secretary, G. L. Foster, held that they did not favor actions of this kind against Smith since it would give Smith publicity and that all their efforts at this time were being expended on other issues.

Support of the picket line was also rejected by several Jewish organizations, a notable exception being the Hashomer Hatzair, a Zionist youth organization, which responded to the

Workers Party call by joining the picket line.

A number of UAW locals also responded favorably. However, none of them had the time to issue official calls to their membership and they were represented by as many of their members as could be reached personally.

After the party mobilization had gotten under way it was learned that the People's Institute of Applied Religion, a Communist Party-dominated outfit, had secretly planned a quiet and small picket line to "make the record." The kind of protest that was planned by these CP stooges is indicated by the fact that advance notice of their action was made public only because the news leaked out into the papers. They issued orders to all the picketers to leave right after the cops brutally attacked the picket line. They openly sided with the pro-fascist police by spreading the slanderous report that the violence was caused by "provocateurs" and "trouble-makers."

Every member of the Workers Party in Detroit and numbers of friends and sympathizers gave unstintingly of their time and money to make this action possible. Leaflet distributors were out all day Wednesday and Thursday, the day of the meeting. Over \$60 was contributed by members and others to make the leaflets, picket signs and other activities possible. At the demonstration itself over 300 copies of the Workers Party pamphlet, "The Truth About Gerald Smith," were sold.

After the picket line had terminated many of the picketers met at the Workers Party headquarters at 3773 Gratiot Avenue to discuss the lessons of the demonstration and to refresh themselves with sandwiches and coffee.

Detroit Smith Picketing--

(Continued from page 1)

Los Angeles (where the Workers Party and then the labor movement itself made it too hot for him.) He declared that he was going back there in the middle of October to try again.

Except for sporadic heckling and questions from the floor, the meeting was without incident. One person rose at one point, shouted "You stink" and walked out of the hall. Most of the audience, loyal Smith followers, religiously embraced every grunt and growl of the Fuehrer and left inspired by the prophet they had come to worship.

While Smith was bellowing inside, the cops were tightening their cordon around the pickets. The number of marchers had increased and the sound of their protests had swelled into loud, cadenced roars. Now many of the slogans were shouted at the cops themselves. The fingers of the police opened and closed nervously around their clubs. Suddenly one of the picket lines collapsed. The ministers were collect-

ing their signs and pulling out. They didn't want to stay until the fascists came out. They had had their protest and felt cleared in the eyes of the Lord.

The Wayne County Council, secular arm of the Stalinists, followed through the "clearing" opening by staging a quick meeting near the curb, yelling: "Next time we'll march on City Hall." But this time it was enough.

LABOR MUST INTERVENE

Smith promised to return to Detroit in December. The lessons learned from last night's demonstration should be utilized to prepare the kind of sizzling reception for him that will burn him out of town once and for all. To effect this, however, one thing is necessary that was so conspicuously lacking last night, and that is the leadership of the UAW. Detroit is a UAW town. It is the responsibility and duty of the labor leadership to lead and organize the fight against fascism.

Smith is no idle crackpot seeking publicity. Financed by big business and adapting his demagogy to the

American scene, he is one of the spearheads of a native American fascism.

Only the labor movement, which is fascism's first victim, has the strength to crush this deadly enemy. Every time a gad place that the fascist raises his head, the labor movement must rally its full force to demonstrate against it.

Last night's demonstration was successful DESPITE the lack of the UAW leadership and the abortive guidance of the Stalinists. How much more tremendous the protest could have been with the whole UAW rallied behind it!

And finally labor must realize that the cops will defend the fascists against the workers as long as the government is in the hands of labor-hating capitalists. The tragedy of European fascism teaches that if labor does not take over the government in its own name to crush the fascists, the capitalists will utilize the fascists to crush the labor movement.

U. S. Labor on the March--

(Continued from page 1)

Significantly enough, as this rash of arbitration "solutions" is breaking out, report comes of the result of the arbitration of the seventeen-day strike of the Newspaper & Mail Deliverers Union in New York in July. The commission which arbitrated this dispute denied the major demands of the union, including the disputed wage increase. As always, arbitration benefited the bosses.

AUTO WORKERS

The slogan "Fifty-two for Forty" is taking root among great masses of workers. This slogan, involving the thirty per cent wage increase also demanded by the United Auto Workers, CIO, is stirring to action 500,000 West Coast metal workers, who are reported about to request a strike vote. In Detroit, Ford workers have asked for a strike vote. The 350,000 General Motors workers are to vote on the strike issue on October 24th, and the 120,000 Chrysler workers will do so a day later. In the meantime, negotiations are going on between the UAW and Chrysler for a new contract; the international officers finding time, however, to oust seventeen leaders of the Kelsey-Hayes strikers. Apparently, President Thomas refuses to see the handwriting on the wall, made so plain to him by the Kelsey-Hayes strikers' boss on several occasions, namely: Workers are getting tired of seeing their so-called leaders act as strikebreakers.

Another significant strike is spreading among the textile workers, whose wage demands are much lower than those implied in the "Fifty-two for Forty" slogan. The strike got under way with some 50,000 workers out in the New Jersey area. The strike rapidly spreading into the New England states, the union is hastening

to apply for a strike vote. Southern textile workers are also restive, with strikes looming on the horizon. The Textile Workers Union, CIO, is asking for the sixty-five cent hourly minimum, along with a ten-cent hourly increase. The union also aims to remove the discriminatory differential between North and South, as is also the purpose of all unions demanding industry-wide agreements.

MINERS

Not all current strikes have started with wage demands. The growing miners' strike involves the walkout of foremen and supervisors in the bituminous fields of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. The issue is the recognition of the Supervisory Union of District 50 of the United Mine Workers. The present

status of the miners' strike is that the national bituminous coal operators refuse to negotiate when "an illegal strike" is going on, while John L. Lewis designates the operators' attitude as "insolent" and "provocative"—and more miners keep going out on strike.

The workers have ripped the shackles of the no-strike pledge off their hands and feet. They are putting up excellent fights for their demands, foremost among them being the "Fifty-two for Forty" slogan involving a thirty per cent wage increase in order not to reduce the workers' standard of living. The danger comes from the labor leaders, who have made it a habit during the war to take their orders from the White House and to appease the war profiteers.

Indonesian Independence--

(Continued from page 1)

tunity to set up a republic through the Vietminh, a nationalist organization.

The action of the British in fighting the Annamese in the absence of the French, using 5,000 Japanese troops and at least one American garrison, 2,500 British and 2,000 French, was one of mixed altruism, the type of honor that exists among thieves. She realized the support and repercussions the independence move would have in the Dutch Empire, satellite to the British, and in her own Indian colony.

An Indonesian people's republic has been proclaimed at Batavia. Its president has stated: "We don't like Japanese oppression and we don't want Dutch oppression either." The police chief has admitted the Dutch

rule is being maintained only by British and American arms. Australian dockers and longshoremen have shown their solidarity with the movement for independence and freedom by refusing to send French, British and Dutch munition and supply ships to aid the Indonesian oppressors. Sympathy meetings in Australia have been broken up by police.

Every thinking American worker should support the heroic efforts of these peoples for independence.

U. S. troops should be withdrawn from the area!

Let every subject people have the right to independence!

The latter is supposedly what the 100 million casualties and the over one TRILLION dollars expended in this war were to have gone for.



By HENRY THOMAS

Local elections throughout France last week gave Leon Blum's Socialist Party a commanding position and spelled the virtual extinction of the old pre-war conservative parties, with only the Radical Socialists still a factor.

While these cantonal elections are a preview for the national poll scheduled for October the mass move of the voters away from the traditional parties demonstrates that the people of France, as throughout Europe, are prepared to seek new political solutions of the problems of misery and starvation that face them.

COMMUNIST SUPPORT DWINDLES

In gaining 381 seats against 130 for the Communists the Socialists won a clear victory over their chief competitor. Despite a desperate tactic of making "deals" with the Radical Socialists, who are neither radical nor socialist, but more closely approximate the English Tories, the Communists were unable to stem the swing of the voters away from them. Previous expectations had been that the Communists would take the lead, but apparently the ruthless imperialism of Stalin's Russia is earning the distrust of broad masses in France.

A reflection of the uncertainty and confusion that face the French is seen in the heavy abstentionist thread. As many as half the registered voters stayed away from the polls, showing that no party has yet proposed a genuine answer to the tragic needs of devastated France.

The antics of the Communists, as they twist and turn with every maneuver of Russia's foreign office, demonstrates again that they are nothing more than pawns. The old capitalist parties have been rejected and the French masses are moving toward new roads.

SOCIALISTS MODERATE

Yet it is recognized that the French Socialist Party under the leadership of Leon Blum is "moderate"—it is not ready to initiate deep-going changes in the old capitalist order. If the national election in October follows the pattern set in these local elections, it is expected that the Socialist deputies will form some sort of coalition in support of De Gaulle.

Such deals and coalitions are bound to fail. In Europe, as in the United States, the workers must take the lead in forming governments that represent their direct interests. A capitalist politician such as De Gaulle is more interested in fighting for a share in imperialist loot than in taking over France's resources and utilizing them for all. And only a socialist government apart from and against the capitalists can give freedom to the colonial empire that stretches from Africa to Asia.

India

Demanding freedom from imperialist domination for all of Southeast Asia, the All-India Congress Party Working Committee, convened two weeks ago for the first time since 1942. Some 250,000 Indians gathered to hear the Congress Party leaders speak, most of whom had been in British jails for nearly three years.

While primarily interested in gaining independence for India, the committee declared that no peace was possible while India, Burma, Malaya, Indo-China and the Indonesian Islands were subject to the political and economic domination of foreign capitalists, particularly those of Great Britain.

The Wavell and Attlee statements on India, timed for the occasion, were coldly received by the delegates, who in 1942 launched a "Britain Must Quit India" campaign in reply to similar proposals embodied in the "Cripps plan." Nevertheless, the Congress committee rejected what news dispatches described as "an unyielding revolutionary program" in favor of continuing to negotiate with the British government.

Condemning the Moslem League, long used as a tool by the British to divide Hindu and Moslem, Jawaharlal Nehru declared that the Moslem masses from the village support the Congress Party, and would show their support in the coming election.

The Congress Party undoubtedly has the support of the masses in India, but its leadership, largely made up of intellectuals, professional men and even rich native capitalists, consistently acts as a brake on the revolutionary impulses of the oppressed Indian workers and peasants. As a Congress speaker pointed out, if even one-third of the 3,000,000 people that died in the Bengal famine of 1943 had died in the struggle for freedom, India today would be free.

Labor Action-Workers Party Forum:

**Jobs for All
and
How to Get Them**

There's a War On...
Between Labor and Capital.
Will Labor win THIS war?

They told us: "Work or Fight" ...
Now it's our turn to say:
"Give us work—or we WILL FIGHT!"
HOW?

HEAR THE SOCIALIST PLAN
by
HAL DRAPER

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM FRIDAY
Room 201
843 S. GRAND AVE. OCTOBER 19
Los Angeles 8:00 P. M.

Workers Defense Guards To Protect Unions from American Fascism!

An Editorial

Four CIO pickets have been brutally clubbed by Detroit police. Two were beaten to unconsciousness. These pickets were part of a group of 500 that demonstrated against a rally called by fascist Gerald Smith, the man who hopes to do here what Hitler did in Germany.

At his meeting, Smith attacked the oil strikers. This strike, said he, is a rehearsal for a "red revolution to paralyze the nation." Liar Smith said not a word about the real demands of the strikers for better working conditions.



POLICE PROTECTION FOR PICKETS

While Smith and his cohorts carried on their scabby work inside the hall, they were amply protected by more than 200 policemen outside, ready with tear gas and energetic with nightsticks. These police, who have been practicing for special anti-strike duty for the past two and one-half years, used a slight scuffle in the picket line as a pretext to begin their merciless beating of the above mentioned union men.

The flawless protection provided for the Smith fascists is matched by the police protection publicly promised by Mayor Jeffries "to any oil company that attempts to resume operations."

The Detroit pro-boss press is currently engaged in a lynch campaign against organized labor. It is calling for the use of Detroit police, State police, Michigan State troops, and "United States Army troops, if necessary" as strike-breakers.

Only a few months ago an injunction was issued against peaceful picketing by strikers at the Detroit plants of the U. S. Rubber Co. and several pickets were fined and jailed.

It is becoming clear that we must be on guard against the return of the open shop conditions of the days before the organization of the CIO. Then, company thugs and police attacked workers at will; the courts gave their "legal" aid for breaking picket lines. Now, fascist gangsterism which seeks a foothold is a new dangerous factor.

We want no fascist bands in Detroit. The time to act against them is NOW, when they are miserably weak. To be passive now is to permit the budding fascists to become stronger and therefore to encourage fascist violence and to facilitate the beating and even murder of workingmen.

WHERE WERE LABOR OFFICIALS?

Where was the official labor leadership at the anti-Smith picket line? Where were Thomas, Reuther, Addes, Scholle and the others who found time in the past to rush from one picket line to another demanding a work return. They were undoubtedly "too busy."

The CIO and AFL leaders, it is said, endorsed a call for a picket line issued by a group of innocuous preachers but this endorsement was kept a closely guarded secret. Most of the preachers and labor leaders were absent from the line itself. No public call was issued by the top labor leadership or by the preachers. The picket line was a success only because it was swelled by scores of rank and file militants and publicized by thousands of leaflets, including 20,000 distributed by the Detroit branch of the Workers Party, and other thousands by militant union locals like Briggs 212.

The passivity of the official labor leadership encouraged the police violence. But now that this anti-labor brutality has occurred, it is an elementary duty of the labor movement to organize a genuine mass protest demonstration.

WORKERS DEFENSE GUARDS NEEDED

The ruthless action by the Detroit police against the anti-fascists in September, 1945, is in sharp contrast with their kid-glove handling of the fascist riots of June, 1943. When the Smithites, Ku Kluxers and the like organized their attacks on the Negro population of the city, not a single fascist was injured by the police. But many Negroes were beaten and several summarily shot to death by the same police.

On Thursday, September 27, not one hair on the head of one Smith man was disarranged. But four anti-fascist workers were savagely bludgeoned. Smith has learned these lessons well. At his meeting he said, speaking to the policemen in the hall: "When you see 'that scum picketing outside' you know that you have more in common with us 'citizens' in here."

No one will protect the unions from strike-breaking fascist violence except the workers themselves. For protection in the days of struggle ahead the unions must organize Workers Defense Guards.

LABOR ACTION

OCTOBER 8, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

LABOR IS ON THE MARCH TO MAKE UP WAR LOSSES!

Police Club Anti-Fascist Workers



Two injured men are receiving aid during a lull in the battle that ensued when pickets of the various anti-fascist parties and CIO unionists were attacked by police at the anti-Smith demonstration in Detroit. One of the injured men was a veteran of World War II.

Detroit Anti-Fascists Picket Gerald Smith

DETROIT, Sept. 28—One of the small shoots of native American fascism sprouted here last night for all to see. The rabble-rousing, hate-breeding fascist, Gerald L. K. Smith, came to town, held a public meeting at the Northern High School and enjoyed the ruthless, strong-armed protection of the cops against the protecting Detroit workers who picketed the meeting.

While the fascist Smith was safely fuming and spouting inside the school auditorium, the fascist-protecting cops pushed and shoved the workers around and climaxed their brutality by clubbing two of them into unconsciousness. The "impartial" authorities had given the fascists the use of a public school, then they protected them with the "public" police force and finally they perpetrated their bloody attack on the workers outside. Here, in embryo form, was enacted the pattern of rising fascism.

PARTICIPATING GROUPS

Smith's meeting was called for eight o'clock. About one hour before, a picket line formed which soon swelled to five hundred marchers. Another five hundred observers stood around the school, manifestly sympathetic to the demonstrators. On the picket line were members and sympathizers of various organizations and unions, among which were the Workers Party, Socialist Workers Party, Hashomer Hatzair, Jewish War Veterans, other veteran groups, UAW-CIO Locals 212, 15, 490, 140, 50, 400, 300, 600, 154 and finally ministers and friends of the People's Institute of Religion.

The Stalinists were there, not in their own name, but in the lay disguise of the Wayne County Council and the monk's cowl and preacher's robes of the People's Institute of Religion, both of which organizations they dominate. The nominal organizers of the protest were the People's Institute and the Council, who kept their "call" for a picket line a deep secret which leaked out at the last minute. However, separate leaflets and mobilizations of the Workers Party, Socialist Workers Party and various union locals converted the intended prayerful genuflections into a militant, vigorous and enthusiastic demonstration which well expressed labor's loathing and uncompromising antipathy to Smith and all he stands for.

The picket line marched in a large circle in front of the school entrance. The many placards shouted forth "SMASH FASCISM BEFORE FASCISM SMASHES YOU," "BIG BUSINESS SUPPORTS FASCISM AND SMITH," "SMITH STANDS FOR JIM CROW AND ANTI-SEMITISM," "CLEAN THE RAT OUT OF DETROIT," etc. The picketers moved around slowly, singing union songs, denouncing Smith, booing, hissing and "helling" the decrepits and the crackpots who comprised the majority of Smith's listeners as they entered the hall.

Chicago Diesel UAW Walks Out for 30%

By ROBERT MILLER

BROOKFIELD, Ill., Sept. 30—Nine thousand Electro-Motive Diesel workers, fed up with the high-handed methods of General Motors and what Tom Meehan calls "collective bargaining," walked out solidly on Friday, September 28, at 9:30 p.m. This is the first GM strike since the UAW announced its wage demands. The action was taken on a call issued by the Executive Board to ballot on strike.

Behind this apparent failure to abide by UAW-GM policy are the following facts: Electro-Motive workers occupy a special position in the GM department of the UAW, since they do not produce automotive products. Local 719, under the influence of the Progressive Caucus, was the first local to call for a forty-hour week, a thirty per cent wage increase and the convening of the GM Council of the UAW.

To back up their demands they took a strike vote under the Smith-Connelly Act last August. As can be seen from the demands, ninety per cent can only be settled locally, such as reclassification of jobs, local seniority agreement, weekly pay checks, etc.

The night of the walkout, the company fired three night shop committeemen, and their reinstatement has become the No. 1 demand.

At the writing of this article, the strikers are in high spirits and operations at the plant are at a standstill. The whole UAW and all other CIO

unions in the Chicago area must rally behind the Electro-Motive workers. So far, R. J. Thomas, who has been in town, has not given strike authorization. Instead, he told the press, without consulting the local union, that this strike was unauthorized and the only thing left to the men was to go back to work.

Another UAW TEST The importance of this strike cannot be overestimated. Here is Reuther's chance to show GM that he means business. If the UAW is serious about licking General Motors, it must give full support to the Electro-Motive workers in this strike. Whether or not the other GM locals will have to resort to strike action may depend on the conduct of this strike.

The present Executive Board, under the leadership of such well known Stalinists as Harry Pohl, has already made several mistakes in leading the fight of the Electro-Motive workers. Some union members feel that this strike was ill-timed. Maybe Pohl's speed is accounted for by the atomic energy he is expending to make the membership forget and wipe out his record as one of the loudest (if not THE loudest) supporter of the no-strike pledge.

In his hurry to carry out the new party line, he rushed the Executive Board into the strike without the usual necessary preparations. There has been ample time, since the strike (Continued on page 2)

World War II, the other a union man, didn't like the showing. Whack! Whack! Down came the clubs over the heads of these two men. They fell unconscious, the blood streaming all over them. A cordon of cops charged the picket line and started to push the whole group away from the door. Two women were knocked down and hurt. Placards were swinging wildly. The lines broke rank and the demonstrators started milling around.

The cops tightened their cordon. More police were called to swell the total of armed "protectors" to 150. Six patrol wagons and a special commando squad were also called. One of the squad cars that came up contained machine guns and tear gas. Around the corner were stationed mounted police.

While the cops were clubbing the pickets outside, Smith was haranguing an audience of 500 well-dressed, middle-aged and elderly men and women inside the hall. A handful of youth and soldiers dotted the audience, curious to see and hear the notorious haranguer spew forth his slime. These were later to heckle the speaker.

Smith's speech was almost completely defensive. He denied he was

anti-Negro, anti-labor, anti-Semitic. Indeed, he asserted he was the friend of the "right kind" of Negro, Jew or worker. He reviled the "Stalinists and Trotskyists" who were demonstrating outside. Cloaking his prejudice in religious garb, inserting "Christ" in almost every phrase, raving and ranting against "godlessness and communism," gulping down huge draughts of water straight from the pitcher, Smith gave the typical tub-thumping performance which has earned him the distinction of being a better rabble-rouser than his teacher, Huey Long.

COMPLAINTS OF LOS ANGELES

Smith's tirades against "Communists" by which he means anyone who disagrees with him, "international bankers" and all his other devices are well enough known. He repeated them all, surrounding each with more or less foam, depending on his heat. Of interest, however, was the announcement of his intention to form a nation-wide organization of cells consisting of from four to seven members. He hoped to organize at least five hundred such cells in Detroit. He also complained bitterly about the treatment given him by (Continued on page 3)

Support Indonesian Independence!

By MARY BELL

No more graphic example exists of what the war was fought for than the struggles for independence from imperialist domination that have taken place in the last few weeks by the Annamese and Indo-Chinese nationalists centering in Saigon, Indo-China, and Batavia, Java.

The brutal crushing of the colonial peoples who took the slogans of freedom used during the war too seriously demonstrates again that the war was fought not for the liberation of the oppressed, but as a contest between rival imperialists for the world market. Japan overran these areas to obtain their wealth of raw materials and to sell her products of industry, just as the French and Dutch had done before her. Her conquering of these territories was accomplished with perhaps less brutality than that of the French and Dutch, who took the colonies origi-

nally with gunboats and who "civilized" the people by shellfire.

The twenty-five millions of people in French Indo-China have had about three generations of French rule. The inhabitants, eighty per cent of whom are Annamese, were subdued in 1882 only after decades of tedious and costly warfare. There have been sporadic revolts ever since and the main expenditure in this area by the French has been for their naval and military budget.

FRENCH EXPLOITATION

The French rule in Indo-China is a "model" of colonial exploitation. The natives work for ten to thirty cents a day. The literacy rate is only ten per cent. No unions are permitted. Left-wing nationalists have been jailed. The typical super-profits of imperialism are taken from the colony by imposition of high tariffs on rivals' goods and the absence of tariffs on French goods.

By SUSAN GREEN

If the plant and factory owners of the country had hoped that post-war insecurity would make of the workers lambs to be shorn without so much as a bleat, they were mistaken. They perhaps thought that the mounting millions of unemployed would paralyze the spirit and will of the employed workers. Yes, they wanted the workers to fold their arms and humbly mutter to the boss: "Thy will be done!"

The collaborating labor leaders had indicated to the White House that, as far as they were concerned, the no-strike pledge would still be the guiding principle—so that, forsooth, reconversion might be accomplished peacefully.

The hundreds of thousands of workers on strike and about to take strike votes under the restrictive Smith-Connelly law have blasted skyhigh the wishes of industrialists and of weak-kneed labor leaders.

The rank and file of labor has realized that for the employed, for the unemployed, for the whole working class, now is the time for action. The insecurity that stares the workers in the face has resulted in their determination to hold their own.

The end of war contracts terminated overtime and resulted in cuts in take-home wages.

"FIFTY-TWO FOR FORTY" This is the meaning of "Fifty-two for Forty"—the slogan of the striking oil workers. Their demand for a thirty per cent increase in basic hourly pay is necessary so that, returning to the forty-hour week, the workers will not be descending to a much lower standard of living. So sensible and indispensable do the oil workers consider this demand that the oil strike spread to fourteen states, even while protracted negotiations went on in Washington. There, Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach, trying to settle the dispute before the entire quarter of a million oil workers walked out, has ordered that the companies and the union submit to federal arbitration.

The terms of arbitration are the acceptance of the fifteen per cent wage increase the companies are willing to grant, the return to the forty-hour week as soon as possible, and the submission of the other union demands to an arbitrator to be appointed by Schwelienbach. The Oil Workers International Union, CIO, having made satisfactory contracts with one company in California and two in Detroit on the basis of the thirty per cent increase, were less eager to accept the arbitration "solution" than were the big oil companies.

The 15,000 building service workers who tied up 2,000 New York City buildings for five and a half days did not take kindly to the idea of arbitration. When the president of the local, David Sullivan, announced that he had capitulated to Governor Dewey's suggestion for arbitration, groups of strikers stormed the union office, complaining, "Why don't we have a meeting to decide if we want to go back? Let the members decide. We're going to stay on the sidewalk. The union is going to sell us out as it did in 1936 and 1939 with a \$1.00 raise." (Continued on page 3)

JIM CROW INSPIRERS

Who is behind this? Is it the Ku Klux Klan coming to life again? Is it the now reorganizing fascist groups sponsored by Gerald Smith and other fascist demagogues? Is it the vicious racial filth that has been poured forth in Congress by Bilbo and Rankin, and the other representatives of ignorance and the Dark Ages which have incited the students?

Is it the official governmental policy of Jim Crow in the armed forces that has led the students to emulate their elders? Probably all of these factors have something to do with the outbreaks. But who has the most to gain from this? Behind the inciters stand the really interests and the large monopolies who have the most to gain from racial warfare. The real object is not so much to divide the students as to divide the parents.

The really interests have forced the Negroes to live in the most abominable and highly congested slums. Because of the inability of Negroes to live elsewhere they are forced to (Continued on page 2)

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