

Roosevelt Signs Bill Protecting Monopolies

Ballyhooed As Measure to Aid Small Firms, Bill Contains Rider to Strengthen Trusts

By WALTER FREEMAN

Quietly and with scarcely any notice in the capitalist press, President Roosevelt on June 11 signed one of the most important pieces of legislation passed by Congress since this country entered the war — a bill granting the monopolies virtual immunity from anti-trust prosecution during the war and after.

Introduced as a measure to aid small manufacturers get war orders, the bill contained a rider giving War Production Board head Donald Nelson the power to suspend the federal anti-trust laws and the rulings of the Federal Trade Commission in the issuance of war contracts.

This would permit the big trusts, which now have a mono-

poly of the war orders and which are chiefly engaged in war production, to violate the anti-trust laws with impunity. They are guaranteed against prosecution not only during but also after the war for violations committed during the war.

Thus the government itself is giving direct aid to the monopolies through the war program, strengthening their control over the basic resources and industries of the country and ensuring them of greater power in the post-war period.

The pro-monopoly rider was initiated by the administration itself, when Attorney-General Biddle, Under-Secretary of War Patterson and other administration spokesmen proposed such legislation several weeks ago before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

accelerated operations of the laws of monopoly.

The complaints of some 160,000 small firms denied war orders was answered by a bill to set up a government small war plants corporation, with a \$150,000,000 fund. The claims of electioneering Congressmen that this bill has "solved" the insoluble problem of small business in the era of monopoly are disputed by the WPB itself. The N. Y. Times, June 12, reports: "At the WPB the feeling is strong that the measure is far from a solution of the problem, and, in fact, that no solution actually exists."

Within the past few weeks, the administration has given the monopolies ample evidence of its friendly intentions toward them. President Roosevelt publicly endorsed a recommendation of the War, Navy and Justice Departments giving the War and Navy Secretaries power to halt anti-trust prosecutions which might "interfere with war production."

The government's suit against General Electric for its tungsten carbide cartel conspiracy with Krupp, the German steel trust, was halted by the War and Navy Departments.

THE GOVERNMENT'S FRIENDLY ATTITUDE

On June 11, the day Roosevelt signed the small war plants bill, the Justice Department announced that the prosecution of the international dyestuffs cartel conspiracy is being postponed at the direct request of Secretary of War Stimson. The chief defendant in the case is America's grant chemical and munitions trust, E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co. The duPont interests are charged with conspiring with the Nazi I. G. Farbenindustrie to obtain world control of dyestuffs and other chemicals, many of them important for war purposes, and curtailing their production.

"NO SOLUTION EXISTS"

A couple of months ago there was a great fanfare when the bill to aid small business men was introduced in Congress. Thousands of small manufacturers have been forced to the wall through priorities and the war-

all workers return to work and accept the arbitration of the Federal Conciliation Service. The workers demanded to be represented by the CIO Electrical Union, and struck against the enforced jurisdiction in the plant of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL.

Chrysler workers in the Tank assembly plant and the DeSoto anti-aircraft gun plant held a stoppage of work on June 10, backing up their demands for a dollar-a-day wage increase, and against company provocations in the plant. The company had reclassified a worker in violation of the union agreement.

In auto generally there has been great dissatisfaction with the wage rates, and with the red-tape delays by the War Labor Board on their dollar-a-day wage increase demands from Ford, General Motors and Chrysler.

Bosses Provoke Several Strikes In Detroit

DETROIT, Mich., June 13. — A series of strikes in war production plants has broken out in Detroit this month, in protest against the stalling of workers' demands by government agencies and official union leaders.

In a strike at the Federal Engineering Corporation here, called by the workers in order to force an NLRB vote on affiliation with the UAW-CIO, Major Strong, of the Army Air Corps procurement office issued an immediate "work or fight" order. The Army further announced that it would hold a Gestapo investigation of every man who appeared on the picket line. The plant produces aircraft precision tools.

"I warned the strikers to work or fight," said Strong. "The labor board can dispose of their demands. It may take 3 weeks, or a month, or more. But what of it?"

The investigation of all pickets, it was announced, will continue although the strike ended on June 8. All workers will have to be "cleared" by the War department. This is aimed primarily at intimidating the workers and purging the plant of all militant unionists.

A strike demanding recognition of the UERMWA-CIO was called on June 8 at the Detroit Corporation. The government stepped in immediately demanding that

PORTRAIT HEAD NOW ON SALE



A portrait head of Leon Trotsky, sculptured by the well-known American artist, Duncan Ferguson. Hard plaster, colored to resemble bronze. Will last indefinitely indoors if given reasonable care. Weighs about 40 pounds when boxed for shipment. Price is \$25, boxed for shipment from New York. Purchaser must pay freight charges.

ORDER FROM:
PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Pl., New York

'Go Thru Picket Lines,' Tobin Tells Teamsters

Threatens Expulsion for Those Who Refuse To Fink: Militant Workers to be Hounded

By JACK RANGER

MINNEAPOLIS — "GO THROUGH THOSE PICKET LINES!" is the title of the leading article in the AFL International Teamster magazine for June 1942, an article signed by President Daniel J. Tobin, exhorting and threatening all AFL union drivers in the United States to smash picket lines or suffer expulsion, loss of job or victimization by the FBI.

The June article is an extension of Tobin's long campaign against labor solidarity and union principles. It reveals also that his strike-breaking orders to AFL Teamsters locals are not being accepted by many local unions.

"No matter what I say through the columns of this Journal, or what I say in private letters addressed to local unions, I still find a number of local unions that refuse to obey the orders they receive from the International office relative to sympathetic strikes and the crossing of picket lines," complains Tobin. "SOMETIMES WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS HAVEN'T THE BACKBONE TO CROSS WHAT WE RECOGNIZE AS ILLEGAL PICKET LINES." (Tobin interprets every picket line today as illegal.)

In circumstances where local unions have contracts protecting them from the odium of strike-breaking, by stipulating that drivers can refuse to deliver goods where there is labor trouble, Tobin orders his members to "set aside that clause during the period of the war."

Like Roosevelt in his plea to the shipbuilding unions to set aside their union contracts, Tobin urges the teamsters to violate their own contracts.

"If you can't comply with our International orders, which are founded on necessity, AND ON ORDERS FROM OUR GOVERNMENT, then the best thing to do is to notify the International Union. Then we will protect ourselves. We know how," threatens Tobin ominously.

The New Soviet Pacts

(Continued from page 1)

son-Lloyd George-Clemenceau. The imperialists and their labor lieutenants inevitably must plan to destroy the workers' revolutions. But nothing that the imperialists can throw into the scales can outweigh the elemental power of the workers and peasants in revolt.

Before the last war ended, the "democracies" were busy planning how to crush the October 1917 revolution in Russia. They sent armies and navies into Murmansk and Archangel, Vladivostok and Odessa; they opened their treasuries to the Russian White Guards; the key question at the Paris Peace Conference was not the Versailles Treaty but how to crush the young Soviet republic. And the imperialist world seemed to come perilously close to its aim of burying Lenin and Trotsky in the ruins of the revolution. The imperialists appeared to have inexhaustible resources against the impoverished revolution. But the revolution survived in spite of everything.

While Clemenceau screamed for ever more action against the Soviets in Russia, Soviets (Workers Councils) sprang up in Germany, Austria and Hungary. The Allied Supreme War Council aided the Social-Democrats in strangling the revolution in Western Europe. Meanwhile, however, great revolutionary movements sprang up in France and Britain and their Empires, vying Clemenceau and Lloyd George more than enough trouble at home to make it impossible for them to carry out their designs against the Soviets of Russia. Against the hostility of the whole capitalist world, but a hostility which could not do what it wanted, the October Revolution survived.

And when revolution flames again in Western Europe — this time enveloping France and, we believe, England — Stalin will put his hands in those flames at his peril, as Clemenceau and Lloyd George before him.

New Self-Confidence of Soviet Masses

The passivity of the Soviet masses, product first of the exhaustion of the seven years of war and civil war (1914-1921) and then of Stalinist repressions, began to lift the day that Hitler invaded the Soviet Union a year ago. The needs of the war, in spite of the heavy hand of the bureaucracy, have impelled the masses to assume more and more initiative at the front and in production. Their heroic resistance, their fearless endeavors, have won back for the Soviet masses their self-confidence. They will never go back, at the end of the war, to the humiliating subordinate station assigned to them by the totalitarian bureaucracy. Their unprecedented morale during the war, product of their knowledge that in defending the Soviet Union they were defending the nationalized property created by the October revolution, will become with peace a mortal danger to the bureaucracy. They achieved miracles against fascist Germany. They will do no less against their oppressors at home.

And the revolution in Western Europe and the resurgence of the Soviet masses will find a way to come together in a single stream of revolutionary power, to create the Socialist United States of Europe.

Stalin's road has always been a road of mortal peril for the Soviet Union. No less so is it today with the pacts with Britain and the United States. Isolated in a post-war world at the mercy of the victorious "democracies," the Soviet Union would be in as great danger as in a Europe dominated by Hitler. The fundamental antagonism between the nationalized property of the Soviet Union and the private property of capitalism can never be overcome; one or the other system of production must prevail in the world. The Kremlin's counter-revolutionary policy, if it prevailed, would in the end lead to the doom of the Soviet Union.

That policy will not, however, prevail; neither in the Soviet Union nor in the capitalist world. The coming European revolution — and Europe will be but the beginning — will blow out of its path the elaborate but essentially puny plans of Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin. The second Allied Supreme War Council, like the first, will meet under the shadow of the European revolution. The embers which the first Versailles Treaty could not stamp out will consume the second Versailles. What the Third International began in 1917-1923, will be carried to a conclusion by its successor, the Fourth International.

4 Factions Fight Over Socialist Party Remains

Thomas Group Turns to Support of War; Clement-Symes Remain Faithful Opposition

By C. CHARLES

The national convention of the Socialist Party held in Milwaukee on Decoration Day weekend was the scene of a struggle for the remains of that organization.

Four groups were represented at the convention. There were: 1. a pacifist group under the leadership of Winston Dancis; 2. a group led by Irving Barshop; 3. a group led by Norman Thomas who advocated that the party should act as if the war did not rage all over the world — ignore the war; 4. the forces of Norman Thomas who now takes a pro-war position; and 5. the Clement group which took a weak anti-war position.

There were about 130 delegates. The pacifists, who polled about a dozen votes, and the followers of Barshop were quickly eliminated as the convention progressed, leaving Clement and Thomas as the two major contenders for control of the party.

Thomas, who in January, 1942, stated there is today "no practical political alternative to the war as a means of stopping the worldwide triumph of fascist totalitarianism," fought for this position at the convention.

Travers Clement and Lillian Symes, who have a consistent history of first posing a "radical" point of view and then capitulating to Thomas, maintained their sorry tradition.

This group's resolution at the convention declared: "We cannot support politically, any war conducted for imperialist aims." They correctly point out that Thomas' position leads inevitably to support of all the capitalist measures required to win the war on the part of the American capitalist class and government. Yet they are in the same party with Thomas, lift up their hands and voices in unison with him and will remain in that party until Norman Thomas either decides to leave the party or forces them out.

FINAL RESOLUTION

The final compromise resolution on the war that issued from the convention was as rotten as the groups which concocted it. As neither Thomas nor Clement's position received a clear majority, the following agreement was reached:

The Clement analysis was used as the basis for the document, but the sentence calling for no political support of the war which this resolution contained was eliminated. In its place was substituted the phrase: "The Socialist Party does not give its blessing to this war — or any war — as the proper method of attaining social objectives, national or international." This sentence comes

its sections can effectively fight fascism and reaction. Fascism is called forth by the capitalist class, is nurtured and financed by them, as a means of keeping down the workers when other methods have failed. The capitalists may use anti-fascist phrases in order to mislead the workers — in which task they have the assistance of Thomas — but in the final analysis capitalism admires and requires fascism.

Travers Clement and Lillian Symes represent the most dangerous and nauseating tendency inside the Socialist Party. They are dangerous because they pose as militants and may in this way fool some sincere socialists and nauseating because in the final checkup they are to be found in some vile deal with Norman Thomas.

FUTURE OF S.P.

Things will go on as before. Those members of the Socialist Party who are pacifists will quote the resolution as supporting their point of view; those who support the war will base themselves on it; while the forces of Clement and Symes will claim that the resolution adopted by the convention takes an anti-war position. One section of the party will advocate one thing; another an opposite point of view.

In the Socialist Party we find one of the less important casualties of the six months since Pearl Harbor.

HudsonAuto Local Stands Firm On Overtime Issue

DETROIT, Mich., June 15. — At special meetings on June 14 the members of Hudson Local 471 of the CIO United Auto Workers voted unanimously to reject the proposal that they give up double-time pay for Sundays and holidays. This was the third attempt made by the union officials to get the Hudson workers to swallow this change in their contract with the company.

The action of the aroused Hudson workers constituted an unmistakable repudiation of the policies of unconditional surrender advocated by the International leadership. All the top officials of the UAW were mobilized at the meeting of the day shift to sell the "equality of sacrifice program" to the Hudson local. President R. J. Thomas, Secretary Treasurer Adde, Regional Director Melvin Bishop, R. J. Frankenstein and others were on the platform.

The mood of the Hudson workers was evidenced by their approval of a motion to limit speeches to ten minutes. When President Thomas passed the ten-minute limit, he was called to order by the thousand or more workers. They booed Frankenstein and would not let him speak. After a short, sharp discussion, the members unanimously passed a motion to retain the present shift arrangements and overtime pay provisions. The third shift at the midnight meeting unanimously ratified the same motion.

To a question from the floor asking what the International officers were going to do in the face of the Hudson local's rejection of their recommendation, Germaine, Local 471 President, replied that he had discussed the matter with Thomas following the meeting and that Thomas told him the International Executive Board would discuss the question.

The revolt of the Hudson workers against the International leadership and its policies is especially noteworthy since Hudson has always been among the conservative UAW locals in Detroit and has hitherto been regarded as a Reuther local. It indicates that the resolution passed under pressure of the war-machine at the recent UAW conference by no means settled the question of double-time pay in the auto unions. At the forthcoming UAW convention at Chicago in August there is every likelihood that a sizeable section of the delegates will demand an accounting on this and other matters.

Trotsky's Last Work
MANIFESTO OF THE
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
on the
IMPERIALIST WAR
and the
PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION
48 pages 5 cents per copy

PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York City

Tobin Men, CPers Get Together In Minneapolis

By JACK RANGER

MINNEAPOLIS — In an effort to defend their misleadership against the rank-and-file, Tobin's agents and the Stalinists have now joined forces here, in a "Minnesota AFL-CIO Joint Council."

Plans for the council were laid in several secret meetings between the Tobin-appointed leaders of the Teamsters Union Local "544"-AFL and the Stalinist leaders of the CIO Machinists Union Local 1139. Co-chairmen of the council are Vern Buck, Tobin agent, and Robert Wishart, well-known Stalinist. Other Stalinists on the board are William Mauseth and Charles LaValley. L. Clair Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, is a member of the executive committee of the new council.

The program of the "Joint Council" is aimed at "successful prosecution of the war effort" and "establishment of a committee to work with the federal administration in all of its departments." This last no doubt refers to the plans of the Stalinists and Tobin's agents to act as finger-men for the FBI against militant unionists. The "sedition trial" in Minneapolis revealed that the FBI cooperated closely with Tobin's forces here against the militant leadership of Local 544.

Other planks in the program, included to make the Council appear more attractive to labor, are: "Protecting the interests of all organized workers;" "organization of the unorganized;" and "establishment of a committee to settle disputes between the AFL and CIO."

WHY COUNCIL IS FORMED

Both the Stalinists and Tobin officials here are losing control over the workers, and they know it. Both are committed to sacrificing the interests of the workers to the war.

Just a short time ago one of

the CIO Machinists Unions here, the Molders, revolted and left the CIO, returning to the AFL. This was one of the AFL unions which was swung over to the CIO in 1937 by the Stalinists.

The Tobin-appointed leaders of Local "544"-AFL are in no better shape. They are held in contempt by the Minneapolis drivers. It is estimated that only half of the drivers are today paying dues to Local "544"-AFL. The men in some of the largest plants in town have united and flatly refused to pay dues to a Tobin-dominated union which denies them elections and a democratic voice in union affairs, and which will not and cannot settle their grievances or win them their demands.

In desperation, the Stalinists and the Tobin agents are trying to save themselves by leaning on one another and waving the flag. This is why the "Joint Council" has been formed.

Actually the only unions thus far represented in the imposingly named council are Tobin's unions in Minneapolis and the Stalinist-led CIO Machinists. Tobin's May 14 Minnesota Teamster praises the new council in an editorial promising that it will "freeze jurisdiction." The AFL Teamsters and the Stalinists both hope they can use the council against the Motor Transport & Allied Workers Industrial Union Local 544-CIO.

To indicate how far Tobin's agents are willing to go to cooperate with the Stalinists, the former invited Bill Mauseth to address the last "544"-AFL membership meeting. Mauseth, for years one of the leading Stalinist unionists locally, brought his audience with him. The drivers, who remember how Mauseth split the AFL Machinists in 1937 in order to save his own neck, will know how to estimate the value of this "AFL-CIO Joint Council."

For the present, at least, the hook-up between the Stalinists and Tobin's agents seems to be confined to Minneapolis.

