

Belgian Trotskyist Leader Dies In Prison at Hands of the Nazis

Leon Lesoil, leading member of the Trotskyist movement in Belgium, has died at the hands of the Nazis in a Belgian prison, according to information received by the British Socialist Appeal and printed in its Oct. issue.

Prominent member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Belgium, affiliate of the Fourth International, Comrade Lesoil participated in all the national meetings and conferences of the Fourth International held on the European continent.

His life was inseparable for the last 30 years from the life of the working class in the Belgian Charleroi district where he lived as a mining draughtsman. As a militant fighter he was driven from his work and victimized by the mineowners.

After the last war he was one of the pioneer members and founders of the Belgian Communist Party. He was driven out of the party at the time of the expulsion of the Trotskyist Left Opposition from the Communist International.

He immediately threw himself into the work of the Left Opposition and was largely responsible for the systematic way in which our Belgian comrades conducted their activities under difficult circumstances.

Leon Lesoil was loved not only by our comrades but also by thousands of miners. When the great strike movements swept the Belgian coal fields, workers would walk miles to hear him address meetings in the public square or from the balcony of the Town Hall. Social-Democrats, Stalinists and Syndicalists also recognized Lesoil as a leading militant in battle.

At this time when the Stalinists slander the Trotskyists and try to link them with the Nazis, Hitler has struck another blow at the Belgian workers by the murder of Comrade Lesoil. His death at the hands of the Nazis gives the lie to these foul Stalinist slanders.

We salute the memory of our Comrade Leon Lesoil, a front line fighter in the workers' battles, a gallant soldier of the Fourth International who died a martyr in the socialist struggle against capitalist reaction.

CIO Opens Fifth Annual Convention In Boston

Murray Report Distorts Meaning of Roosevelt's Labor Record; Discussion on Anti-Jim Crow Fight Livens 2nd Day's Sessions
By Felix Morrow

BOSTON, Nov. 9. — The fifth convention of the CIO opened here today, with President Philip Murray making unmistakably clear, in his printed report and his first speech to the delegates, that the line of the CIO top leadership remains one of complete subordination to the Roosevelt administration.

Perhaps the only point in Murray's opening address where he grew firm and positive was in saying:

"I am determined to support our Commander-in-Chief, Roosevelt, and I am going to support him. I know that this great organization that I am privileged to represent supports that statement one hundred per cent."

FIRST DAY ATMOSPHERE

The atmosphere of the first day's proceedings is indicated by those who spouted from the speakers' platform today: two clergymen ("May you be preserved from class hatred"); Mayor Tobin of Boston ("Trust our military chiefs"); Governor Saltonstall of Massachusetts (he wouldn't abrogate labor laws "unless absolutely necessary"); Undersecretary of War Patterson; a rabbi; the "labor" attaché of the British Embassy.

Except for short welcoming addresses by the regional and state directors of the CIO, a fraternal address by a Canadian labor leader and Murray's speech, the day was monopolized by spokesmen of the capitalist class. Still other government officials—Undersecretary of War

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Boss Unity

The government last week indicted the U. S. Sugar Corporation of Florida on the charge of holding Negro workers in peonage and violating the federal laws against slavery.

The corporation was recruiting workers in Southern states and offering them free transportation to the plantations. Once the workers arrived, they were informed that they were in debt to the company for travelling expenses, and forced to work out the debt.

Workers who attempted to escape were captured, the indictment charged, and "injured, oppressed and threatened."

Behind these conditions, the newspaper PM revealed on Nov. 8, are wealthy Northern industrialists who own the controlling stock in the sugar company. Several of the directors and stockholders are officers of the General Motors Corporation. Among these is C. S. Mott, one of the largest stockholders in GM, whose family controls 68% of the sugar corporation's stock. The fact that such industrialists control the sugar company and its policies is additional evidence that the enemy of the Southern Negro and poor white workers are the same financiers and big capitalists who oppress the workers of the North.

Labor Papers Threatened By Government Newsprint Plan

A grave threat to all labor publications was revealed in the Nov. 3 issue of the *AFL Weekly News Service*, which reports that a government board is attempting to curtail the amount of newsprint issued to labor papers.

If adopted, the board's proposal would result in a drastic cut in the circulation of all labor papers, particularly of those papers presenting a militant analysis of events, for in the eyes of government officials such papers are considered least "essential" of all.

The AFL story follows: "If the War Production Board puts through a recommendation made by its newly-created Newspaper Industry Advisory Committee, labor publications are going to be struck a body blow."

"After an all-day conference, the committee called on the WPB to 'freeze' newsprint and to make a 'horizontal' cut of at least 10 per cent in paper consumption."

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE LABOR PRESS

"E. W. Palmer, deputy chief of

Next Week

THE MILITANT will print: A continuation of the report on the CIO Convention by Felix Morrow, our special correspondent now in Boston. A stenographic report of James P. Cannon's historic speech at the New York celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

OPA Lets Price Rise



The Campbell Soup Co. has been authorized by the OPA to raise its prices from 1c to 3c per can because of a "new and improved recipe" label on the cover. The only "new" thing that housewives can find is the label; contents of both, listed on backs of the can, are identical. (Federated Picture.)

And while the OPA is permitting price rises for dozens of commodities, Leon Henderson had to admit last week that the majority of retailers are violating price regulations.

Of more than 10,000 stores inspected in the last month, a majority were found to be violating price laws either by simple overcharging, by reductions in quality of goods sold or by reductions in quantity.

A Labor Department report issued this month shows that food costs for the average family rose 2.4% between September 15 and October 15. The cost of all foods has risen 6.6% since May, the date at which the War Labor Board is freezing wages.

CIRCUIT COURT HEARS APPEAL ON MINNEAPOLIS CONVICTIONS

Decision Concerning Trial of Eighteen Is Expected in Approximately Six Weeks

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Nov. 5 — Arguments on behalf of the defendants and the government were heard today in the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in the appeal of the 18 defendants from the conviction for conspiracy to violate the Smith Act. The convictions which are

being appealed followed a six weeks' trial of 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO members in Minneapolis in October and November of last year.

GOLDMAN AND FRAENKEL PRESENT ARGUMENTS

On behalf of the defendants, Albert Goldman, attorney and himself a defendant, and Osmond K. Fraenkel, attorney of the American Civil Liberties Union, contended the Smith Act as applied in the Minneapolis case was unconstitutional and deprived the defendants of their right of free speech and free press.

The attorneys for the defense also argued that membership in any conspiracy after the passage of the Smith Act on June 28, 1940 had not been proved, and that the indictment was legally insufficient.

On the constitutional question, they urged the court to adopt the "clear and present danger" views expressed by Justice Holmes and Brandeis in the criminal syndicalism cases after World War I.

The government's case was argued by Henry Schweinhaut of Washington and Victor Anderson of St. Paul.

DECISION EXPECTED WITHIN SIX WEEKS

The case was taken under advisement by the judges and a decision is expected in about six weeks.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee of 160 Fifth Ave., New York City, which is mobilizing public support for the defendants, has said that it will take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Breitman Gets Higher Vote Than in 1940

More New Jersey Workers Reached With SWP Program Than Ever Before

NEWARK, N. J.—Although it will be a comparatively low vote and although complete returns have not yet been published, the vote cast for George Breitman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U. S. Senator from New Jersey, will definitely show an increase over that tabulated for him when he ran for the same office in 1940.



According to information received by THE MILITANT, 418 votes were counted for Breitman last week in three of the state's 21 counties, Essex, Union and Passaic.

Unlike the other minority party candidates, Breitman's campaign was waged in a fighting spirit, which took up — instead of skirting around — the really vital issues of the war and the government, and answered them in forthright, uncompromising socialist terms. More workers were reached with the Socialist Workers Party program than in any previous New Jersey election.

A large number of workers residing in the state's industrial centers did not go to the polls at all on Nov. 3. Undoubtedly this had an effect — although only a minor effect — on the comparatively low Breitman vote.

MANY WORKERS VOTED ONLY WITH THEIR FEET

Workers, Having An Independent Labor Choice, Cast Significant Vote for ALP

By George Breitman

The most important aspect of the Nov. 3 elections was the fact that a large and decisive section of the American workers voted only with their feet.

These workers, who have generally voted Democratic for the last ten years, were faced in most parts of the country with a choice only between Democratic and Republican candidates running on virtually the same conservative and reactionary programs. Not seeing enough of a difference between them to make a choice worthwhile, these workers stayed away from the polls.

This factor, combined with the growing dissatisfaction of the middle class, professional workers and farmers — all being squeezed to the wall by the war and not knowing any other way of voicing their protests than by voting for the Republican "outs" — resulted in sharp reductions of the Democratic majority in both Houses of Congress and the winning of many new state posts by the Republicans.

REASON FOR LOW VOTE

The extremely low vote of 26 million cannot, of course, be explained only by the indifference or hostility of many workers to the Democratic and Republican campaigns. Midterm voting is usually lower than that cast in presidential elections.

In addition, many people have been drafted, or have moved and thus been deprived of the right to vote, or were unable to get to the polls because of their long hours of work.

But all these other factors had been taken into consideration in the pre-election polls and forecasts. Bearing them in mind, the Associated Press had predicted a turnout of 34 million, and the Gallup poll, which is generally accurate within 1 to 2 per cent in its election polls, predicted 30 million.

Everyone had agreed that these estimates would represent a deep "apathy" toward the elections. Nevertheless the low Gallup estimate was 15 per cent more than actually voted!

In other words, all the polls

TREND IN IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL STATES

In New Jersey the Roosevelt wheelhorse, Senator Smathers, was supported by all the leaders of both the AFL and CIO. He even had a number of labor leaders running on his ticket in many parts of the state, and taunted his Republican opponent on not being able to get the endorsement of a single labor leader in New Jersey. Mayor Hague kept his promise to Smathers and gave him the amazing plurality of 117,000 votes in Hudson County.

In spite of this, Smathers and his labor supporters were resoundingly defeated by the Republican Albert W. Hawkes.

The explanation, as labor leaders ruefully admitted after the elections, was that they just couldn't get the workers in the big cities out for Smathers. If they had, the Democrats would have been able to overcome the high Republican middle class and suburban vote.

Similarly in Michigan and California, where the trade union bureaucracies campaigned for the Democratic incumbents, Senator Prentiss Brown and Governor Culbert Olson, but where the Re-

(Continued on page 3)

C. P. Helped To Elect Minnesota Republican

Only the Candidate of the Trotskyists Presented Correct Working Class Program

By VINCENT R. DUNNE

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Another victory for the Republican machine of Governor Harold Stassen was chalked up in the recently concluded Minnesota election as a result of the Stalinist-created disunity in the ranks of the Farmer-Labor Party.

The final figures are not yet in as this is written, but it appears, on the basis of the latest unofficial tabulations, that Stassen's plurality over his Farmer-Labor opponent, Hjalmer Petersen, will be only half as large as his 1940 plurality, and only one-third the size of his 1938 plurality over the then Farmer-Labor Governor, Elmer Benson.

STASSEN MACHINE COULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED

Had Minnesota workers and farmers been given any real leadership by Farmer-Labor politicians in the campaign, they would have broken the Stassen machine control of the state, a control which has kept Minnesota trade unionists shackled by the infamous Stassen Labor Law since 1939.

But the Stalinists in control of the official Farmer-Labor machine were actually supporting the labor-hating Stassen for governor rather than the Farmer-Labor nominee, Petersen. The anti-Stalinist, Petersen, who had won the

Farmer-Labor nomination in the primaries from the Association-endorsed Paul Rasmussen, was condemned by the Benson-Stalinist clique as an "appeaser" and "American Firster."

These charges were made repeatedly despite Petersen's denial of membership in the America First Committee, and notwithstanding the fact that the Stalinists were the most rabid "isolationists" and "appeasers" during the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact.

CIO members were openly advised in a radio address by Robert Madigan, spokesman of the Stalinist-dominated state CIO Council to vote for Stassen, because of Stassen's "endorsement and support of President Roosevelt's win-the-war program."

Equally treacherous anti-Stalinist AFL trade union leaders, such as Sydney Brennan, business agent of General Drivers 544-AFL, supported Stassen, as well as the Republican candidate for U. S. Senator, Joseph Ball. (The Stalinists in the CIO and in the Farmer-Labor Association supported Elmer Benson, the Farmer-Labor nominee for Senator).

PETERSEN'S CAMPAIGN

The Railroad Brotherhoods of Minnesota endorsed the candidacy of Petersen, as did many trade union leaders, such as Roy Wier, organizer of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, John Carlgren, an official of the St. Paul Build-

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Stalin Says Imperialists Will Save The Soviet Union

African War Shows Imperialists' Aims Differ from USSR's

By ANTHONY MASSINI

Stalin showed on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution — in his speech before the Moscow Soviet and his Order of the Day on Nov. 6 — that he is staking the very existence of the Soviet Union on the aid of the "democratic" imperialists and that he still refuses to call on the German masses to revolt against Hitlerism.

A year ago Stalin admitted that the Soviet Union was unable by itself to defeat Hitler who had mobilized the manpower and resources of most of Europe for the purpose of crushing the workers' state. Stalin promised at that time that his policies of relying on his imperialist allies would "in the nearest future" bring aid from outside the USSR

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Red Army infantry are shown moving toward prepared positions in the outer defenses of Stalingrad. Their heroic struggle demonstrates to the world that despite the crimes of Stalinism, the Russian Revolution still lives. (Fed'ted Picture.)

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. VI.—No. 46

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1942

FIVE (5) CENTS

SWP Celebrates Russian Revolution Anniversary

Meetings were held everywhere throughout the country last week on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Many of these meetings were held under the auspices of groups such as the Congress of American-Soviet Friendship, sponsored jointly by spokesmen of United States imperialism and the Stalinists. A few of the meetings were sponsored by renegades from the Marxist movement who no longer defend the workers' state. But only the gatherings held under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party celebrated the anniversary in the spirit of the leaders of the Russian Revolution, Lenin and Trotsky.

Below we reprint accounts of those Socialist Workers Party meetings which reached us before we went to press.—Ed.

New York

NEW YORK, Nov. 8—The 250 workers attending the Socialist Workers Party celebration of the Russian Revolution's twenty-fifth anniversary enthusiastically demonstrated their agreement with the speakers, who called for continued working class defense of the Soviet Union, by pouring \$430 into a collection for an expansion of the party's propaganda work.

The audience gave close attention to James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and main speaker of the evening, as he discussed the present critical peril of the Soviet Union and the need for the continuation of the Trotskyist position for defense of the workers' state.

Comrade Cannon commented on the Nov. 6 speech to the Moscow Soviet: "Stalin's speech," he stated, "only shows that he is still doing all he can to insure the defeat of the Soviet Union. He rejects the support of the workers of the world and directs his appeal to his imperialist allies.

"We on our part turn to the workers and above all to the German and colonial workers as the future allies of the Soviet Union."

He examined the theory that fascist Germany and the Soviet Union were identical, and pointed to the differences between the continued strength of the Soviet economy and the high morale of its people and the breakdown of Italy. As for Germany, he stated, "Hitler must look to Mussolini and there he will see the image of his future."

Comrade Cannon partially attributed the recent defeats of the Axis in the East and in Africa to Hitler's mistake concerning the Soviet Union.

Detroit

DETROIT, Mich., Nov. 8—Fifty-five workers from the ranks of the most militant sections of American labor gathered here tonight to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Here was a typical cross-section of labor: old workers experiencing for the second time the short-lived false prosperity of the initial war boom and young workers, many holding "steady" jobs for the first time; men and women; whites and their Negro comrades associating fraternally.

Comrade Jones, organizer of the Detroit S.W.P. Branch, who acted as chairman noted the ever-increasing role of women in the party in his introduction of the speaker, Lydia Beidel.

Comrade Beidel pointed out the place occupied by the Russian Revolution, the most significant event in recent history, when, in October 1917 the working class, acting in its own interest consciously for the first time, kicked the bosses out of the factories and the landlords off the land. She heaped scorn upon the hysterical efforts of the leaders of moribund capitalism whose vain thrashings to push back the sands of time, succeeded only in burying themselves more thoroughly.

The meeting celebrated simultaneously the anniversary of the Russian Revolution and the birthday of one of its greatest leaders, Leon Trotsky. Comradely greetings and expressions of solidarity were conveyed to Comrade Natalia in Mexico in a telegram sent by the audience.

Twin Cities

MINNEAPOLIS, Nov. 8—"It is the planned economy, socialized production and nationalization of property in the Soviet Union which represents the workers' power that the Trotskyists defend today," said Max Goldman, speaking to a well attended Twin City Sunday Forum in Minneapolis. The weekly forum session was devoted to a commemoration of the anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Youngst'n

YOUNGSTOWN, Nov. 8—A roundtable discussion on the meaning and history of the Russian revolution was the main feature of the anniversary meeting held here by the Youngstown Branch of the S.W.P. The following telegram was sent to Natalia Sedov Trotsky in Mexico: "Dear Comrade Natalia: On this twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution, we draw renewed inspiration from the first successful proletarian revolution to face our present tasks, supported by the vigor, integrity and ideological soundness of our great teacher, L. D. Trotsky."

Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 8—Fifty workers were present here at the S.W.P. meeting on the Russian Revolution which was celebrated in the true spirit of October.

The speakers, C. Thomas and Janet Bowers, recalled the persistent warnings of Leon Trotsky that imperialism would inevitably attack the USSR and seek to destroy the gains made in 1917, unless the world revolution came to the aid of the Soviets.

Chicago

CHICAGO, Nov. 8—A well-attended meeting in celebration of the Russian Revolution anniversary was held here this afternoon at the Hotel Hamilton. The meeting was under the auspices of the Chicago Local of the Socialist Workers Party.

An attentive and responsive audience, composed largely of industrial workers including many Negro trade union militants, heard an address by Arthur Preis, former associate editor of THE MILITANT, on the nature and significance of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The speaker contrasted the program and methods of Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolshevik Party in their opposition to all the imperialists in the last war and their successful revolutionary defense of the early Soviet Union with the present policies of Stalinism. The Stalinist policies, he demonstrated, have undermined the international revolutionary socialist movement, bound the workers of all countries to their capitalist rulers, and weakened the defense of the Soviet Union.

Newark

NEWARK, Nov. 6—George Collins was the principal speaker at the Newark S.W.P. meeting held to celebrate the anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Boston

BOSTON, Mass., Nov. 8—Felix Morrow, editor of Fourth International, main speaker at the meeting celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Russian Revolution held by the Boston Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, stressed the fact that the Russian Revolution was carried out by a majority of the population, led by the Bolshevik Party.

At The CIO Convention

First Day of CIO Convention:

Murray Tries To Distort Roosevelt's Labor Record

(Continued from page 1)

Bard, Senator Pepper of Florida, etc.—will take up many hours during the rest of the convention.

ANTI-LABOR POLICIES

Although Murray's keynote was support of the "Commander-in-Chief," his report and speech nevertheless had to refer to some of the more obvious anti-labor consequences of the policies of the self-same Commander-in-Chief. Among the complaints which Murray had to record were the following:

1. Growth of monopoly. "A hundred companies still hold over 80% of all the war contracts. Ten of these companies hold almost half of the outstanding war contracts."

2. Soak the poor. The 1942 tax measure—signed by Roosevelt on Oct. 21—"will actually deprive the workers of the means to purchase sufficient necessities of life with which to maintain their strength and health."

3. Anti-labor acts of the WLB. "On wage issues representatives of the CIO have felt that the War Labor Board has not recognized the extent to which the needs of war production require upward adjustment of wage levels. . . On union security issues the CIO has urged unsuccessfully upon the Board a fuller appreciation of the value of the union shop. . . On these and other issues the CIO has not been in agreement with the decisions of the Board."

ROOSEVELT'S COURT

4. Anti-labor acts of the Roosevelt appointed Supreme Court. "The past year in the Court has witnessed the crystallization of an increasingly conservative majority consisting primarily of Justices Stone, Roberts, Frankfurter, Jackson and Byrnes. . . The decisions have included a number of extremely unfortunate regressions in the law affecting labor and labor relations."

The Southern Steamship Company case "dealt a severe blow to the rights of organized seamen." "Three of the five decisions relating to the Fair Labor Standards Act were adverse" to labor. In the Ritter case the Court

"took a long step backward" on the right of picketing. And so on. 5. Anti-labor role of WPB. Of its 15,000 employees, only 90 trade unionists are "holding jobs of a very subordinate nature" while "1,000 leading American business men—mostly dollar-a-year men—are running the organization." "What are they running in Washington? A war production organization to win the war, or a war production organization to destroy labor?"

MURRAY'S METHOD

These and other complaints made by Murray's report and speech, if added together, constitute a fundamental indictment of the anti-labor role of the Roosevelt Administration. No logical person could add all this together and then urge the workers to support the Roosevelt Administration. You can't do both. So Murray carefully abstained from adding together the facts he himself presented.

On the contrary, each complaint remained an individual item in a separate part of his report or speech, and the connection of each complaint with the others was in no way indicated. Each item was presented as if it were a single flaw in an otherwise perfect situation.

Moreover, Murray deliberately sought to absolve Roosevelt of all blame for the anti-labor consequences.

Murray's report referred to the 100 companies which monopolize 80% of all war contracts as if the companies had been able to create such a stranglehold by their own unaided efforts.

That it is Roosevelt's administration, Roosevelt's underlings, who hand out these contracts—about this Murray was as mum as a Cape Cod oyster.

That Roosevelt signed the tax bill, that it was Roosevelt's own party and his own lieutenants in the Senate and House who engineered the bill which Murray condemned as anti-labor—of this Murray was silent. Moreover, he directly sought to whitewash Roosevelt by a demonstrable falsehood.

LIES ON THE TAX BILL

The tax bill, claimed Murray, "completely ignored the proposals of the President and the Treasury." The fact is, however, that the differences between Roosevelt-Morgenthau and the Senate Finance Committee were limited to minor points—whether corporations should be taxed a top limit of 40 or 50 per cent of "normal" profits, and similar items—while Roosevelt, and the "reactionary Congressional leaders" stigmatized by Murray, saw eye to eye on the fundamental principle of sharply cutting down the living standards of the masses by taxes.

Had the differences between Roosevelt and the reactionaries been fundamental, Roosevelt could have vetoed the bill. Instead, he signed it.

MURRAY'S HOPES

One of the most ludicrous things in Murray's report is his reason for hoping that the "increasingly conservative majority" of the Supreme Court may be changed. "This line-up," writes Murray, "may be significantly affected by the resignation of Justice Byrnes from the bench to take the position of Economic Stabilization Director." Byrnes wrote some of the most reactionary decisions handed down by the court. Whereupon Murray says, in effect: Cheer up boys, Byrnes has resigned—to become the economic dictator, the most powerful government official next to the president!

Who is responsible for the anti-labor acts of the War Labor

Board? Apparently not Roosevelt, who appointed its personnel. Nor did Murray breathe a word about what the labor members of the Board are doing.

Who is responsible for the control of the War Production Board by the dollar-a-year men? Again apparently not Roosevelt, who approves their appointment.

Such is Murray's line. Above all, stand by the "Commander-in-Chief." To do that, lie about his connection with the acts injurious to labor, and pretend not to see that the various complaints of labor are directed against acts which, taken together, are obviously a systematic and conscious governmental campaign against the interests of the workers. Such are the consequences of the CIO leadership's subordination of the labor movement to their support of Roosevelt.

Encouraging Response To School's First Sessions

The New York School of Social Science opened its fall term last week with two lectures, one by C. Charles on American cartels and monopolies, the other by John G. Wright on the Bolsheviks and the colonial question. Both lectures, held on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the new second floor hall at 116 University Place, were marked by the attendance of more than 50 workers, most of them trade unionists.

The Charles lecture on November 4, which was part of a series entitled "American Economy at War," explained the operation of American cartels, and patent pools, and analyzed the accelerated drive of American capitalism toward monopoly control of the entire economy.

The future lectures by Charles, held each Wednesday evening at 8:15 through December 9, will

explain international cartels, the operation of capitalist war economy, price control, wage freezing and inflation.

John G. Wright devoted his opening lecture to the question of the national aspirations of the colonial peoples and traced the great theoretical contributions of Lenin and Trotsky to a scientific understanding of the problem. He emphasized that history has verified the theoretical truth of Lenin's slogan, "We live in an epoch of imperialist wars, proletarian revolutions and colonial uprisings."

Wright's future lectures, to be held each Friday evening, will deal with the concrete problems of China and India.

Following both opening lectures, refreshments were served and a lively informal discussion took place. This custom will be observed throughout the courses. Admission charge to single lectures is 25 cents.

Second Day of Convention:

Delegates Discuss Ways Of Destroying Jim Crow

By FELIX MORROW

BOSTON, Nov. 10.—The struggle of the CIO against racial discrimination was discussed this afternoon for over an hour by the fifth convention of the CIO. Coming up in the course of the report of the resolutions committee, it was the first moment of real life in the convention so far.

The committee presented for adoption the following resolution on discrimination:

"Whereas, discrimination against workers because of race, religion or country of origin is an evil characteristic of our fascist enemies. . . of the democracies are fighting fascism at home and abroad by welding all races, all religions and all peoples into a united body of warriors for democracy. Any discriminatory practices within our own ranks, against Negroes or other groups, directly aids the enemy by creating divisions, dissension and confusion. Such discrimination practiced in employment policies hampers production by depriving the nation of the use of available skills and manpower.

"Therefore be it resolved, that the CIO now reiterates its firm opposition to any form of racial or religious discrimination and renews its pledge, as a war-time duty, to carry on the fight for protection in law and in fact of the rights of every racial and religious group to participate fully in our social, political and industrial life."

Officers of a Negro trade union, the United Transport Service Em-

ployees of America — the red caps' organization — objected to the committee's resolution as being too weak, and asked that it be reworded for strengthening.

SPIRITED DISCUSSION

John L. Yancey, Secretary-Treasurer of the UTSEA, asked the convention to "get away from platitudes" and move for "real and practical action."

Answering for the committee, John Brophy defended the Roosevelt-appointed Fair Employment Practices Committee although Yancey had not mentioned it. Brophy promised that the committee year would see "greater activity" by the governmental committee charged with discouraging racial discrimination. Similarly Van A. Bittner, steel workers' official, defended the committee resolution.

Another critic of the resolution was Willard S. Townsend, President of the UTSEA. He emphasized the distinction between formal "lip-service" to the fight against racial discrimination and actually pitching in to fight it. He cited the example of "a prominent CIO leader" in the South, who had told him: "We organize in this section of the country according to the established pattern" — that is, catering to white supremacy.

After the passage of the resolution against racial discrimination, Walter Reuther of the UAW proposed that the committee be instructed to bring in another resolution, implementing in detail the principle of the first reso-

lution. In answer, CIO President Philip Murray spoke at some length on the detailed record of CIO actions against racial discrimination.

Murray was able to cite an impressive record of CIO actions and to declare that no other organization could claim to have done more than the CIO on this issue. All that was true enough, but was not the real point in question — whether the CIO was doing all it could for racial equality.

NO CRITICISM OF FEPC

Absent from the CIO resolution is any criticism of the notorious pussyfooting of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, which has failed to crack down on employers discriminating against Negroes.

Likewise absent is any criticism of the Jim Crow practices of the government itself in the Army, Navy and Air Corps. In short, while the CIO as a whole is undoubtedly wholeheartedly with the Negro against discrimination, the CIO leadership is committed to covering up Roosevelt's responsibility for the continuing of discrimination in government and industry.

The discussion was notable for the way in which the Stalinists rushed to the aid of the CIO leadership in resisting strengthening of the resolution. Stalinist delegates from the National Maritime Union (Smith), the United Electrical Workers (Wm. Senter), the Leather Workers (Feinglass), and Philip Connolly of the California Industrial Council, all rushed to the microphone to defend the resolution. Informed delegates nudged each other in amusement as this parade was on.

There is a certain vagueness concerning the actual present membership of the CIO. The Murray report gave no figures, but there have been several oral references to "about five million" and one to "over five million." The plain fact is that, in a year of unprecedented increase of employment, the CIO does not claim much growth beyond last year.

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Union**

By ALBERT GOLDMAN

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**For a Rising Scale of
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The Negro Struggle

By JOHN SAUNDERS

The Effect of the Nov. 3 Elections on the Fight to End Jim Crow and Judge Lynch

Ever since Roosevelt came to the White House, militant Negroes have protested against his policy of "appeasing" the Southern Democrats. They have pointed out, with complete accuracy, that even when Roosevelt did not personally object to a particular measure which the Negro people wanted passed, he would usually be influenced into opposing it by the objections of the Southern members of his party in Congress.

Election Results Show Need For Nationwide Labor Party

(Continued from page 1)

publicans won because many workers did not feel it worthwhile to go to the polls for the candidates whom they had elected previously.

position to a capitalist party candidate. It is true that the workers were still voting for a reformist program when they voted for the ALP last week, but now they were doing it in opposition to the Democratic Party which they had so long supported.

The Nov. 3 elections also showed that the workers are ready for a labor party — negatively, on the part of the 10 to 15% of the voters, most of them workers, who were expected to vote and did not — positively, on the part of the approximately same percentage of the New York voters who supported the first statewide independent candidate in the history of the ALP.

The campaign itself was run in an inept and defeatist manner. The platform of the ALP was almost indistinguishable from that of the Democrats and Republicans. Alfange avoided all the fundamental issues.

WE CELEBRATE THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

By Joseph Hansen

Opening Speech at SWP Meeting in N. Y.

It is a great historic privilege to be able to celebrate the existence of the workers' state for a quarter of a century. For thousands of years planned society was nothing but a dream of the future, a distant goal which one could not hope to see although he gave his life in the struggle to attain it.

Second Front Depends On Political As Well As Military Considerations

By MARK BRADEN

(The following article, dealing with some of the political considerations affecting the question of a second front, was received by THE MILITANT more than a week before United States forces landed in North Africa. It is printed here as a discussion of a political question overlooked or distorted by most commentators. It will be followed by other articles in subsequent issues dealing with other aspects of the same general question.—Ed.)

Stalin Says Imperialists Will Save The Soviet Union

(Continued from page 1)

In the form of a second front in Britain and the United States. Stalin's policies have not resulted in any effective aid for the Soviet Union. Last week, still abiding his own policies of responsibility for not securing such aid, Stalin again said that the defeats were due to "the absence of a second front" and he again promised that the Soviet Union would be saved from disaster by a second front of the imperialists which was bound to come "sooner or later."

dissatisfaction has become so widespread that Stalin now feels it necessary to speak out openly against it. To this end Stalin launched into a eulogy of his imperialist allies, claiming that they were fighting for the "abolition of racial exclusiveness, equality of nations and the integrity of their territories, liberation of enslaved nations and the restoration of their sovereign rights," etc., etc.

ian divisions" while the Axis has 240 divisions on the Soviet front. The Daily Worker in this country has also denounced the idea of a second front through southern Europe. The Worker's "Veteran Commander," plainly a GPU agent who prints what the Kremlin wants, complained bitterly on Nov. 1 against Willkie's call in a recent radio broadcast for a second front through Italy.

C. P. Helped To Elect Minnesota Republicans

(Continued from page 1)

ask the support of the working masses of Minnesota to place a working class administration in office and clean out the corrupt anti-labor Stassen machine, which has placed so many reactionary laws upon the statute books of Minnesota.

The Communist Party ran candidates for the offices of Governor, Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner, and Representative from the Fourth District. These were the offices for which anti-Stalinist Farmer-Laborites had been successful in the primary election. The Stalinist candidates used the campaign in order to put forth their hysterical demand for a second front, opposition to so-called "appeasers," etc.

THE KIND OF VICTORY THEY WANT

But sooner or later the "democratic" imperialists must come to decisive struggles with Hitler; the stakes for which they are fighting dictate that they invade Europe, and all the evidence indicates they are now carefully preparing for that.

DEFENSES HIS POLICY

A good part of his latest speech was consumed in attacking the idea that a second front would not be created. Unquestionably this part of his speech was intended primarily for home consumption; there would be no point at this time in his directing such propaganda toward the U. S. or Britain.

BASIC DIFFERENCES

There are such differences, Stalin said, but Britain and the United States will launch a second front sooner or later because to do so is in their own interests as well as those of the Soviet Union.

THE AFRICAN FRONT

Nevertheless, American and British troops landed in North Africa, on Nov. 7, and Roosevelt pointedly declared that this was "an effective second front assistance" to the USSR.

S. W. P. CAMPAIGN

Despite the encouraging response to the 1940 Trotskyist campaign, it was feasible only to run a sticker campaign in this election. Two thousand citizens who did not vote in the primary election must sign a petition before a Notary Public in order to place the name of the candidate of a minority party on the ballot.

The Paris Commune, however,

became for the Marxists a model for study. Out of the experiences of the Paris Commune arose the Second International which built powerful mass parties and spread the program of scientific socialism to all the far corners of the earth.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People. VOL. VI—No. 46 Saturday, Nov. 14, 1942. Published Weekly by THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y. Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547. Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN. THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials. Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for six months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for six months. Bundle orders: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents. Registered as second class matter February 13, 1941 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

- JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR: 1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers. 2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army. 3. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries—Down with Jim Crowism everywhere. 4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control. 5. For a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. 6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks. 7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions. 8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

Talking About Stabs In The Back...

An unprovoked act of aggression! A treacherous stab in the back! Do such expressions sound familiar? They've been used so often that they should. Most recently these tones of indignation have been heard from the French government. Less than a year ago they were heard from the United States government. Even Japan this week denounced the invasion of French Africa as "ungentlemanly." The same things have been said countless times by all other imperialist governments. Remember how Secretary Hull denounced the deceit of Japan which engaged in long diplomatic discussions while Pearl Harbor was being prepared? That's the same Secretary Hull who this week smilingly admitted that the government's policy of "friendship" toward Vichy was designed all along to pave the way for an invasion of the French Empire. A nation that gets beat to the punch always hollers. It seeks by acting the part of injured innocence to justify its own imperialist policies and thus gain support from the masses. This unprovoked aggression, they say, proves that ours is a just and holy war. As for the imperialist nations that manage to put over the "Pearl Harbors," they have a different line, but also a uniform and by now trite one. President Roosevelt says that French Africa was invaded "in order to forestall an invasion of Africa by Germany and Italy." "The ultimate and greater aim is the liberation of France and its empire..." And Hitler says he has marched into unoccupied France "with one single aim, and that is to repel an American and British landing. I have given the order to the troops to look after the interests of France." And of course Japan also claimed to have invaded China in self-defense and in the best interests of the Chinese people. And the French government originally entered the war to defend poor little Poland, didn't it? We have often said that the character of a war cannot be determined by who strikes the first blow or by diplomatic maneuvers employed to prepare the first blow or by the indignant complaints of the nation that gets struck the first blow. For these are methods and arguments used interchangeably by all the imperialists to serve their own reactionary interests. We hope that the latest events will open the eyes of the workers and lead them to an examination of the real causes of imperialist war—the capitalist system and the continuous struggle for profits which it breeds among all capitalist nations.

The Central Aim

The central idea around which all the activities and decisions of the government revolve was again illustrated on Friday, Nov. 6. On that day the Treasury Department announced that it would "ease up" on the \$25,000 limitation on the "salaries" of the bosses. And on the very same day, the War Labor Board, which has jurisdiction over wages and salaries below \$5000 a year, cracked down on the workers' wages. The Treasury made another concession to the bosses. It ruled that the wealthy who hold contracts providing salaries in excess of \$25,000, would be permitted to continue receiving this "salary" in 1942, providing the contract was entered in before Oct. 4. A few months ago Roosevelt abolished by decree

all overtime pay for week-end and holiday work unless these days were the six and seventh of a working week. The fact that many unions had contracts stipulating such payment did not halt Roosevelt. The contract is not at all sacred when it benefits the workers; when it favors the bosses it is a holy of holies. The WLB sternly notified the workers that not even to correct maladjustments and inequalities would any group of employees be allowed to receive wage increases greater than 15 per cent over the January 1, 1941 level. In his statement announcing the policy of the WLB, the chairman of that body, William H. Davis, said that the board would grant increases "very sparingly" and that the "Little Steel" 15 per cent formula would be interpreted "rather strictly." For the small handful of capitalists who are making tremendous profits out of the war, the government adopts a policy of conciliation and makes further extensive concessions. For the great mass of the people, the toilers who produce the wealth of the nation, the government adopts what Davis calls a "pretty damn tough policy." Nothing illustrates better than this the fundamental policies of the government.

Now He's 'Our' S.O.B.

"From the headquarters of General Eisenhower in North Africa comes the dramatic announcement that General Henri Giraud, hero of two world wars, has arrived in Algeria and that he will organize there a French North African Army 'to take up arms side by side with the United Nations for the defeat of Germany and Italy and the liberation of France and her Empire.'" From an editorial in the Nov. 10 N. Y. Times. Who is this great "hero" who once more unsheathes his sword for the cause of "liberation?" The answer was not long in coming. Out of the wrangling, bickering camp of French capitalist refugees who prefer to kneel at the foot of the Anglo-American masters rather than bend before the German overlord comes an answer written by the informed Pertainax in the N. Y. Times the following day: "Anti-German General Giraud decidedly is, but he is also anti-communist and it cannot be said that he ever was a friend of Great Britain. With all that, for the sake of national liberation, he dropped for the present his anti-British prejudice." "General Giraud is a vigorous leader in the field. He pacified South Morocco before the war, but in Belgium and in Northern France two and a half years ago he did not have the opportunity to prove his mettle." "All Frenchmen opposed to Germany who at the same time want to save the Vichy regime and prevent the restoration of the republic will flock to General Giraud while former republicans take their stand by General de Gaulle."

Election And The Anti-Poll Tax Bill

The danger that the present Congress will not pass legislation abolishing payment of poll taxes for federal elections has been increased by the outcome of the Nov. 3 elections. The poll-tax Democrats will hold the balance of power in the new Congress. If they throw their support to the Republicans on any issue, the Democrats can become a minority. And vice versa. The tendency of the Democratic and Republican machines will therefore be increasingly to make horse trades with the poll-tax Democrats in return for support on issues in which the machines are interested. That tendency will develop not only next January when the new Congress is seated, but right now. More than ever, the national leaders of the two parties will hesitate to take any steps that might offend the poll-taxers. During the next six weeks the anti-poll tax bill will be threatened not only by the danger of filibuster and obstructionism on the part of the poll-taxers, but also sabotage, concealed if not open, on the part of the administration and of the Republican leaders. It will be hard to pass the anti-poll tax bill this year under these conditions. But it will be much harder to pass it next year. It is therefore necessary, even more now than before the elections, for all workers' organizations in the country to intensify their pressure on Congress, the administration and the Republicans, to demand the immediate passage of the anti-poll tax bill.

Old Enough To Fight? Old Enough To Vote!

By A. ROLAND The exacting and exhausting demands made on the mechanized soldier in the present war have caused all the nations to turn for man-power to the youth. The United States is preparing to take the unprecedented step of applying conscription to those who are eighteen and over. It is recognized that the young make the best fighters, those who can "take it" under the worst conditions. Thus the youth are being called upon to make the supreme sacrifice in the imperialist war. It is not only as fighters that the young are called upon to bear the burdens. In the factories also both young men and young women are being driven for production in the totalitarian war. The "forgotten generation" is suddenly no longer forgotten. All the agencies of government, all the controlled peripheral organizations, lay themselves out to foster the good will of the youth. The employers who but yesterday hurled anathemas at the New Deal for "coddling" the young men and women who could find no place in an industry in crisis,

ones, are not far to seek. They are characteristic of class society, and particularly of capitalist society. Politics, the game of ruling society, is held to be the sphere of those who have a stake in it. It is the prerogative of the class that dominates modern society, who permit the right to vote to the masses only so long as the vote does not endanger the present system. The older men and women are under all sorts of pressures in their daily lives to keep them under the thumb of the powers-that-be. But the youth cannot so easily be cowed. They are proverbially the idealists and the radicals. They do not fear, but on the contrary, welcome change and progress. The present younger generation is especially under suspicion by the finance capitalists who really run capitalist society. This generation has been raised in the period of the greatest crisis in American history. It has learned the bitter experience of seeing fathers and brothers and sisters out of work, of being on relief, of having to fight for its daily bread. The lessons of the awful years from '29 to '39 can never be forgotten.

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about—what are the bosses up to—the labor leaders?—the Stalinists? Send us that story the capitalist press wouldn't print and that story they buried or distorted—let us know whether you agree or disagree with the views expressed in this paper. Letter should carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Soldiers and The Elections Editor: There was a lot of talk by the press and the politicians about "apathy" so far as the elections were concerned. There were even appeals by Roosevelt, Dewey and Farley for the greatest possible vote. But there was one group of eligible voters whom none of these people was interested in getting to vote. I refer to the soldiers both at home and abroad. Everyone knows that Congress recently passed a bill permitting the soldiers to vote. But Secretary Knox didn't think it worthwhile to send ballots abroad, and as a result an item appeared in the press the other day that not a single American soldier in Britain voted on Nov. 3. As for the soldiers stationed in this country, I have a brother in camp who told me how difficult it is for the soldiers to get a vote. Tucked away in a corner of the bulletin board where very few people would notice it was a THREE-LINE announcement that application cards for war ballots were available at the regimental headquarters. The soldiers are on duty from reveille to retreat, my brother says. Then they have to clean up and eat. By the time a soldier gets to the regimental headquarters, it is long after 5:00 P. M. But all the personnel leaves the headquarters at 5 sharp. Nor did the officers do a single thing to encourage the soldiers in voting. There were no speeches about it by any of the officers, no propaganda about the "benefits of democracy." When there is a campaign for "soldiers' relief" or for war bond sales, such as a friend of my brother recently described to me, the situation is altogether different. Then the soldiers really see some high-pressure salesmanship, with everyone from the lowest non-coms to the highest officers continually nagging the ranks to "do their share." At least 95% of the 5 million or more soldiers are eligible to vote. Why didn't Mr. Roosevelt give a couple of speeches to the soldiers on the importance of voting? Is it because he, like the fascist-minded officers in the army, doesn't want the soldiers getting any ideas about having some rights, such as the right to think independently and politically, instead of having everything decided for them from above? MARY R. New York City

Bridges Takes On Job of Censor

Editor: Stalinist bureaucrats in this state have been carrying on a wild campaign to smear THE MILITANT and intimidate union members from accepting it when it is distributed before meetings and at plant gates. They have built asheams and rammed resolutions through unions under their control... but without much success. The workers continued to accept the paper and read it. On Nov. 1 H. Bridges, Stalinist stooge and California director of the CIO, personally assumed the role of cop and censor. He stood in front of the hall where the "Frisco local of the longshoremen's union was meeting and exhorted the men not to take THE MILITANT, and he asked those who took it not to read it but tear it up. The stevedores gave him the cold shoulder—the distribution went off without difficulty and most of the men took the paper, put it into their pockets and carried it into the meeting with them. S. B. San Francisco

And They Call It A 'War For Democracy'!

What are the British fighting for? Do they intend to grant freedom to the colonial peoples in the British Empire? Stung by the growing criticisms of British imperialist policy, Brigadier General Lord Croft, Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary for the War Office got up in Parliament on Oct. 28 not only to defend the British government but also, to brag about its slave-master policies: "The time has come to throw off the inferiority complex and realize that what Britain is fighting to defend is as sound as anything yet discovered and to cease apologizing for our existence. This 'decadent, dying race' has a finer system of justice and better social services than any other land, and nowhere in the world has the gap between riches and poverty been made so narrow without a revolution..." "We intend to drive out the aggressor from Malaya and Burma and restore happiness and liberty to those unhappy countries. Far from quitting, we have the opportunity of continuing to lift those countries from illiteracy to understanding, and some day, in our wisdom and at our own time, into full self-expression, and by our example, lead the world to a fuller, happier life." It is unlikely that the speech of Lord Croft—who, according to Time of Nov. 9, "was a supporter of Francisco Franco during the Spanish Civil War, of Benito Mussolini at the partition of Abyssinia"—will be published in all sections of the British Empire to encourage the colonial masses. After all, 90% of the colonial subjects still cannot read after hundreds of years under British rule; and very few of those who can read, can afford to buy newspapers.

More On Why Bosses Are Happy About New Tax Bill

By C. CHARLES The recently passed tax bill is full of provisions favorable to the capitalist class. These loopholes, which are called "relief" provisions, were exposed in last week's issue of THE MILITANT. There is an additional method that the bosses use which was not mentioned in THE MILITANT article on "Why the Bosses Are Happy About the New Tax Bill." This method, which has been in operation for some time, is called the tax amortization allowance. This is an example of how the tax amortization allowance works: A firm plans to put up a new plant to produce war goods (at a very good profit). If the Army and Navy decide that this plant is necessary, they certify it to receive the benefits of the tax amortization provisions. According to these provisions, the firm is allowed to deduct from its taxable income 20 per cent of the cost of the plant for purposes of "amortization." Amortization is a financial device whereby a company each year or period pays off a certain part of a debt. Since a steel plant wears out only about 3% each year, this means that every year the firm receives 17% of the cost of the new plant as a gift in the form of exemption from tax payment. Thus the government, over a period of less than six years, gives a free plant to the firm, saving the capitalists hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes annually.

German Tax Laws Also Go Easy On Capitalist Class

By HOWARD ALLEN The Nazis and Fascists have always posed as anti-capitalists. The speeches of Hitler, Mussolini and their stooges have been full of demagogic attacks on "Big Business." They have tried to cover up their naked dictatorship with phrases against profiteering. Nazi propaganda in particular has exploited to the limit the deep-seated desire of the workers for an economic system without profits. In this they have been aided by a host of phoney economists and sociologists, inside Germany and out, who have pictured the Hitler dictatorship as a non-capitalist system. According to these vulgar, would-be theoreticians, the Nazi economy is a new social order, a planned economy; they identify Nazi Germany with Soviet Russia. In spite of their divergent interests, both the apologists for "democratic" imperialism and the fascist soothsayers have agreed that the capitalist class no longer rules in Germany. They both lie. Waverly Root, writing in the Nov. 2 Philadelphia Record reports, "When the war began, German business firms were subject to a corporation tax of 50% and an excess profits tax of 100%. But there was a loophole in the law big enough to drive an armored car through. The German companies simply added their excess profits to their reserves, instead of listing them as profits..." "In order to keep on paying high dividends without running over the 6% of capital, (upon which a heavy tax was levied on June 12, 1941) the big German concerns wrote up their capital, revealing in so doing the tremendous hidden reserves they had accumulated, which now became part of the permanent capitalization. "The reserves in many cases turned out to be greater than the original capital. Thus, the Deutsche Waffen and Munitions-fabriken increased its capital 300%!... The overall capital increase for all German corporations was 60%." In other words, Mr. Root charges the German capitalist class with a hunger for profits equal to that of the American capitalists. The tax-evasion devices of the German industrialists which Root exposes, is certainly nothing new to the American "captains of industry." Despite the political differences between the Nazi and the "democratic" imperialist states, one fact sticks out: Both are concerned primarily with helping the bosses to coin profits at the expense of the workers,

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