

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR PARDON OF 18

Stalin Conspires With His Allies At Teheran

Gist of Iran Parley Is Plot to Subjugate Peoples of Europe;
Fear of Revolution Is the Bridge for Stalin's Deal with Allies

By John C. Wright

The meeting of Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt at Teheran was surrounded with an even greater secrecy than was the case when Eden, Molotov and Hull met in Moscow one month before. The Churchill-Stalin-Roosevelt declaration of Dec. 1, made public after five days' delay, is one of the vaguest and in consequence most sinister diplomatic documents that has ever issued from the mills of secret diplomacy.

Although the text of the Teheran statement declares that the conferees and their "diplomatic advisers" had "surveyed the problems of the future," and although the Moscow radio, which was the first to broadcast on Dec. 4 the news about the parley, announced that "a range of political questions" had been covered, the world still knows virtually nothing about the actual political decisions reached at Teheran.

The Churchill-Stalin-Roosevelt statement informs merely that there is now "complete agreement" with regard to military operations against Germany, whose military forces are to be utterly destroyed. It further promises "an enduring peace," without even mentioning a single term of such a peace. It boasts about the "common understanding," "concord," and "friendship" between Washington, Moscow and London, without specifying just what the basis is for this new-found harmony. And that is all.

The only other document made public was the "mutual agreement" with respect to Iran, whose "independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity" is now jointly guaranteed by London, Washington and Moscow, in accordance with "the principles of the Atlantic charter." The hypocritical verbiage and promises of this document are a thin disguise for the official intervention of the U. S. capitalists in the affairs of the Middle East, traditionally England's stamping ground. It marks a diplomatic victory for the U. S. over England.

Upon his return from the Moscow conference, Secretary of State Hull swore that he had entered into no secret agreements. The capitalist press now blandly admits that the discussion at Teheran must remain secret for the time being — for "military reasons."

REAL REASON FOR SECRECY

But the real reason for secrecy is that the discussions at Teheran are a continuation of the conspiracy being hatched by Churchill-Stalin-Roosevelt against the coming European revolution, above all the German revolution.

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A History Of Price Rises Under OPA

By Miriam Carter

The success of the miners in breaking the wage-freezing Little Steel formula by militant struggle has loosened a flood of demands on the part of the labor movement for wage increases. The Roosevelt administration, bent on saddling the cost of the war on the backs of the workers, but fearing the independence and militancy their program is fostering, has pushed forward the subsidy program, claiming that the OPA can stabilize prices by the use of subsidies.

This is a thoroughly false claim, aimed only at confusing and disorienting the workers in their struggle to maintain decent living standards. In the past year \$800,000,000 has been expended by the OPA on food subsidies. The cost of food has gone up from 50 to 200% since 1941; this rise being most precipitous in the last year.

The entire record of the OPA, the agency upon which rests the responsibility for keeping prices down, is one of constant retreat in the face of pressure from Big Business. The profit hungry capitalists push relentlessly for more and more price increases to add to their already phenomenal profits.

WAGE FREEZE

The price stabilization program of the OPA was instituted in May, 1942, through Roosevelt's Seven Point "Equality of Sacrifice" program. This program froze wages, promising at the same time to wipe out war profiteering, and stabilizing prices at March 1942 levels.

The OPA got off to an inauspicious start. Leon Henderson, OPA administrator at that time stated that American (read workers') living standards will be down to 1932 levels before the war is over. Only a few cost of living items were put under price ceilings, with no provisions for en-

forcement of the ceilings even on those items. David Ginsberg, general counsel of the OPA, said in a speech on June 1942, before the National Retail Dry Goods Association, that the use of inspectors to check up on retailers would "evidence a lack of faith in the honesty and patriotism of American retailers." American business's "honesty and patriotism" was recorded by Ginsberg in the fact that two thirds of the retailers failed to comply with OPA regulations on posting of ceiling prices, and only one sixth of those checked posted them properly. "Already," added Ginsberg, "there is a marked tendency on the part of some manufacturers to switch their production from low price, low profit items to high price, higher profit items."

Only two months after the OPA had announced, with much fanfare, its intention to stabilize prices, it began its systematic legalization of price increases. On July 24 Henderson announced a 10 to 25 percent increase on all canned fruits and berries. Several weeks later ceiling prices on 400-500 food items were raised, boosting the cost of living, even according to the conservative OPA statistics, by 1 1/4%. These increases were granted to the gigantic food processing corporations after they threatened not to harvest ripening crops unless they got their "pound of flesh." These increases, said Paul Willis, president of the Grocery Manufacturers Association of America, "contemplated by the OPA, as I understand it, are patterned after the urgent suggestions which the food industry repeatedly made to the agency during the last few months."

Meanwhile other items were put under ceilings, but the other sections of the food industry, encouraged by the success of the food processors, began clamoring for increases on their products. The ceiling prices on numerous food necessities, including breakfast cereals, canned fish, cooking and salad oils, sugar, canned vegetables, coffee, rice, shortening, lard and dried fruits, were raised a cent or two on October 10. Campbell's soups were granted a 1-3 cent increase after changing the labels on the cans.

HENDERSON DUMPED

Secretary of Agriculture Wickard, the watchdog of the interests of the big dairy corporations, called for increases in cheese, butter and evaporated milk.

December 10 the OPA announced a "moderate rise" in beef prices.

December 13 sixteen grocery items were given price increases, "to relieve the pressure" on them created by the price rises granted to the food processors.

From May, 1942, when the OPA program went into effect, to October, 1942 the ultra-conservative

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The Fight for Democracy Begins at Home



Michigan Unionists Demand Labor Party

DETROIT, Mich. — The Political Action conference of Dec. 4-5, held in Lansing, Michigan, was sponsored jointly by the Sixth Political Region of the National CIO and the Michigan State CIO Council. The conference was attended by several hundred delegates representing approximately one-half of the local CIO unions of Michigan.

The purpose of the conference was to arouse enthusiasm among the CIO workers for Hillman's CIO Political Action Committee's program of continued

subservience to Roosevelt and his policies. The CIO bureaucrats are attempting to overcome their growing political weakness by an energetic organization program of setting up ward and precinct organizations of CIO members. All panel chairmen of the conference, as well as the top CIO officers, attempted to focus discussion along these lines. All proposals for the creation of an independent labor party were ruled out of order as the conference was not "a legislative or policy making body."

VIOLATE INSTRUCTION

The Michigan conference also had the purpose of officially announcing the abandonment by the Michigan State CIO Council of the plan to build a labor party. In June, 1943, the Michigan CIO convention representing the 700,000 Michigan workers, passed a resolution instructing the incoming executive board to poll the local unions on the question of launching an independent labor party in the state of Michigan. The State CIO Executive Board has seen fit to violate this

American Troops Want Furloughs

American combat troops in Italy bombarded the service newspaper, Stars and Stripes, with angry protests for its editorial on furloughs stating that the troops wanted to see Berlin before their home towns. "Who in hell elected you to voice the opinion of the veteran," wrote one soldier. "We have been overseas more than twenty-two months now and have seen almost six months of combat. . . . When a rear echelon Johnny says these boys don't want to go home and that they don't need a rest, I think of the old saying, war has no fury like that of a noncombatant. Yours for a shorter war."

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CRDC Summons Labor, Liberals For Fight To Free The Victims Of Smith 'Gag' Law

Petition Lists, Model Resolutions Prepared for Distribution;
Defense Body Appeals for Funds to Aid Prisoners and Families

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, authorized representative of the 18 Minneapolis defendants now being railroad to the federal penitentiary, announced this week the launching of a nationwide campaign to secure an unconditional presidential pardon for all of the 18 class-war victims of the infamous Smith "Gag" Law. The Minneapolis defendants must surrender to the U. S. Marshal on the 31st of December.

"No one can evade the grave challenge in this case," said George Novack, secretary of the CRDC. "Neither freedom of speech nor any of labor's hard-won rights are safe so long as the 18 are kept in jail and the Smith 'Gag' Act remains on the statute books. We are launching the fight right now for a full and unconditional presidential pardon."

"We are calling upon every trade union local, every trade union member, every trade union official, every genuine liberal and supporter of civil liberties to back us in this fight. Our fight for a presidential pardon for the 18 Minneapolis prisoners is a fight to secure the freedom of the incorruptible socialist revolutionists and militant trade unionists."

"It is a fight to defeat the conspiracy of those reactionary forces who have already torn up the first amendment to the constitution, and who intend to turn the entire Bill of Rights into another scrap of waste paper. It is, at the same time, a fight to wipe off the books the infamous Smith 'Gag' Law."

PREPARING RESOLUTIONS

The CRDC is preparing petition lists and model resolutions for mass distribution among labor and liberal organizations. Resolutions of protest and demands for pardon must come in an ever rising flood, for only an aroused labor movement, conscious of the threat to its democratic rights which the Smith "Gag" Act represents, will free the 18 prisoners. The required funds to carry out this campaign on the full scale can come only from one source — those labor and liberal organizations and individuals who rally to the fight and who intend to see it through to the end. The CRDC is confident of the response to its appeal for funds. The Militant urges all its readers and friends to back this campaign to the utmost. All contributions should be forwarded to the CRDC, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

This Thursday, Dec. 16 at 8 P. M., a mass meeting under the auspices of the CRDC will be held to protest the railroad of the 18 to the federal penitentiary. The speakers are: Albert Goldman, noted labor attorney and one of the 18 prisoners; Roger Baldwin, Director, American Civil Liberties Union; Daniel Bell, Editor of The New Leader; Samuel H. Friedman, Editor of The Call; Aron F. Gilmartin, representing the Workers Defense League and Max Shachtman, representing the Workers Party. The meeting will be held at Manhattan Center, 34th

St. at Eighth Ave., New York City.

UNION SUPPORT

Dodge Local 3 of UAW-CIO, Detroit; San Diego International Longshoremen & Warehousemen's Local 1-29; CIO Marine Cooks & Stewards Association of the Pacific Coast; Steel Workers Workington Pump Local of N. J.; Local 1939, Crucible Steel Company, Jersey City; UAW Local in the L. A. Young Spring & Wire Co., Trenton, N. J.; Local 402 of the United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, Newark; New Jersey State Industrial Council of the CIO; San Francisco CIO Industrial Union Council; United Retail & Wholesale Employees of America, CIO, and others.

The 1941 Buffalo convention of the United Automobile Workers CIO unanimously adopted a strongly-worded resolution denouncing the FBI-Tobin union wrecking attack on Teamsters Local 544-CIO which led to the Minneapolis Trial. This resolution said in part:

"RESOLVED: That we protest the use of any government agencies, and particularly the FBI, to be used to oppress or harass any labor organization in the pursuit of their legitimate activities."

Message from New Haven SWP To 18 Smith 'Gag' Act Victims

The comrades of the New Haven Branch extend their hands in complete solidarity with the 18 revolutionary comrades and leaders of our movement, persecuted and victimized by a reactionary decaying capitalism. We further affirm our profound faith in the principles of our party, the only truly revolutionary Marxist party in existence today. The undaunted courage of our leaders has stimulated our determination to exert our efforts as never before.

We are certain that the entire party draws courage and inspiration from the staunch fight of our comrades for the only program that can free humanity from its abject misery, the program of the Fourth International. We shall continue that fight.

Long live the 18 persecuted comrades!
Long live the Socialist Workers Party!

St. at Eighth Ave., New York City.

The case has already received gratifying response and support from many unions, and working class organizations as well as from the Civil Liberties Union, Labor's Non-Partisan League, Union for Democratic Action, and a host of defense organizations.

Among the many CIO, AFL, independent central labor bodies and local unions who have vigorously protested against Roosevelt's persecution of the 18 Minneapolis prisoners and who have donated funds for their defense are the following:

NEW JERSEY CIO ACTION

The Rochester Railroad Council took the following position: "We recognize this as a general attack on labor and therefore a fight that all labor must rally to."

Irving Abramson, president of New Jersey State CIO Council, in announcing that body's decision to support the 18 Minneapolis defendants, stated: "Our Executive Board is on record as supporting the fight of these men against political persecution."

Among the latest to protest the action of the Supreme Court in denying a hearing on the case is the Union Advocate, a St. Paul AFL paper which said editorially on Dec. 9 that "there was a case in which freeborn Americans were tried, convicted and sentenced to prison not for any active attempt to overthrow the government but for what they thought and said. There are legal involvements in this case which should have been discussed."

An expression of solidarity from the Revolutionary Workers League affirms: "The campaign to release the 18 Minneapolis victims of capitalist injustice thus becomes a focal point of the struggle against new Palmer raids on a broad scale."

DEBS CASE

The case of the 18 and the campaign for a pardon must lead to an awakening of the labor movement to the dangers threatening it. In the last war labor rallied to the defense of Eugene V. Debs.

The case of the 18 is today what the Debs case was years ago. Debs was convicted at Canton, O. in Sept. 1918, under the infamous Espionage law, for a socialist speech he had delivered in Canton, castigating Wilson's capitalist administration and exposing the capitalist roots and predatory purposes of the First World War. American workers do well to recall what Debs said as soon as he received word that the U. S. Supreme Court had denied his appeal on March 10, 1918:

"The decision is perfectly consistent with the character of the Supreme Court as a ruling class tribunal. It could not have been otherwise. So far as I am personally concerned, I am not at all discouraged. I am not at all discouraged."

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The United Transport Service Employees of America, CIO, at their 1942 national convention stated that it "condemns the convictions in the Minneapolis labor case, and protests the interference of the FBI in the democratic procedure of the labor movement."

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MAZEY ARRESTED ON FRAMEUP CHARGE IN ANTI-UNION DRIVE

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 13 — Emil Maze, militant president of Briggs UAW Local 212, is at the moment free on a personal bond of \$500 pending trial on Dec. 20 on a charge of assault and battery.

This charge grew out of a militant membership drive conducted at the various plants of the Briggs Corporation during the past several weeks.

Confronted with an ultimatum from the Briggs management during negotiations for a new contract to withdraw all of the demands made by the union or forfeit the maintenance of membership clause in their contract, which the company had granted the officers of Briggs local who had preceded Maze as a reward of their subservience, the Briggs workers responded with an educational and organizational drive to prepare themselves for this eventuality.

The union issued a pamphlet, reviewing the conditions which existed in the Briggs plants prior to union organization and the gains which had been wrested from the corporation by the union. Other material of an educational nature was distributed to the membership as a prelude to the membership drive itself.

The climax of the drive saw the establishment of "dues checkers" lines at the gates of the various plants to urge non-members to join the union and delinquent members to straighten out their dues.

The campaign was started at the smaller plants of the corporation and met with widespread success. The first drives resulted in a 100% membership at some of the plants. The orderly manner in which the drive was conducted elicited a comment from a high Army Air Corp official congratulating the officers and members of Local 212. Needless to say the press did not carry his comments.

When the drive reached the Briggs Mack plant, the largest of the plants in Local 212 and the heart of the union the corporation decided to launch an offensive to counteract the successful drive. It was at this juncture that Maze was taken into custody of the police and indicted on an assault and battery charge.

The complainant against Maze was Mrs. Elizabeth Rice, a non-union Briggs worker, who conducted herself like a typical com-

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An Eyewitness Account Of Famine In India

By Bill Morgan

It was a cloudy evening near the end of the Monsoon season when the lines of our ship were made fast to the dock at Kidderpore. The whole crew was on deck. We couldn't see much, but a strange and persistent odor hung like a fog over the docks. It was a sickening and strong stench and there was no escape from it. We stood around holding our noses and speculating on the source of this smell. When the pilot left the wheel house the bo's'n called out, "What stinks, Mac?" The Pilot ignored the question, but an immediate answer came from the dock where an American Negro soldier was warming up a new tank. "That's famine, boy, famine."

We had heard about the famine in Bengal when we were in Bombay. Now we could smell it. That night we went ashore and got a look at it. That night and the next day and every day and night for three weeks we saw the famine: Hundreds of thousands of men, women and children slowly starving to death in the streets and parks and doorways of Calcutta, the second largest city in the British Empire, in the most fertile province of India.

The Highway of the Living-Dead

The road from the docks to the Grand Hotel in Calcutta is five miles long. On both sides of the road from one end to the other is a slowly moving mass of humanity. Clothed in rags they stir about endlessly, searching for scraps of food, while death creeps up on them. Some are already dead. Naked, covered with green

flies, the corpses remain for hours along the road. The living, also remain — with legs and arms like twisted twigs, parched skin drawn drum-tight over ribs, hip bones like coat hangers supporting the rags, bellies bloated, and eyes burning bright.

Inside the city on every street, alley, in the parks and doorways this intermingling of the living-dead goes on and on, without end. Thousands of beggars follow every foreigner. Child-mothers with breasts dry as leather carry babies on hips or backs, crying, "Please, Sahib! . . ." Cripples hobble on rude crutches, extending twisted stumps as evidence of dire need. Human beings almost completely covered with scabs and running sores squat on pavements, moaning softly to attract attention. Children roam in packs like wolves, naked, skinny, and shrill voices beg, Sahib, Master, Boss, please one anna . . ." "Sahib, no mother, no father, no brother, no sister, please. . . Master. . ."

Sometimes one of them does find a scrap of garbage. Clutching the prize in lean fingers the figure squats behind post or tree, gulping . . . a little rice, a rotten banana. On Chowringhee Road, the main thoroughfare, men and women are to be seen attempting to appease maddening hunger with filth and vomit containing undigested particles of food. Others stand around, watching, waiting, with greedy eyes and twitching hands.

Official British Subterfuges

Hospitals are jammed with malnutrition cases. The total number of deaths will never be known. Official figures cannot be accepted because thousands of cases are

never reported. Moreover, official figures are distorted — many starvation cases are listed under false headings to cover the real extent of the misery and suffering. Entire districts are "quarantined" to prevent investigation by civilians.

Daily, thousands are lured out of the city with promises of free rice. Daily, thousands filter back to the city through police lines when promises fail to materialize. Conditions in the suburbs and surrounding districts are worse than in Calcutta where every effort is made to disperse the hungry multitudes. Free rice stations established by various charity institutions are discouraged by the police on the grounds that the congregating multitudes will "riot." Whenever free stations are set up despite police warnings the grain speculators refuse to release rice in sufficient quantities.

"The White Man's Burden"

Amid these ghastly scenes, on Chowringhee Road, stand the Grand Hotel and Firpo's Cafe. Within these walls the British masters of India relax in oriental splendor. Here the Colonel Blimps sip their gin and bitters, discuss the cricket scores, the possible winners at the Tollymore Track, and enjoy light music and good food. Dinners of fifteen and twenty courses are served by waiters in gaudy uniforms. Here are large cool rooms, electric fans, shaded balconies. Here is the servant who calls the servant who calls the servant who calls one's taxi. Here is the manager who quietly and efficiently shields the guests from all thought of or contact with the outside world.

This contrast of luxury and starvation side by side extends to practically every

aspect of life in India. Homeless beggars and hungry peasants sleep and starve to death alongside palaces of indescribable beauty, under great alabaster columns of exquisite pink and blue, carved by ancient artists of unsurpassed skill. Millions roam homeless and hungry along roads running through the richest rice and wheat fields of the East. The shops and food stores are full of goods and rice — to be had for a steep price.

How are these conditions maintained? The answer is evident all over India: Force, force — and more force. Hundreds of thousands of troops equipped with every military device for waging full-scale warfare.

"Divide and Rule"

The religious leaders of the Indian masses are obvious stooges of their British masters. But playing Hindu off against Mohammedan is becoming more difficult day by day. In the industrial centers and large cities one hears the continual complaint of the British and the Indian bosses, — "The bloody beggars are unmanageable. . . They pay no attention to their leaders. . . They quit work whenever they please, often refuse to work for no reason. . . They deliberately ruin material and continually ask for higher wages. . ."

On the docks in Bombay and Calcutta every attempt is made to keep the workers divided. Coolies are provided under contract labor. Contractors import gangs of men from the small villages and the nomadic tribes of the hills. They work for less than thirty cents a day — the average wage on the docks — and are returned to the villages and hills after six months. Each work-

ing gang is pitted against another gang from a different locality and of different religion or caste. On our ship, for instance, twelve gangs were employed in moving cargo and other work. No two gangs could speak to each other.

However, despite religious, sectional and language differences, despite the lack of union organization (the dock unions, under either Stalinist or religious leaders, have become little more than employment agencies since the war), the workers demonstrate a remarkable solidarity in their struggles for increased wages and against the speed-up.

While we were in Bombay a British officer struck a coolie because he didn't move fast enough while carrying a huge sack of wheat. Immediately the coolie struck back, the native workers in sight of the incident stopped work, word spread from dock to dock and all work came to a sudden end. This coolie was a Hindu but several thousand Mohammedan workers joined the strike along with the Hindus. An apology was made, the officer removed from the docks and work began again — but slowly and amid much grumbling.

Signs of the Coming Storm

Everywhere in India the British and native bosses complain about the growing insubordination among the population, in the factories and in the villages. In September and October of this year hungry peasants were breaking into granaries and taking the rice. Under the leadership of unemployed dock workers these demonstrations were gaining momentum.

In Jammu on Sept. 24 seven persons were

killed and nine injured as the result of police firing. Twenty-five police officers and men were injured. The peasants gathered near the police station on Sept. 23; the automobile of a police official was burned, the car of the Senior Police Superintendent was attacked and a police lorry driven into a ditch.

The next day a procession, in defiance of a prohibitory order, converged on the city chowk (police station) shouting slogans demanding food and work. The demonstrators refused to disperse when ordered to do so by officials and the police were then ordered to make a lathi (club) charge. But the procession continued to press forward. The police were driven back and the District Magistrate instructed the police to open fire. The procession did not flinch; instead the mass surged forward hurling stones and clubs at the police ranks. Troops were called in by the authorities and a curfew established.

This is not an isolated incident. It is happening on a larger and larger scale all over agricultural India. The end of British rule in India is approaching — and the British are themselves becoming increasingly aware of this fact.

Today the chain of slavery is forged with links of military force, religious superstition, sectional differences and Stalinist cooperation with the British rulers. Tomorrow that chain will snap and burst forever when the masses rise in response to the Bolshevik slogans calling upon the workers to seize the factories and the peasants to take the land. Once thus united, all the peoples of India will abolish British rule and establish the rule of Indian workers and peasants.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Marvel Scholl

Last week the Senate passed the Truman resolution, recommending that the non-operating railroad workers be granted an eight cents per hour increase. The resolution will now go to the House where "favorable action is likewise expected." (N. Y. Times, Dec. 10.) From the House it will go to Roosevelt who has the choice of either passing it over the objection of his own Economic Stabilization Director, Vinson, or of vetoing it himself.

This case is a perfect example of the black reaction of the Roosevelt Administration's labor policy. A recitation of the kicking around of the wage demands of a million and a half railroad workers sounds more like a football game than anything else.

The fact that a reactionary Senate, for reasons of its own, has seen fit to approve the wage increase for these workers is a good indication of the depths to which the Roosevelt Administration's "liberalism" has fallen. Fake and fraud has marked the entire course of Roosevelt and his lieutenants.

And these are the people whom the Murphys and Greens would have the working class support as "friends of labor." Having given Vinson and Byrnes dictatorial powers, Roosevelt hides behind them, shrugging his shoulders in pretended helplessness when their decisions are appealed to him!

These are the men, supported by labor and their lieutenants, Murray, Green and Co., who introduce quack subsidy schemes in lieu of genuine wage increases. The workers are tired of this subterfuge. They have had enough of a run-around. Now that the Little Steel formula has been broken by the valiant miners, workers in every other basic industry are preparing to move for increased wages. They have learned valuable lessons during two years of war, two years of being bound by the promises of the top union leadership not to strike.

There is no substitute for militant union action, no politician-dreamed panacea which takes the place of wage increases. And there is no substitute for cash in a pay envelope. Cash buys groceries. Quack subsidy plans don't.

Four strikes were called in Pennsylvania mills last week as the workers in basic industry get ready to prove that they mean it when they say they want wage increases.

At the Crucible Steel mill in Pittsburgh 2,000 scarfers, chippers and grinders walked off the job in protest over the WLB's long delay in hearing their wage increase demands.

At the Pittsburgh plant of the American Rolling Mills 3,000 steel workers struck in an effort to force recognition of the CIO United Steel Workers Union. Recently an "independent union," which the USW members brand as company-supported and dom-

inated, won an NLRB election by a narrow margin.

The Zaneville, Pa. plant of the American Rolling Mills is also tied up in a strike over wage demands. The fourth strike tied up the newly opened plant of the Aluminum Corporation of America at Cressona, Pa., as hundreds of workers walked off the job, dissatisfied with wages and working conditions.

A strike which last week stopped production at five New Jersey plants of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation has been ended with both the union and the company agreeing to arbitrate.

The strike started after the company had refused to grant the union's request that a supervisor whose "high-handed and arrogant manner of dealing with workers had caused many of them to quit their jobs" be replaced.

The strike began in the Paterson, N. J. Plant No. 2 and spread quickly until almost 17,000 workers were out.

Albert Capone, president of Local 669, UAW-CIO said that the company's attitude toward replacing this foreman was only the spark which set off the strike. A long list of grievances about which the company refused to do anything laid the groundwork for the strike.

The United Mine Workers negotiating committee and a committee representing 65% of the nation's coal operators have agreed to a wage policy based on the basic \$8.50 per day embodied in the Ickes-UMW agreement which ended the fourth coal strike on Nov. 4.

If this basic wage rate wins the approval of the individual operators and the WLB, and if the OPA agrees to another increase in the price of coal, it will be written into a basic wage contract for the industry.

The Southern Appalachian coal operators continue to sabotage the negotiations. They have informed Ickes that they "expect his cooperation in trying to get the OPA to grant higher prices sufficient to cover additional costs" before they will come to Washington to negotiate.

Meanwhile the daily papers howl about an acute shortage of coal "due to the miner strikes." There is a shortage of coal and it promises to become very acute — but it cannot be blamed on the miners. The coal operators have been on a sit-down strike since last May 1. They intend to continue on this strike until they get their demands for increased coal prices.

The public can freeze and factories can close down from this deliberately induced coal shortage. But no one will accuse the mine owners of "sabotaging the war effort," of "aiding the enemy." When Big Business goes on strike it is called good business sense. When workers strike — well, you read the papers.

New Haven SWP Fills Fund Quota

By Rose Karsner, Director

On New Year's Eve 1943 another memorable date will be added to the Revolutionary Calendar. This will ever be remembered as the day when the prison doors closed on the 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Teamsters Union Local 544-CIO, railroaded to the penitentiary because of their uncompromising fight in behalf of the working class.

The SWP ranks throughout the country pledge to carry on the work of the Trotskyist movement with the same resolute spirit their leaders have shown — undaunted and unshaken in their conviction that only a socialist society can free mankind and establish a world of peace and plenty. As a token payment of this determination, the branches are endeavoring to fulfill their quotas in the 15th Anniversary, \$15,000 Fund in quick order. In testimony to this fact, we quote from a few of the letters which were received during the past week:

FROM THE BRANCHES

Youngstown, J. Wilson: "The Youngstown branch is pleased to announce that it is enthusiastic about the Fund Campaign. We know that the money is needed badly and our comrades realize they must make an extra effort to aid our party at this time. Our branch stands ready to work just a little harder to help carry on the work of our martyrs who are being railroaded to prison. We will make every effort to have our quota completed by the middle of January at the latest."

Boston, M. London: "At the last meeting it was decided to cut the time of the Campaign (locally) by two weeks. You can expect the Boston branch to go over the quota by Feb. 1." Toledo, A. West: "Our quota is small compared to other branches but since ours is a small group it is just about right. Knowing the importance of the Fund, inspires us to dig down past the stage of where it hurts and we are out to get the money in before the deadline."

Rochester: The economic condition of the comrades in this branch is very unfavorable, but in spite of that they write: "Rochester accepts its quota in the Fund Campaign. It represents a real sacrifice for us at this time, but we believe it worthy of the cause."

Plentywood, Mont., from a member-at-large: "I am sending \$10 from myself and W. Don't know if I can send more or not, but give me time. There are a few more I think can help if I can get to see them."

Minneapolis: Oscar Coover who is one of the 18 about to enter prison, carries on his daily work in the branch as usual. He writes: "Enclosed find \$200 on our quota and \$115 on our Sustaining Fund for December. Regards to all, and I'll be seeing them soon."



We extend a warm welcome to C. H., Chicago's new literature agent, whose first letter is extremely interesting:

"This is to inform you of a change in literature agents in Chicago. I will be functioning for the next six months. 'I'll follow the policy of sending money orders once a week. During the week in case I get any subs or special orders, I'll send them in and follow up with the money in the weekly return. 'Enclosed are two subs. 'We had an excellent reception of The Militant at a distribution this week at one of the big plants. Cars stopped on the green light (unprecedented) to wait in line to get the paper. The article condemning the Chicago Tribune attack on unions was well received — other stuff too heavy. 'The workers who subscribed during our last subscription drive are very enthusiastic about the paper.'"

Boston has placed The Militant on another stand, and our agent there feels very enthusiastic about it: "On our newstands, please add to the ones you already have the Bay State Pharmacy . . . 'This is a drugstore in the Negro neighborhood and we are very pleased to have just placed the paper there. We are going to advertise it by mimeographed announcements here, but an ad in the Militant will be very fine.'"

Los Angeles has also placed

SCOREBOARD

	\$15,000 Quotas	Paid	Percent
SAN DIEGO	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	100
NEW HAVEN	50.00	50.00	100
New York	2,500.00	1,273.25	51
Cleveland	200.00	100.00	50
San Francisco	1,000.00	500.00	50
Boston	300.00	142.00	47
Detroit	2,000.00	780.00	39
Twin Cities	1,000.00	350.00	35
Reading	100.00	30.00	30
Newark	300.00	85.00	28
Bayonne	300.00	63.50	21
Los Angeles	2,000.00	437.16	21
Toledo	100.00	20.00	20
Buffalo	300.00	54.50	18
Youngstown	200.00	35.00	18
Members-at-Large	800.00	70.00	9
Chicago	2,000.00	145.00	7
Akron	200.00	0	0
Allentown	25.00	0	0
East Chicago	100.00	0	0
Flint	100.00	0	0
Milwaukee	25.00	0	0
Philadelphia	150.00	0	0
Quakertown	25.00	0	0
Rochester	50.00	0	0
St. Louis	100.00	0	0
Seattle	1,000.00	0	0
Texas	25.00	0	0
TOTALS		\$ 4,235.41	28%

MAZEY ARRESTED ON FRAMEUP CHARGE IN ANTI-UNION DRIVE

(Continued from page 1)

pany stool pigeon. She accused Mazezy of assaulting her as she attempted to walk through the union picket line.

Mazezy's detention on this charge, which was headlined in the Detroit press and was the subject of vicious editorials, has met with a gratifying response from the workers in the Briggs

plants. The obvious attempt to frame Mazezy has resulted in a spirit of militancy in the Briggs plants the like of which has not been seen for several years. Fifty female workers of the same department as Mazezy's accuser, Mrs. Rice, walked out of the plant the day she returned to work, refusing to work with her in spite of the steward's pleas to remain on the job. Proposals to shut down the plants if Mazezy is convicted have come from many workers.

An attack on Mazezy and Local 212 by the vice president of the corporation in a letter published in all Detroit papers has further served to reveal the real motives behind this attempted frameup.

The Militant

may now be purchased at 242 Broadway, San Diego, Cal.

Los Angeles

New Year's Eve Ball

A GALA PROGRAM OF ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, December 31

Floor Show - Favors - Good Music

Refreshments

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM, SOUTH HALL

517 WEST 9th STREET

Auspices: Socialist Workers Party, Los Angeles Local

LOCKHEED-VEGA PLANTS DEMAND STRIKE BALLOT

By HARRY THOMPSON

Last Sunday, Dec. 5, 1000 Lockheed Aircraft workers, members of Industrial District Lodge 727, International Association of Machinists, voted to petition the NLRB for a strike vote under the Smith-Connally Act in all Lockheed and Vega plants. The petition for a strike vote was supported by 96% of the workers.

Last October the IAM jointly with the UAW and United AircraftWelders submitted a petition to the WLB for new rates — 80 cents minimum for unskilled workers up to \$1.60 top rate for the highly skilled workers. The WLB replied by freezing all grievances pending before the West Coast Aircraft Committee (WCAC). This committee was established by the March 3 decision of the WLB. The committee consists of two employer representatives from each company, two from each union — IAM, UAW, and United Aircraft Welders, and one public member, chairman of the committee.

The IAM in particular has 108

grievances on job evaluations before the WCAC. These grievances are to all intents and purposes frozen because no decision can be reached favorable to the workers unless adopted unanimously by the committee. The removing of all authority from the WCAC raised the anger of workers and the strike vote was passed.

Because of the slavish adherence of the International leadership of both the AFL and CIO unions to the WLB, the aircraft workers on the West Coast still remain the lowest paid workers in any manufacturing industry. The rank and file pressure is so heavy, however, that International Vice-President Roy Brown stated in a press release that he is leaving for Washington, D. C., to request William Green to withdraw AFL support from the WLB.

Similar mass meetings for strike votes will be held during the following week at Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego and Douglas-El Segundo Aircraft in Los Angeles.

TWIN CITY BRANCHES

Dinner

In Honor of the 18 Defendants in the Minneapolis Case

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28 — 7:00 P. M.

919 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

AUSPICES SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

\$1.00 per plate

CHICAGO MASS MEETING TO PROTEST THE RAILROADING TO PRISON OF THE 18 MINNEAPOLIS DEFENDANTS

SUNDAY, DEC. 26, 1943

3:30 P. M.

BALL ROOM MIDLAND HOTEL

172 W. Adams Street

Speakers include:

ALBERT GOLDMAN, Defendant and Attorney for the 18 MAYNARD KRUEGER, National Chairman, Socialist Party CHARLES LEIBMAN, General Counsel, Chicago Civil Liberties Committee FRANCIS HEISLER, General Counsel, Chicago Workers' Defense League

Admission 25 Cents

Auspices: Chicago Branch, Civil Rights Defense Committee

FAREWELL DINNER

to the

18 CLASS-WAR VICTIMS

Speakers:

JAMES P. CANNON, FARRELL DOBBS, FELIX MORROW AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Sunday, December 26, 5 P. M.

IRVING PLAZA, 15th ST. & IRVING PL.

\$1.50 Per Plate

The Negro Struggle

By David Ransom

The government spends millions of dollars on propaganda but when it comes to telling just how Negroes benefit from this so-called "War for Democracy" it shuts up like a clam. It's easy to see why. Despite all of Roosevelt's promises, despite his executive orders 8802 and 9346 and the FEPC, the Negro still remains a second-class citizen.

Nothing proves this better than the War Manpower Commission's recent study on the status of Negroes in industry, a study which the Office of War Information has tried to bury.

This study reveals that employment of Negroes in war industry rose from 5.8% in July 1942 to 7.3% in July 1943. This tiny increase of 1.5% comes in the face of the most severe labor shortage in the history of the country. It comes at a time when a reactionary congress talks about labor conscription because of a lack of manpower.

The Commission further finds that in the south, Negroes are concentrated in those establishments and occupations where heavy unskilled work is performed. There is no "hiring of Negroes to meet the demand of establishments seeking workers for skilled jobs."

Nor are conditions much better outside the south. Though Negroes, in cooperation with the unions, particularly the CIO, have won some skilled jobs, there is no "significant use of skilled Negro workers in war industry as a whole."

The opportunity for varied employment with a chance for advancement remains limited, the report states. Negroes, as a whole have been employed "in a few concentrated industries as unskilled workers in large numbers with little or no chance to upgrade themselves."

After reviewing the information contained in this report, Negroes can easily understand why the government is unwilling to have this study given too much publicity. It shows that though employers will hire Negroes for unskilled jobs when no one else is available, they refuse to let down the barriers of discrimination and hire Negroes for semi-skilled and skilled jobs.

That isn't all the study shows. It proves conclusively that the government has done nothing to force employers to hire Negroes. Two years have gone by since the United States entered the war, the government has made a lot of promises but the Negro is still on the outside looking in so far as equal treatment in industry goes.

If the Negroes find the same vicious practices of discrimination continued under the conditions of an acute labor shortage in wartime, what then will their plight be when lines of unemployed begin to form again at factory gates?

If Negroes remain concentrated in a few industries as unskilled workers, and the study shows this to be the case, then they will be the first ones squeezed out of industry when the war factories begin to slow down.

That is why the progress-shouters who point to the number of jobs Negroes now have, and

praise the Roosevelt administration for breaking down Jim Crow in industry are misleading the Negro people.

The facts show that Negroes cannot rely on the government to punish employers who discriminate against them. The real fight against Jim Crow must be carried on, as heretofore, by the Negro masses in cooperation with the trade union movement.

The real goal of this fight must be a Workers' and Farmers' government. Such a government, by taking the industries out of the hands of the capitalists would kill two evil birds with one stone. By having the workers run the factories to satisfy their own needs and not for profit, it would do away with the unemployment. And through education and the vigorous enforcement of anti-discrimination laws it would do away with Jim Crow.

In the words of Reverend Nelson, president of the St. Paul branch of the NAACP, the case of General Patton, who beat a shell-shocked soldier, is only a "tempest in a teapot" compared to the daily mistreatment and abuse of Negro soldiers in army camps throughout the length and breadth of this country.

A meeting of the Workers Defense League of Minneapolis, before which Nelson spoke, signed and sent the following resolution to the President of the United States, Congressman Melvin Mass, the War Department and the House Military Affairs Committee:

"In view of the investigation being conducted regarding Patton incident, we urge that investigation be extended to cover all army camps in United States and elsewhere where segregation and discrimination are practiced against Negro troops as recently brought to public attention by Alton Levy."

Such an investigation might well begin with the case of Lieutenant William Sammons, convicted by court-martial of stabbing a Negro private under his command for refusing to dig a ditch. Sammons received a reprimand and was returned to duty.

Then, too there is the case of Captain William T. Colman. Colman was a colonel in charge of Selfridge Field when he shot a colored soldier detailed to drive his car.

A court-martial "punished" Colman by finding him guilty of drunkenness and reducing him to the rank of captain. The sentence was so absurd in view of the seriousness of the crime that Secretary of War Stimson had to intervene in the matter. He "punished" Colman by having him "honorably" retired with a regular pension.

When an officer stabs a Negro soldier he is let off with a reprimand. But a Negro soldier guilty of a similar offense gets the death penalty. Two weeks ago, Private Edward Hope, a soldier who attacked a sergeant at Jefferson Barracks Missouri, was charged with disrespect toward an officer of the day, and disobedience to orders. A court-martial sentenced him to death.

To Negroes there is nothing surprising about the way the army brass hats cover up the brutality of a General Patton. Every day in the week they see two kinds of justice at work in the army.

Smuts Sees New Imperial Bloc As Empire's Salvation

By A. Roland

The political speech made by Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts before the Empire Parliamentary Association in London, gave voice to all the doubts troubling the minds of the British ruling class concerning the future status of the British Empire. The position occupied by Smuts lends the weight of the authority of an elder statesman to his words. Smuts is one of those Boers who firmly allied themselves with Britain for a joint exploitation of the South African colonies. He took a leading part in the first World War and in the framing of the Versailles peace. Churchill indicated the recognition given the several times Prime Minister of South Africa by the British ruling class, when Smuts was placed in charge of the war cabinet during Churchill's trip to Cairo and Teheran.

Smuts sees an entirely different political world after the war. The new world order will be dominated by three nations, — the United States of America, the Soviet Union, and the British Empire. Germany, France and Italy will have disappeared for a considerable time as great or semi-great powers. On the other side of the world, Japan will also have contracted and become a third-rate nation. Smuts does not need to state the obvious; namely, that to the victor belongs the spoils. The losers will be shorn of their empires. Says Smuts: "France has gone, and if ever she returns it will be a hard and a long upward pull for her to emerge again. . . Italy has completely disappeared

and may never be a great power again. Germany at the end of this war, will have disappeared, perhaps never to emerge again in the old form."

BRITISH DIPLOMACY

The Field Marshal sheds no tears over the sad fate of three such great European nations. His concern is centered on the precarious lot of the British Empire. British diplomacy in the past maintained that empire by keeping its rivals ranged in two more or less equal but inimical camps, with England thus acting as arbitrator or balance wheel. This was particularly true of Europe, of which England was a part and yet not a part. The new Europe and the new world after this war, will not permit quite the same kind of policies. Smuts sees a Europe dominated by a tremendously powerful Soviet Russia. Where will the force be found to balance Russia?

That force can no longer be found in Europe alone, but must now be sought on the world arena.

There is the United States to offset the Soviet Union. Smuts admits that an Anglo-American "political axis" would be a sure prelude to the next world war. He does not admit, but it is nonetheless implied in his further remarks, that in such a combination it would hardly be England that dominated. This is implied when the elder statesman speaks of the other two powers in the trinity as "partners of immense power and resources" whereas England, heart of the empire, will be weak in comparison. Smuts then proposes England secure a base on the continent of Europe by some form of union with the "smaller democracies of Western Europe." Certainly this is aimed more to offset the power of the Soviet Union than that of the United States. It smacks of a method for replacing the old "cordon sanitaire" of the first World War.

Smuts was one of those responsible for the Versailles treaty and the instrument for its enforcement, the League of Nations. History gave its verdict on the peace that followed the first World War. That peace was merely the prelude to the second World War. Now the South African statesman proposes to give a repeat performance—a new but worse Versailles in which three great powers will "disappear" (his own word) from the European scene. The imperialist rivalry is to be transferred to an ever higher plane. The world is to be divided up among the victors of this war. The foundations are to be laid for a third World War, as though civilization could stand such a strain again.

IMPERIALIST RIVALRY

Leon Trotsky warned that unless the workers themselves took over the power of government, nothing could stop the second World War from engulfing civilization. One can just as certainly predict that if men like Smuts are permitted to concoct a new imperialist peace with the international working class having nothing to say concerning the future world, a third World War is just as inevitable as was the second. Capitalism breeds wars. But it also breeds the class under whose leadership the world can truly emerge into a new order of peace and cooperation. That class is the working class. Smuts ignores the toilers completely as a factor in the coming world. That is quite natural since he is interested in the preservation of the British Empire based on capitalist property.

Lasting peace is possible only by a fundamental change-over from the capitalist to the socialist form of society. Europe can be revived and once more progress to new heights of civilization not under the hegemony of England, but only under the rule of the workers and peasants cooperating to build socialism. Smuts says: "We cannot get away from the problem of power." That is true. But Smuts would like to sweep aside the power of the proletariat. Yet it is that power alone that can build a real federation of Europe and of the world, a socialist federation.

Every time the workers demand a wage increase to meet rising living costs the OPA shrieks "inflation!" But the workers know that increased wages, taken out of the bloated profits of the bosses, is the only way to protect their living standards.

ROLLBACK FRAUD
In a feeble attempt to whitewash its record, Chester Bowles, the new administrator announced, on September 13, 1943, a 2.3 percent rollback in prices. When its pretensions were checked, the rollback revealed that it would reduce the cost of living by \$3.17 a year. One CIO official said that "one danger of the 2.3 percent program is that it rolls back the cost of living index faster than it rolls back the cost of living."

J. Raymond Walsh, chairman of the CIO Cost of Living Committee, protested Nov. 17, 1943 the "creeping inflation that OPA has recently legalized," referring primarily to the 34 price rises in 100 days granted by the OPA.

The end result of the OPA program has been lowered living standards for the workers and skyrocketing profits for Big Business. Studies of wartime profits of Big Business made by the OPA have been kept secret. The CIO News of Jan. 18, 1943 reported a "confidential, closely guarded study of Wartime Profits made by OPA's Division of Research and Analysis" that "profits of 1753 corporations jumped 56% in 1941 over 1939, after all taxes have been paid." In October of this year an OPA War Profits Study reported huge profits in consumers goods industries. The report on the canning industry's profits was suppressed by the food packers' lobby.

At Teheran, Churchill and Roosevelt haggled for four days with Stalin over the price for the Kremlin's hangman's services in the attempt to strangle the revolutionary German and European workers. That is the real gist of the Teheran conference.

Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin now say that they have reached agreement; that they are "friends in fact, in spirit, and in purpose." These mortal enemies of the revolution speak here the only words of truth that have come out of their parley. But powerful as these enemies of the revolution are, they are not omnipotent. They cannot dictate to history and the class struggle. The last word remains not with them, but with the revolutionary masses.

THE BASIC WORLD ANTAGONISM

Moreover, the same profound class forces that blew up all of Stalin's previous diplomatic deals with the capitalists, fascists and "democrats" alike, continue to operate with unremitting power. Despite the degeneration produced by Stalinism in the Soviet Union, the latter remains a new social system whose continued existence is incompatible with that of capitalism. This irreconcilable conflict cannot be resolved by any political maneuvers of Stalin, but only in a life and death struggle.

In the very midst of all these mutual pledges and toasts of complete harmony, notes of discord

are already quite apparent. On Dec. 6, the very day that the text of the Teheran statement was released, Secretary of the Navy Knox made a speech in Chicago calling for still closer cooperation between Britain and the U. S. Knox asserted that this two-power coalition was the real basis for ensuring peace and he demanded the continuation after the war of the "present working arrangement between the British and American fleets." (N. Y. Times, Dec. 7.)

Knox is the gentleman who had previously blurted out that the world must be policed for the next "100 years." He now amplifies this plan by proposing the English and American navies as the chief instrument for this police force. Against whom are these fleets to be used? Against whom is this "working arrangement" to be continued, if not against the revolutionary masses of Europe and Asia, and against the Soviet Union?

THE KREMLIN'S MANEUVERS
On the other hand, there is feverish diplomatic activity these days in the Kremlin. On Dec. 4 news was released in Moscow that a 20 year pact with the Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile had been finally consummated. This pact contains a clause providing for a tripartite agreement, presumably with Poland. London had previously blocked this pact by preventing President Benes from leaving for Moscow. Why does Stalin need this pact? Against whom can such a pact be directed, if not against the attempts of London and Washington to isolate the USSR in Europe?

Knox's speech and Stalin's pact with Benes in and of themselves, give the lie direct to all the protestations of complete concord and amity between Stalin and his Allies. They reflect, in the sphere of diplomacy, the still unresolved conflict which must inescapably erupt in the days to come, no matter what agreements Stalin may make with London and Washington.

The Death Of Yaroslavsky-Slanderer And Falsifier

By John G. Wright

On Dec. 5 Yemelyan Yaroslavsky died at the age of 65 in Moscow. The Kremlin immediately cabled abroad that the people of Moscow, if not of the whole USSR, were mourning the death of this man, "one of the oldest functionaries of the Bolshevik Party," a member of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party, a deputy of the Supreme Council, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, etc. etc.

Yaroslavsky's funeral was celebrated with the greatest pomp. His coffin was placed on a pedestal in the Hall of Columns in the Kremlin. Beside his bier, in the guard of honor stood representatives of the supreme bodies of Stalin's party, heads of the government, and Red Army generals. The Hall of Columns was filled to overflowing "with flowers and countless number of wreaths, sent by Moscow enterprises, institutions, scientific institutes, by numerous friends and colleagues." (Daily Worker, Dec. 8.)

The same Moscow dispatch also boasted that "an endless stream of young and old men, women, school children, workers, scientists, students and Red Army men filed past the coffin. . ."

Who was this man upon whom Stalin heaps such honors in death? Why is the Kremlin so anxious to create an impression that Yaroslavsky was universally esteemed and mourned?

Because Yaroslavsky was in his own way an epitome of Stalinism. For years, with the aid of the Kremlin's mighty apparatus, he had passed himself off publicly as an "Old Bolshevik." He was, in point of fact, Chairman of the Society of Old Bolsheviks, prior to the dissolution of this body five years ago. Under Stalin, he even became the official historian of the party (although the original version of this history has also long been banned).

Yaroslavsky represented a type which is the polar opposite of a genuine Bolshevik. One of the outstanding traits of Bolshevism (Leninism) is unswerving firmness in ideas. This was something alien to Yaroslavsky who never knew the meaning either of principles or of convictions. This man was degenerated to his inner core. The regime of Stalinism merely provided the environment for bringing this organic corruption to its full flower.

The outbreak of the Russian revolution in February 1917 found Yaroslavsky serving out a term of exile in Yakutsk, Siberia. This man with a flair for journalism, who had previously attached himself to the Bolshevik movement, promptly revealed his true colors. He entered into collaboration with the local Mensheviks and jointly with them edited in March 1917 a periodical in Yakutsk, The Social Democrat, which came out in support of the Provisional Government. In Siberia, Yaroslavsky expounded in a more vulgar and provincial way the same opportunist policy that Stalin and Kamenyev were injecting into the pages of Pravda in Petrograd prior to Lenin's arrival in Russia in 1917.

Within a few months, after Yaroslavsky had left Yakutsk for Moscow, he swung to the opposite extreme. The rabid opportunist turned into an ultra-radical. After the October revolution, the facile Yaroslavsky became a contributor to the periodical Communist, organ of the "Left Communists" and bitter opponents of the Brest Litovsk Peace. Yaroslavsky joined in the chorus of those who denounced Lenin at the time as a proponent of Kautsky's ideas. This doubtless qualified him all the better to hurl in later years the most fantastic slanders and falsifications against Trotsky, especially in connection with Brest Litovsk.

In the Civil War Yaroslavsky played no significant role. He remained just what he had been in the past—a very minor and very colorless figure. The editors of the first Russian edition of Lenin's Collected Works — who did not fail to include in these volumes brief biographical notes concerning every individual of any real standing in the Bolshevik movement at the time — passed by Yaroslavsky — the "Old Bolshevik" — without so much as a comment. (Subsequent Stalinist editions, it is hardly necessary to add, have rectified this omission.)

By 1920 Yaroslavsky was sent to the Urals where he served as a member of the Siberian Province Bureau. While in Siberia, he tried his hand at writing panegyrics to — Leon Trotsky! "The brilliant literary-publicistic activity of Comrade Trotsky,"

wrote Yaroslavsky in 1923, "gained him the world wide renown of 'Prince of Pamphleteers' . . . Probably many have seen the quite widely distributed photograph of the youth Trotsky when he was first sentenced to exile in Siberia — that boisterous head of hair, those characteristic lips and lofty brow. Under that head of hair, under that lofty brow, was boiling even then a turbulent stream of images, thoughts, moods — sometimes diverting Comrade Trotsky a little from the broad road of history, compelling him sometimes to choose too long a detour, or on the other hand, to cut his way fearlessly through where it was impossible to go through.

"But in all this questing we had before us a man profoundly dedicated to revolution, a man born to the role of tribune, with a tongue sharply whetted and flexible as steel, slaying his enemies, and a pen scattering in handfuls like artistic pearls the riches of his mind." And so forth and so on. (Sibirskye Ogni, Nos. 1-2, Jan-April 1923.)

As Trotsky remarked: "He (Yaroslavsky) is equally unbearable in slander and in praise."

At about the same time, in 1923, Yaroslavsky began his initial systematic sallies into the field of party history; and actually ventured to recall that Stalin had held at the beginning of the revolution "a mistaken position upon fundamental issues." The torrent of denunciation and abuse that thereupon descended on him convinced him to direct his "critical" and historical researches into other channels.

He did not have far to seek. The campaign against Trotsky, long in preparation, was launched on a massive scale when Lenin died. Yaroslavsky had at last found the highroad to success — through the vilification and slander of Trotsky. But even then, like many other careerists, Yaroslavsky did not attach himself at once to Stalin. Others loomed much bigger on his horizon, namely, Zinoviev and Bukharin.

In 1925 Yaroslavsky engaged in an assiduous correspondence in order to express his agreement with Zinoviev's version of "Leninism." During the period of Stalin's bloc with the right wing in the Russian party (Bukharin-Rykov), he championed Bukharin, declaring that Bukharin was free of any taint of deviation, and was educating the youth in the spirit of Leninism. "In our opinion," wrote Yaroslavsky in 1927, "Comrade Bukharin has no special school; Bukharin's school is Lenin's school. Comrade Bukharin's great merit lies in this, that he has actually educated many young comrades in the spirit of Leninism."

After Stalin's break with Bukharin (1929) Yaroslavsky made the belated discovery that there was another individual who really possessed all the merits. Each time Stalin made a shift in policy, each time Stalin added to his long list of crimes against the Soviet people and the world working class the liar Yaroslavsky, in chorus with all the other Stalinist pen-prostitutes, swore that this, too, was not only in the spirit but in the very letter of "Leninism."

Such was this man who, as a member of the Central Control Commission, sat since Lenin died in judgment over tens of thousands of incorruptible revolutionists. Together with other degenerated bureaucrats, he began by hounding Trotskyists; later he persecuted the followers of Bukharin, and anyone else slated for persecution. Still later, trembling for his own life, he justified the infamous Moscow Frameup Trials and the monstrous blood purges. Throughout he continued his slanders and falsifications against Trotsky and the Trotskyists.

This — plus a pair of supple knees, attached to an even suppler spine — sums up Yaroslavsky's qualifications for Stalinist honors and acclaim. If his name is remembered at all in the days to come, it will be remembered with scorn and contempt.

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Pioneer Paragraphs

PROSPECTS FOR THE NEGROES UNDER DECAYING CAPITALISM

In its youth capitalism was able to grant concessions: democratic liberties to certain sections of the masses, and slightly higher wages to the more skilled layers of the working class. Today, capitalism is in its death agony. To exist it must snatch back the few concessions it was able to give in the past; it must depress the living standards of all the workers; it must destroy the democratic rights of all the masses.

No capitalist nation in the epoch of imperialism is immune from this process which is speeded up in wartime but was in operation before the war and will not be eliminated after the war if the capitalists remain in power. The United States capitalists follow in the footsteps of their German brothers, although at a different tempo.

Keeping in mind this background, Negroes will be best able to appreciate what capitalism in this country has to offer them. When the trend is toward the destruction of all democratic rights, when more regimentation is in store for the masses as a whole,

Negroes have little to hope for from the capitalist system. When the employers are trying to take away the few democratic rights of the white workers, there is little chance that they will willingly extend new rights to the Negroes. The events of the last decade clearly indicate that under capitalism the prospect is not for Negroes to be raised to the status of the white workers but rather for the white workers to be driven down to the status of the Negroes . . .

Negroes can learn from the fate of the Jews of Europe, who made some gains during the period of capitalism's rise only to be forcibly deprived of them when capitalism assumed the political form of fascism. Like the Jewish scapegoat in Germany, the Negro may face loss of whatever citizenship rights he now possesses, deportation, mass slaughter and extermination.

From pages 9-10, "The Struggle For Negro Equality," 1943, 30 pages, five cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

History Of Price Rises Under Roosevelt's OPA

(Continued from page 1)

Department of Labor statistics estimate that the cost of living went up 6.6 percent.

Big Business, however, greedy for ever greater profits, was dissatisfied with even the few restrictions Henderson imposed. The administration, therefore, obligingly dumped Henderson and installed Prentiss Brown as OPA chief. Brown made no bones about his subservience to Big Business. He "believed better results could be obtained by voluntary agreements than through compulsion," thus giving a blank check to the huge food corporations, who do nothing voluntarily except rake in profits.

Brown gave up the pretense of trying to keep prices on a stable level. "I don't believe," he said, "and Congress never intended that prices could be held at a flat level. We thought a slow, well-ordered rise of one half of one percent a month would occur under the most favorable circumstances."

FIELD DAY

Brown's entry into the OPA was followed shortly afterward by the forced resignation of Donald Montgomery as consumers' counsel. Montgomery was forced out because he took his job as consumers' counsel seriously, and advanced a program to protect consumers' interests. "The new Food Distribution Administration," he said, "does not recognize the need for a partisan of consumers," while "food processors and distributors have ample representation" and a chance to say what they want. . . Termination of consumers' counsels is a clear signal to consumers that they had better look to their food needs themselves.

It is unnecessary to add that Big Business has had a field day ever since Brown took over. Price rises have been granted on milk, flour, bread, and a multitude of other food items, as well as clothes and other living necessities. Grade labelling was abandoned in April, 1943, when the canners refused to can the 1943 crop unless they were given "relief from grade labelling." Grade markings on meat were also eliminated.

Quality deterioration has been cutting workers purchasing power

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Michigan Workers Call a Conference For a Labor Party

(Continued from page 1)

majority of Michigan's 700,000 CIO members wanted the establishment of a labor party now. Mazy proposed the building of such a party based on the CIO, AFL, railroad brotherhoods and Negro organizations.

"The old line political parties have failed to solve the problems of the people, and neither has given labor a square deal," Mazy declared. "We're tired of waiting for the 'opportune' time to organize a labor party, so we're going ahead now."

The labor party conference elected a steering committee which is planning to call a labor party conference some time in January.

moreover, the same profound class forces that blew up all of Stalin's previous diplomatic deals with the capitalists, fascists and "democrats" alike, continue to operate with unremitting power. Despite the degeneration produced by Stalinism in the Soviet Union, the latter remains a new social system whose continued existence is incompatible with that of capitalism. This irreconcilable conflict cannot be resolved by any political maneuvers of Stalin, but only in a life and death struggle.

In the very midst of all these mutual pledges and toasts of complete harmony, notes of discord

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To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious worker.

— LEON TROTSKY

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. 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.
9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

The Bill Of Rights

This week marks the 152nd anniversary of the Bill of Rights. Many years of revolutionary struggle were required before the American people succeeded in wresting from the ruling classes the rights of free speech and free press guaranteed in the first amendment to the constitution.

The possessors of property and the wielders of political power have never reconciled themselves to the enjoyment of these and any other democratic rights by the masses. They and their agents have never ceased trying to restrict these rights, to prevent their extension, and, if possible to abrogate them altogether. Within less than a decade after the Bill of Rights was adopted, a reactionary President and Congress moved to limit freedom of speech and of the press: They passed the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 and prosecuted editors for "seditious" utterances, that is to say, for expressing opinions critical of official policies. Indignant public protest culminating in the election of a new administration in 1800 forced the repeal of these anti-democratic laws.

The Smith "Gag" Act, passed in 1940, is a descendant of these vicious Alien and Sedition Acts. It is being used to deprive the American people of their right of free expression. It was deliberately designed to stifle working-class opposition to the reactionary foreign and domestic policies of the administration. The 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO have been prosecuted under this Act and railroaded to prison for 12 to 16 months solely because of their opposition to the crimes of Big Business, because of their militant union activities and their revolutionary socialist ideas.

Although the Smith "Gag" Act, under which the 18 are the first to be convicted, clearly violates the Bill of Rights, the U. S. Supreme Court brazenly refused — without explanation — to hear their appeal.

In fact Roosevelt has combined forces with Big Business in a gigantic conspiracy to drive down the living and working conditions of the masses, to deprive organized labor of its hard-won rights, and to persecute those who dare to fight against their plans. Poll-tax Representative Howard Smith and his congressional gang drafted their "Gag" Act in order to strangle the voice of militant labor and to pave the way for such vicious laws as the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act.

The experiences of the working class during the Second World War have fully confirmed the lessons taught by the history of the previous century and a half. The forces of reaction are mobilizing to take away from the people even those democratic rights which have been acquired through past struggles. To protect and to preserve these rights, labor cannot rely upon the capitalist government, its courts or its laws which serve the interests of Big Business. The labor movement must conduct its own independent struggle. The workers will retain only such measure of democracy in this country as they are prepared to defend.

Roosevelt-Biddle, their Gestapo-FBI and the Supreme Court have dealt the most damaging blow yet struck against the Bill of Rights by railroad-ing the 18 Minneapolis defendants to prison under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act. They have thereby set a precedent which is a powerful weapon in the hands of reaction to be employed against other working class parties and union militants. Labor cannot evade this grave issue.

The only fitting way for the labor movement to meet this challenge of reaction and to celebrate this anniversary of the Bill of Rights is to support the national campaign launched by the Civil Rights Defense Committee for the freedom of the 18. The most effective way to counter the blow struck by reaction against the Bill of Rights is to fight for the unconditional presidential pardon of the 18 class war prisoners and the repeal of the Smith "Gag" Act.

Walter Reuther, vice-president of the UAW-CIO, appearing before the Senate Banking committee, charged that General Foods Corporation was heading a group of "the big food manufacturers lined up against subsidies in a campaign to lift the lid on food prices." Reuther listed the following million-dollar corporations as behind the phony "farm" campaign for higher prices: General Foods Corporation, Swift and Company, California Packing Corporation, H. J. Heinz Company, National Biscuit Company, Pillsbury Flour Mills Company, the Borden Company, Grocery Manufacturers of America.

Labor Party Fight

What had been implicit all along became explicit after the June convention of the Michigan CIO. Confronted with the out-and-out demand of the convention to launch a labor party, the CIO bureaucrats decided that it was no longer safe to give even lip-service to this idea. Murray immediately called together the CIO national executive board and a Political Action Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Hillman to head off the labor party movement. The recent Buffalo convention of the UAW and the Philadelphia convention of the CIO both endorsed this sell-out policy.

Feeling more confident of themselves, the CIO bureaucrats then called a political conference of the Michigan CIO unions on Dec. 4 at Lansing in order to win the support of the CIO ranks for the Hillman committee and secondly to officially bury the labor party movement, which had been hanging fire since the Michigan State CIO convention. Autocratically, they ruled out of order all proposals dealing with the labor party, and pushed through the Murray-Hillman policy. It seemed as if for the time being the movement for a labor party in Michigan had been thoroughly and effectively squelched.

But the aspirations of the rank and file for genuine independent labor political action has finally found expression in the labor party conference called by Emil Mazey, president of the UAW Briggs local and attended by key union figures of the Detroit area.

The CIO bureaucrats' fear of this labor party movement can be gauged by the panicky statement immediately issued by Richard Frankenstein, vice-president of the UAW, denouncing the labor party conference. Frankenstein declared that "to form a labor party now would be to split the peoples' vote and to hand the country on a platter over to the most vicious enemies of labor..." Frankenstein insists that labor must continue to practice "company unionism" on the political field.

Hillman's CIO Political Action Committee is of course a repetition, under new fancy labels, of the old Gompers policy of voting for politicians of the two old-line capitalist parties on the basis of supporting "friends of labor." The militant union fighters of Michigan are well aware that it is this very policy which has brought labor to the very brink of disaster, that under this very policy, thirteen million American trade unionists, who together with their families comprise almost half of the population, are completely unrepresented in the halls of government. It is the Murray-Hillman program of hanging onto Roosevelt's coattails and backing all the phoney Democratic party "friends of labor" which is responsible for the present hamstringing of the labor movement, for the infamous anti-union wage and labor freeze.

Frankenstein has the arrogance to denounce the organizers of the labor party conference because their action, according to him, is "in open defiance of the policies of Murray, R. J. Thomas, Hillman, August Scholle, and all other responsible leaders of labor." The facts are otherwise. The facts are that the Michigan, CIO convention representing 700,000 workers clearly instructed the Michigan State CIO officials to conduct a referendum vote on the labor party. The facts are that Scholle and the other State CIO officials insolently ignored these explicit instructions. Frankenstein certainly has a fat nerve accusing Mazey and the others of violating union "discipline."

The initiators of the movement for a labor party will unquestionably win more and more support from the CIO rank and file. The fight for a labor party, far from being over, has only just begun.

Campaign Launched For Unconditional Pardon

(Continued from page 1)

ally concerned, the decision is of small consequence. But there is an issue at stake of vital interest to the American people. It involves the fundamental right of free speech. Without this, our boasted freedom is a delusion and a farce. "The Supreme Court has dodged the issue. It has held the Espionage Law valid without affirming its constitutionality. The real issue before the court was the constitutionality of the act. This issue the Supreme Court did not dare to decide. What the Supreme Court did decide is, that the constitution is another 'scrap of paper.'"

GREAT ISSUES

"Great issues are not decided by courts, but by the people. I have no concern in what the coteries of begowned corporation lawyers in Washington may decide in my case. The court of final resort is the people, and that court will be heard from in due time."

"The decision just rendered places the United States where old Russia under the Czar left off. It is good for, at least, a million Bolshevik recruits in this country."

Liberal Comment Minneapolis Trial

"No more important issue of civil liberties in the courts has arisen in recent years." — American Civil Liberties Union

"The prosecution and conviction are challenges to every believer in civil liberties. They are an example of the very thing the Bill of Rights sought to make impossible — the imprisonment of men not for what they did, but for what they thought and said." — The Nation.

"I stand by every word of the Canton speech. The Supreme Court, to the contrary, notwithstanding, the Espionage Law is perfectly infamous, and a disgrace as well, to the capitalist despotism at whose behest it was enacted."

"Sixty years ago the Supreme Court affirmed the validity of the Fugitive Slave Law to save chattel slavery. Five years later that infamous institution was swept

from the land in a torrent of blood. I despise the Espionage Law with every drop of blood in my veins, and I defy the Supreme Court and all its powers of capitalism to do their worst."

"All hail to the workers of America and the world!"

"The day of emancipation is dawning."

ISSUES THE SAME

The Supreme Court has not altered its class character one iota since Deb's day. The issues, too, remain essentially the same.

The victims of the Smith "Gag" Law, these revolutionary socialist leaders and trade union organizers are men and women who waged an irreconcilable struggle against fascism and all its manifestations in this country long before it became fashionable to pay lip service to that struggle. Now they are to be jailed for their uncompromising fight against all the forces of reaction. The struggle to free them is inseparable from the struggle of the workers against the cohorts of reaction who would smash the unions, shackle the workers, and continue the war for their own profit and aggrandizement.

Workers' BOOKSHELF

FATAL PARTNERS: WAR AND DISEASE by Ralph H. Major, M.D. New York: Doubleday and Doran, 1941. 342 pages. \$3.50.

Not a Marxist, and therefore unable to draw the necessary conclusions from the devastating series of historical and medical facts which he has marshalled against modern imperialism war, Dr. Ralph Major has, nevertheless, presented in "Fatal Partners: War and Disease" a useful and highly informative historical study.

Taking its title from the legendary Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse — War, Pestilence, Famine and Death — the thesis of "Fatal Partners" is that war, from the earliest historical times, has always been "total war", i.e., has always affected whole populations. Civilian, in the period before the invention of the airplane were not menaced by the constant danger of bombardment from the skies, but they have always been menaced by the terrible pestilences which war has spread far and wide.

Soldiers of the enemy conqueror or returning soldiers of the home army have spread the infection of bubonic plague, typhus fever, small pox and many other dread diseases to civilian populations, weakened and disrupted by the war. Civilian deaths from disease, in almost every war, where statistics are available, have exceeded the number of soldiers killed in battle.

But Dr. Major is a medical scientist, not a social scientist. He has no program to offer the masses of the world which will safeguard them from either the tragedy of death on the battlefield as soldiers, or death from war-borne diseases, as civilians. Marxists know that war will

end only after the working masses of the world have replaced the capitalist system which breeds war, with a system of international socialism. But Dr. Major, with all of the hatred which the medical scientist, dedicated to the work of saving lives, feels about the senseless slaughter of modern warfare, can offer in the concluding paragraph of "Fatal Partners" only this completely inadequate pledge:

"Yet so long as nations continue to spring at one another's throats, the medical and nursing professions will continue to bind up their wounds... They will continue to meet this challenge to relieve human suffering so long as nations resort to force to settle their disputes, even if they represent the periodic holocausts of death and suffering for which they are not responsible. Medicine knows no national boundaries and the physicians of every warring nation pay tribute to the medical discoveries of the enemy, even if they bitterly oppose his political doctrines and his military conquests."

But medical men are notorious-ly uninformed about the social sciences and notorious supporters of the status quo. That Dr. Ralph Major offers no solution to the terrible social problems of today, war and fascism, is no surprise. Students of history will be grateful, however, that he has gathered together in this book such a storehouse of factual information from American, English, French and German medical and historical writings.

The author reviews the great wars of history and writes movingly of the frightful pestilences spread by these wars and of the attendant misery and suffering with which soldiers and civilians alike were afflicted. In the First

World War it was chiefly influenza which menaced the civilian population. There were 548,452 deaths from influenza and its accomplice, pneumonia, in the United States in the ten-month period from Oct. 1918, to Aug. 1919. In India, there were over ten million deaths from this cause. Soldiers of all countries were stricken by the "flu" and died in great numbers.

But in America's Siberian army, which fought along with other Allied forces against the new Bolshevik government of Russia, headed by Lenin and Trotsky, it was the virus of Bolshevism which was feared. On this point Dr. Major writes: "Many battalions of the invaders showed a marked disinclination to fight the Bolsheviks. French sailors in Odessa and in Sebastopol hoisted the red flag on their warships. Regiments of the Kolchak White army deserted en masse to the Reds. This example began to prove contagious... The British had already shown unmistakable signs of sympathy with the Bolsheviks. The American people were wondering in a bewildered fashion just what their boys were doing in the wilds of Siberia."

Dr. Major does not understand as Marxists do that there are progressive wars. He does not see that the struggles of the oppressed colonial peoples to free themselves, the battles of the Russian workers against the Nazi invaders, the civil war of down-trodden masses of workers and farmers against their oppressors are all part of the great struggle to establish international socialism and thus to end war forever.

Medical science needs the social science of Marxism in order to complete its work.

Reviewed by GRACE CARLSON

International Notes

News dispatches about India continue to depict the mounting horror of famine and death prevalent there. With 100,000 dying from starvation weekly, it might seem incredible that there is actually a "surplus" of food in that country. But this is maintained by the financial expert of the N. Y. Sun, Dec. 8. Discussing the Bombay bullion market and the Indian Reserve Bank, he says: "So great continues the Eastern faith in gold that 'food hoarders are being induced to disgorge their surpluses' in exchange for the precious metal. By so doing, they are helping to relieve the distressing famine in Bengal."

The release from prison of Britain's No. 1 fascist, Oswald Mosley, continues to meet with determined and angry protests from British workers. On Dec. 7, delegates from coal pits, shipyards, cotton mills and other sections of British industry appeared before the House of Commons to voice organized labor's refusal to accept the explanations of Herbert Morrison, Minister of Home Security. Meanwhile, in Parliament Square, hundreds of workers paraded with banners and shouted slogans.

The executive council of Transport and General Workers' Union, Britain's largest trade union representing a million and a quarter members, passed a motion criticizing the release and demanding

the return of Mosley to prison.

Recently the BBC "Works Wonders" program, broadcasting from a northern factory was forced off the air before its allotted time because the audience persisted in disrupting the program with shouts of: "What about Mosley?"

As against the barrage of criticism by the workers, Harold Laski, "Socialist" and "left wing" spokesman in the British Labor Party" wrote last week in a syndicated column: "Yet I think the Home Secretary clearly was right and his critics were wrong."

The N. Y. New Leader, organ of the Social Democratic Federation, lauded editorially on Nov. 27 the fair treatment in the "best traditions of the British parliamentary government" which is being accorded to the opposition, but lamented: "In a time of public strain there are evident advantages in having in charge of home affairs a man of Herbert Morrison's standing."

According to a dispatch from New Zealand, Dec. 7, soldier votes saved the labor party in recent national elections there. Without the support of men in service, labor party control of the House of Representatives would have been lost and a compromise government or new election then in order. Chalk up one more reason why the capitalist politicians don't want the soldiers to vote!

The food situation in Greece is reported to be catastrophic. In Saloniki, when the Nazis confiscated foodstuffs, a militant demonstration took place in front of the Governor's headquarters. Many demonstrators, including women and children, were killed and wounded. 100 civilians were seized as "hostages", whom the Nazis threaten to execute in the event of future demonstrations.

The Canadian government in an order issued Dec. 9 has banned all wage increases until the end of the war. In cases of "gross inequality or gross injustice" wage increases may be granted but only on condition that this is done "consistently with the paramount principle of the maintenance of stability in prices." In other words the Canadian bosses will "agree" to raise wages only when they are forced to do it by the Canadian workers.

IN MILWAUKEE
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Behind the Administration Anti-Inflation Campaign

By S. Marcy

President Roosevelt's chief lieutenants have begun to beat very loudly the drums against inflation. Within the space of a single week, each of his top-notch administrators has managed to release, in one form or another, a report on the mounting tide of inflation.

On Dec. 6, James F. Byrnes, the War Mobilization Director, delivered a lengthy radio address on the subject, and concluded with a plea for food subsidies as the only way out. On Dec. 8, the Office of War Information issued a widely publicized report, documented with statistical data, which showed the unabated drive of the inflationary forces.

Earlier in the week, Chester Bowles, Roosevelt's OPA administrator, and Economic Stabilization Director Vinson, both testified before Congressional Committees, and each respectively called attention to the "explosive character" inherent in the present economic situation.

Working people throughout the country, who read any part of the reports, would have good reason to be disturbed by the facts disclosed in them. The information must have served to confirm their growing fears regarding the ever increasing cost of living.

If Roosevelt's lieutenants intended, by the release of these reports, to frighten or alarm the capitalist class into accepting his subsidy program as the solution to the inflation problem, they have failed. The greedy Farm Bloc interests are driven by an irresistible lust for increasing profits, which can not be stopped by dangling before their eyes the spectre of inflation. They know that inflation is an inevitable product of the war, and is generated by the blind economic forces within the capitalist system.

These government reports, however, are intended to whip the broad masses of people into support of Roosevelt's subsidy program, in an effort to implement his tottering price control machinery.

An examination of Roosevelt's tactics in pushing through his wage freezing, price control program of 1942, casts a revealing light on his present intentions and aims. On Labor Day, Sept. 7, 1942, Roosevelt delivered a dramatic message to Congress, in which he drew a dire picture of the consequences which would follow were inflation to begin. He inveighed against food profiteering, pointed a stern finger at the Farm Bloc, and warned that if rising prices were to continue, "the cost of food to wage earners next May would be over 15% of the level which existed when the ceilings were set." He concluded with a threat that if Congress does not act, "I will act."

Then followed press releases and testimony before Congressional committees, just as now. Donald Henderson, former OPA Administrator, thundered against the danger of uncontrolled prices. He was joined by Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, who was followed by Prentiss Brown, at that time a Senate whip for Roosevelt's price control program. A host of minor New Deal liberal politicians, followed at the tail end by the labor bureaucracy, then began to popularize Roosevelt's program as the "President's Stabilization Program for the defense of the nation."

Congress finally passed the legislation which was approved by Roosevelt, and much to the surprise of the workers, wages were rigidly frozen, OPA price ceilings were feebly established and still more feebly enforced, and the Farm Bloc, against whom Roosevelt had pointed such a stern finger, obtained one of their greatest "steals" in American history.

Roosevelt's crumbling price control machinery can hardly withstand the pressure for increased prices without some form of subsidy. Chester Bowles has testified that in the period from Oct. 10 to Nov. 10, 1943, more than a thousand conferences were held in the Washington-OPA offices, all requesting increased price ceilings. Rather than to deny increased price ceilings and incur the danger of a struggle with the million dollar agricultural interests, food processors, and manufacturers, Bowles and Roosevelt, prefer to buy them off with subsidies.

To accomplish this, Roosevelt is rallying what support he can among the liberal and labor elements in the country. That is why his administrators in a desperate effort to arouse support for the subsidy program, have beat the drums with sound and fury against the rising tide of inflation.

But while this campaign to arouse support for the subsidy program is reaching a climax, and the people are lead to believe that it is the only way out in the fight against inflation, Roosevelt's OPA Administrator, Chester Bowles, is conniving with his Congressional colleagues to arrive at one of those reactionary compromises, which has marked Roosevelt's policy of retreat before the forces of Finance Capitalism.

Barrons, the authoritative Wall Street financial weekly, in the issue of Dec. 6, 1943, reports that Chester Bowles, while testifying before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, was asked, "WOULD IT NOT HELP TO HOLD THE LINE (against inflation) TO HOOK PRICES AND WAGES TOGETHER BY LAW?" Bowles' reply was emphatically, "Yes."

The meaning of this will not be clear until it is realized that there is a bill pending in Congress, introduced by Congressman Monroney, which seeks to create a new formula, which would rigidly tie the Little Steel Formula to price ceilings. This reactionary scheme is favored by anti-labor Congressmen such as Vandenberg, who significantly enough approved the attitude taken by Bowles.

Thus while Roosevelt's lieutenants are beating the drums about inflation and rallying support for the Subsidy Program, which the people are led to believe is a way to fight inflation, the OPA Administrator, Chester Bowles, is trying to cook up a so-called compromise, which attempts to further restrict wage increases precisely at a time when pressure from organized labor is punching holes in the vicious Little Steel Formula.

The political struggle against inflation, as expressed in the subsidy fight shows again the urgent need on the part of the American labor movement to disassociate itself from Roosevelt's politics and turn to the path of independent political labor action.

The latest confidential OPA study on wages, prices and profits reveals that from August 1939 to August 1943: Wage rates have increased 10%, Food prices have increased 47.8%, Clothing prices have increased 32.6%, Net income of all farm operators increased 182%, Corporation profits increased 336%.