CRDC Meeting Speech By Albert Goldman

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Roosevelt Tries To Halt Threatened Rail Strike

1,450,000 Railroade Workers Fed Up With Gov't Run-Around Vote Overwhelmingly for Walkout; Unions Set Dec. 30 Deadline

By Art Preis

DECEMBER 21. — President Roosevelt has been compelled to intervene personally in the railroad wage negotiations in a last minute effort to head off the general railroad strike scheduled to begin Dec. 30. All his elaborate boards and arbitration machinery, set up to stymie the wage demands of the railroad workers, have completely broken down and are discredited. Roosevelt is now forced to assume direct responsibility for the raw deal he is trying to put over.

A successful strike or even a strike threat resulting in substantial wage gains will deal another powerful blow to Roosevelt's fast-waning prestige with labor and to his increasingly discredited war labor relations machinery.

The hard pressed bualmost a year, have hastened to the White House at Roosevelt's imperious summons. They are no doubt anxious to obtain a formula which they can palm off on their membership as an "acceptable" settlement to avert a strike the union leaders fear no less than bosses and government. Whether they can dig up such a formula is another question.

97% STRIKE VOTE

So far as the railroad workers are concerned, their sentiments are clearly revealed in the announcement of the strike vote of the 350,000 operating employes be invited for the purpose of of the Brotherhoods-97.7% for effecting ways and means for strike. Although the actual vote launching a labor party at the of the 15 non-operating unions, earliest possible time. representing 1,100,000 which in clude the lowest paid workers, has not been disclosed, it is announced that they also have voted overwhelmingly for strike. The non-operating union officials have now set Dec. 30 as the strike date.

This strike vote is all the more significant because it was not the unions, like the miners or auto workers, but of one of the most whose union has 12,000 members. conservative layers of the working class, which has been stifled Ford Bomber Local 50 with for decades by an entrenched, membership of approximately well-heeled, servile union bureau-

the deadline.

PRESSURE FROM BELOW

Brotherhoods' leaders recognized spreading dissatisfaction of the ployees) AFL, Rebert A. Zanske, citizenry of this country with the director of the Federal Credit

(Continued on page 2)

were called in the hope of sub-

stantiating the claim that he was

in no condition to make respon-

sible statements at the time. The

which every accused has of con-

CASE OF ASSASSIN 'JACSON'

By WALTER O'ROURKE | peat his lies about his alleged

nal hearing in the appeal of Leon how the latter wanted him to go

Trotsky's assassin, "Jacson," a- to Russia to sabotage, murder,

of last April is scheduled to take that the murderer has stated that

sentence was imposed by the Sixth and therefore did not know

Penal Court of Mexico City, the what was going on about her.

The doctors who attended "Jac- Trotsky is in no condition to sub-

defense also insisted on the right testimony is concerned, "Jac-

testimony against him. Former that any sort of favorable decision

him to be an agent of the GPU. tos. will no doubt again allege

ordeal.

PLAYS FOR TIME

As far as the substance of the

son's" defense has won no ground

Railroad Brotherhoods, Conference For Labor Party who managed to stall off decisive union action for Held By Michigan Unionists

DETROIT, Mich.—Rank and file sentiment for an independent labor party in Michigan has again manifested itself in unmistakable fashion. It has already disrupted the carefully formulated plans of the labor bureaucrats.

Led by Emil Mazey, president of UAW Briggs Local 212 and Paul Silver, president of UAW Detroit Steel Products Local 351, a group of about 70 local union leaders, representing more than a score of Michigan CIO and AFL locals which represent over 200,000 workers, set up a "Committee for the Promotion of a Farmer-Labor Party" on Dec. 12, at a conference held at Detroit's Book-Cadillac Hotel. Both at this meeting and at a

400 and numerous other locals.

Our Blood,

His Guts

James Lucas, chairman of the

The Senate Military Affairs

sub-committee last week post-

poned action "temporarily" on

a proposed promotion for Lieu-

tenant Gen. George S. Patton,

after Republican Senator Lan-

a statement demanding to

know whether it was true that

Patton, who is previously re-

ported to have slapped and

abused several wounded sol-

diers, had drawn a revolver

when he bawled out a soldier

for not wearing leggings and

that eight other soldiers near-

by had readied their rifles be-

cause Patton had become "so

"Is it true," Senator Langer

of North Dakota, issued

Pontiac joint CIO-AFL political

action committee endorsed the

smaller steering committee held in the Hoffman Bldg, two days Action Committee UAW Local 28, later; plans were elaborated to Lansing, Richard C. Naysmith, hold a state-wide conference late | Local 1075 AFL, representatives in January or early in February | from Ford Highland Park Local to which all Michigan locals will

LEADERS PRESENT

Among those present at the Book-Cadillac meeting were:

Matthew Hammond president of UAW West Side Tool and Die Local 157 representing 30,000 members, Tucker P. Smith, regional director of the United action of traditionally militant Retail, Wholesale and Departa leading representative of UAW 50,000, John Clarkson, president of the UAW Lincoln Local 900, It is evidence of terrific pres- Cornelius Moll, president of sure from the ranks, now brought | Chevrolet Drop Forge Local 262, to a fever pitch of resentment at Celso Rubini, president of soaring prices, frozen wages and Chrysler Highland Park Local extortionate taxes while the rail 490, Leonard Kluk, president of corporations rake in exorbitant | Michigan Steel Tube Local 238, profits, that this union bureau- Leo Cornellier, president of Fleetcracy has been forced into wood Local 15, Philip Lutjen, endorsing the strike and setting president of UAW Local 49, Larry Getlinger, president of Federal Mogul Local 202, Arthur Mennozzi, president of Local 11 In the announcement of the Aluminum Workers of America strike vote last Thursday, the CIO, Woodrow Ingram, president of Local 19 Shopcraft Federation that this "reflected a deep and (non-operating railroad em-

also asked, "as letters from soldiers indicate, that the opinion in the Army is now such that troops refer to him as 'our blood, his guts'?" conference although he was unable for night shifts.

abusive."

to be present. Many other local Union of Ford Local 600, Adrian Jensen, chairman of the Political LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MEXICO CITY, Dec. 1-The fi- lengthy discussions with Trotsky,

WANT LABOR PARTY

gainst the twenty-year sentence etc. It will be remembered also elected at the Book-Cadillac con- step. place on Dec. 10. Ever since the Natalia Trotsky was old and senile ference and steps taken to form Another improvement proposed and it was proposed that a series completely wiped out. son" immediately after the murder mit to such a provocation and of pamphlets be published and, if The new vacation plan is a con-

(Continued on page 2)

fronting those who have given at all and it is difficult to imagine reme Court against the Superior Tribunal. No doubt he will ampand their reasons for considering murderer's attorney, Medellin Oserior Tribunal.

The GPU defense was most anx- partiality, errors, etc., on the part of wasting time and waiting for ords, 14 days annually. ious to haul Natalia Trotsky into of the Superior Tribunal (Court more favorable conditions as well have had the opportunity to re- has already appealed to the Sup- tion.

New York Meeting Demands President Pardon Eighteen

New Jersey CIO Backs 18

New Jersey State Industrial Union Council Treasurer CARL, HOLDERMAN Textile Workers U. of A, 1st Vice President THOMAS GALLAGHER Ind. Union Marine Ship, W. of A. 2nd Vice President CHARLES LAZZIO Federation of Dyers December 15, 1943

Civil Rights Defense Committee 160 Fifth Avenue New York City, New York 4th Vice President JOHN PROTO United Steel Workers of America Sth Vice President JOSEPH STREMLO United Rubber Workers of America

3rd Vice President JOHN KEILMAN United Elec. Rad. Mach, W. of A.

7th Vice President LOUIS HOROWITZ Amalgamated Clothing W. of A.

Assistant to President EVELVN DURROW Legislative Counsel MORRIS ISSERMAN

This is the reason why the Executive Board of the organization which I head, recorded itself in favor of protecting the civil rights of the defendants involved.

Therefore, on behalf of the New Jersey State CIO Council, I would like to add my strong protest against the refusal of the Supreme Court of the United States to hear a case where the elements of freedom of speech are involved.

GUARANTEED WAGE

than forty hours.

Although given little emphasis

by the press, a most far reaching

(Continued on page 4)

On behalf of the New Jersey State CIO Council, President Irving Abramson reaffirms support of the 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO members imprisoned under the Smith "Gag" Act.

Steel Workers Need Rising Wage Scale

Spurred on by the increasing dissatisfaction of the steel workers, as reflected in the growing number of stoppages in steel Baldwin pledged the continued plants, the Philip Murray leadership of the United Steelworkers full backing of the ACLU in the of America, CIO, has reopened negotations with the major steel corporations for a new contract embodying wage increases above the limits set by the Little Steel formula. The draft of the new

agreement, containing many other far-reaching improve- ments, and for severance pay for ments, was approved by a con- workers involved in permanent ference of local union presidents shutdowns.

in Pittsburgh on December 1. No longer able to pacify the steelworkers with empty promises of price roll-backs and unable to minimize the gains of the miners demand of the steelworkers is through militant strike struggle, for a Guaranteed Weekly Wage. Murray and his lieutenants have This demand would guarantee a been compelled to initiate a drive through the wage-freeze of the Little Steel formula.

Heading the list of demands is one for a wage increase of 17 ferential pay for shift work, 5 cents more per hour for afternoon shifts and 10 cents more per hour

The increase in the basic hourly leaders who were unavoidably rate would bring steel industry absent due to the influenza pay up to the level of the autoepidemic notified the committee mobile and other major industries. that they could be counted upon The same is true of the demand to aid in the formation of a labor for differential pay for shift party. Others hesitated to par- work, which has been practiced in ticipate without first consulting several industries in recent years. the ranks but definitely can be In the steel industry, however, counted upon to join the com- differential pay is unknown, almittee in the immediate future. though rotating shifts has been the traditional method of work. In presenting this demand, the Various sub-committees were steelworkers are taking a forward

rank and file nuclei in plants is the new seniority clause which which were not represented at the seeks to "streamline" the present GPU agent's lawyer has been try- The GPU has not succeeded in conference but where sentiment clumsy, outmoded arrangement. ing desperately to find some peg subjecting Natalia Trotsky to for a labor party was known to Seniority is to be based strictly on on which to hang his appeal for this ordeal and it is hoped that it be strong. Plans were drawn up "length of service" and such exa reversal, or at least a reduction will not be able to do so. Due to to carry on a propaganda camtwo recent illnesses, Natalia paign in all the Michigan plants and "place of residence" are to be

possible, a newspaper. A con-siderable improvement. Heretosiderable sum of money was fore, steel workers were allowed one week's vacation after three year's of work, and two weeks on'y after FIFTEEN YEARS of work. The new plan reduces the working time to one year for one guards and friends of Trotsky can be achieved on this basis. lify this with a further appeal. for two weeks. This is suppledays annually, and in the case of Times, Dec. 21.) All this is part of his old game workers with longer seniority rec-

Among other improvements are the murderer. He would then the case. As a matter of fact he coming desperate with his situa- supply food at cost price, equip- in Yugoslavia are most sinister bodna Rech, Dec. 13.) ment to be supplied by manage- in their implications. First, there

"This is a case which never worker forty hours pay per week court," declared Mr. Baldwin, "unby the USWA-CIO to break in the event that his working der a law which never should time has been reduced to less have been passed."

He cited three features of the of the "special interests of one this importance. This is unpre-The projection of this demand case which indicate its frame-up union group against another." indicates the refusal of the steel- character. The victims, he pointed This is to be supplemented by dif- mills have for years been tied case was prosecuted in peace-

news about it was not released

High Court's Refusal To Review Conviction Condemned By Labor And Liberal Spokesmen

Charge Upholding of 'Gag Act' Endangers Labor Movement, Violates Right of Free Speech, Invalidates the Bill of Rights

NEW YORK, Dec. 16-A direct and forceful demand that President Roosesevelt grant an immediate and unconditional pardon to the 18 Minneapolis victims, framed-up under the anti-labor Smith "Gag" law, was issued tonight by an overflow mass protest meeting at the Manhattan Center here. The meeting was sponsored by the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

This important gathering, addressed by leading spokesmen of a number of civil liberties and working class political organizations, initiated the nation-wide campaign to win the freedom of the 18 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis drivers Local 544-CIO leaders and to wipe from the Federal statutes

the Smith "Gag" law, the most dangerous legal threat to American civil liberties since the notorious Alien and Sedition Laws of 1798.

Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union liberal fighter for civil rights, and Albert Goldman, brilliant Minneapolis trial defense attorney and himself one of the defendants, topped a list of prominen speakers who scored the reactionary decision of Roosevelt's U. S. Supreme Court in refusing even to hear an appeal by the defendants.

Voicing the shock and indignation that is spreading through ever wider labor and liberal circles at the government's attack on freedom of expression, Mr. fight. He expressed his unconcealed admiration for the principled and courageous defense made by the 18 convicted men and appeal to the entire labor and liberal movements to join forces to smash the sinister attack on civil liberties represented by the Minneapolis convictions and the Supreme Court decision.

BALDWIN PROTESTS

should have been brought to

time, not during the "hysteria of Never before has the Supreme war;" it was initiated in support Court refused to review a case of

Resolution Demanding President Pardon 18 Minneapolis Prisoners

The following is the text of the resolution demanding that President Roosevelt grant an immediate and unconditional pardon to the 18 convicted Trotskyist and Minneapolis Local 544-CIO leaders, adopted unanimously by the protest mass meeting held under the auspices of the Civil Rights Defense Committee Thursday, Dec. 16, in New York City:

We, 400 defenders of civil liberties, gathered in Manhattan Center on Thursday, Dec. 16, at a mass meeting called by the Civil Rights Defense Committee, indignantly protest the railroading to prison of the 18 members of the Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO as an intolerable violation of the elementary principles of democracy and as the most vicious attack in years upon the rights

These 18 men and women are the victims of political persecution, placed behind bars solely because of their ideas and union activities. They are the first to be bludgeoned by the Smith "Gag" Act, a savage instrument of oppression against organized labor and minority opinion. Although this law clearly abrogates the constitutional rights of free speech and free press, the U.S. Supreme Court in an unprecedented action refused to consider its constitutionality and to review the con-

We will not permit these acts of injustice to go unchallenged. The imprisonment of the 18 Minneapolis defendants vitally concerns every fighter for the rights of labor and for civil liberties. The virtual upholding of the Smith "Gag" Act places a weapon in the hands of reaction which can now be used against other trade-unionists and working class political

We therefore petition the President of the United States to rectify this injustice by granting immediate and unconditional pardon to the 18 Minneapolis prisoners. We demand that Congress repeal the undemocratic and anti-labor Smith "Gag" Act. We call upon all labor organizations and progressive individuals to support the efforts of the Civil Rights Defense Committee to effect these aims.

"The most disturbing thing is

cedented.

cents per hour. This would raise workers to accept the press and out, were convicted for no illegal that this shocking decision was "magnificent job" done by the radio propaganda about a post- acts but "mere expression of opin- made by a recently rejuvenated CRDC. He added, "And I can industry from 78 cents to 95 cents. war paradise. The men in the steel ion and advocacy of ideas;" the Supreme Court, supposedly apost- say that the Socialist Workers les of democracy and liberty. Party and the defendants have

(Continued on page 4)

Tito's New Govt. In Yugoslavia

By John G. Wright

One year after the formation in Yugoslavia of the Anti- news agency, while Slobodna Rech at least two of the three great Fascist Soviet (Vece) by the Partisan movement on Nov. 26-27, is a Serb paper published in powers intimately interested in 1942, comes the news of the formation of a Provisional Govern- Pittsburgh as the official organ Europe," and immediately added: ment. This marks a new and important stage in the development in this country of the All-Slav "I cannot doubt that the creaof the Partisan movement, dominated from the outset by the

Whatever its actual content may be, in its structure the newly created Partisan government parallels closely bourgeois demo- the Kremlin. cratic forms. It consists of a parliament and an executive. Dr. Ivan Ribar, former head of the

Anti-Fascist Soviet, remains the is the factor of secrecy that has titular head of the new power. cloaked the creation of the new The dominant figure, however, Provisional Government. Stalinist remains, as before, Stalin's sources now reveal that it was agent "General Tito," who has actually formed in advance of the been promoted to the rank of Churchill - Stalin - Roosevelt con-Marshal and designated as the ference of Dec. 1, although the Minister of War. The Tito-Ribar government has openly challenged until Dec. 4 from London, that is, he Yugoslav Government-in- only after the Teheran con-Exile, which is still recognized formally by London-Washington.

A Cairo dispatch states that an ICN Dec. 6 dispatch from Washington. Tito had announced in a broadcast Berne, 142 delegates met at week's vacation and three years that "the provisional government "Jajce at the end of November." would henceforth be the sole gov- and "adopted the decision to

SINISTER CIRCUMSTANCES

bears the seal and authority of Dec. 12.)

committee" a direct product of cratic" statesmen and their ally, Stalin and his Allies?

pledges of aid to the Partisans claimed upon his return from and the protestations of friend- Moscow last November. ship emanating from Churchill's It remains to be seen just what Ministers in London and Secre- the actual connection is between Here is the proof: according to tary of State Cordell Hull in the deals made at Teheran and

ADAMIC'S ADMISSIONS

(ICN) is an out-and-out Stalinist | "without getting a clear nod from Committee set up in Moscow in tion of the Partisan provisional August 1941. In other words, the regime was approved beforehand above-cited dispatch unmistakably by Britain and Russia. . ." (P.M.,

No one has yet challenged Just what is the connection be- Adamic's assertions, although tween the political moves in among other things, they inad-Yugoslavia and the Teheran con- vertently constitute an avowal ference? Are the Tito-Ribar that secret diplomacy is being "parliament" and new "national brazenly practised by the "demosecret agreements reached by Stalin. The liberal Adamic is not ashamed to avow and support An indirect answer to these secret agreements which Secre-questions is supplied by the tary Hull has so cynically dis-

the current political turn of the Stalinists in Yugoslavia. The links that have been and are being Additional evidence is provided forged between the Stalin-Tito

were called to face "Jacson." Aside from protests against the He hopes to thus reopen the case, mented by a proposal for sick ernment of Yugoslavia and that transform the Anti-Fascist Vece by none other than the journalist clique and the capitalist "demo-They repeated their statements procedure of the trial judge, the either in the lower or in the Sup- leaves with pay amounting to 7 it repudiated King Peter." (N. Y. of the People's Liberation Front Louis Adamic, now serving as cracies" can at a certain stage of Yugoslavia into a supreme Chairman of the South Slav basically alter the character of legislative and executive body; Committee, the American section the struggle that has been conand the Presidium of the Vece of Moscow's All-Slav Committee. ducted in Yugoslavia by the Many of the circumstances sur- into a national committee for the In a public statement Adamic Partisan movement; and can court and force her to confront of Appeals) which is reviewing as preventing "Jacson" from be- proposals for plant cafeterias to rounding this latest development Liberation of Yugoslavia." (Slo- blurted out that no new govern- transform it from a civil war into ment in Yugoslavia could or a mere appendage of the allied Now, the Inter-Continent News would have been constituted war machine.

of sentence.

14,000

12,000

10,000

8000

6,000

4,000

2000

13,000

5,000

3,000

1,000

By Joseph Keller

poration to fulfill its war con- mands. tracts, turned its hearings into washed the real culprits, the management, and placed major blame on the union.

During the hearings, the committee revealed its anti-labor bias by refusing to hear the teswhich provided for the union shop. protection against arbitrary discharges, the shop steward system and other progressive union fea-

Thomas has issued a statement defending the union's policies, and voicing his "complete conobvious union-busting drive.

A strike of the 5,000 police, firemen and public works employes of Canada's largest city, Montreal, was settled within 14 hours Their sing'e demand was that the meeting has been scheduled. municipal officials recognize the Canadian Congress of Labor as their collective bargaining agent.

scored an important victory last week when it won the National, Labor Relations Board election in the Passaic, N. J. plant of the Botany Worsted Company.

Char'es T. Douds, regional director of the NLRB, stated that despite the outcome of the election he would press for a contempt citation against the company before the Third U. S. Circuit Court, which in Nov. 1939, issued a decree requiring the company to refrain from intimidating the workers. The company instead intensified its anti-union practices. But as the election showed, the company couldn't get to first base.

One of the largest and most viciously anti-union textile cor-porations, Botany had succeeded for years in denying union rights are six and assistant supervisor who was parto its workers. It played a leading role in the smashing of the able" to the workers. historic 1926 Passaic strike.

The Sta'inist-dominated leadership of the UE only a few months that time the UE officials patted of Production.

The House naval affairs sub-themselves on the back in big ads committee which, under the pre- in the capitalist press, and lectext of investigating the fai'ure tured John L. Lewis and the coal of the Brewster Aeronautical Cor- miners on how to "win" wage de-

Now these servile scoundrels a witch-hunt against the Brewster are compelled to crawl through local 365, United Automobile the breach in the Little Steel Workers, CIO, came out last week formula forced by the militant with its expected report. It white- strike action of the coal miners.

just been indicated by the War fluenza situation is created by electron microscope. The particles Labor Board decision in the dis- wartime living conditions, accord- of the virus responsible for influ-Thomas and by attacking the union for defending its contract the Republic Aircraft Corp., De-should be taken," he said, "in our would have to be magnified 65,000 pany in ruling that it had the thousands are closely crowded as the period at the end of this That's what piece-work means. is reduced to a minimum." More work for less money.

The story along the grapevine fidence" in Thomas De Lorenzo, is that the last meeting between dical authorities are not at all special target of the Congres- John L. Lewis and the AFL comorganized labor." He likewise sident Daniel J. Tobin, to pave that in 1918 there was a series of pointed out that only the Stalinist the way for re-entry of the tries throughout the world before Daily Worker has joined with the United Mine Workers into the labor-baiting press to back this AFL, broke up with no results due to the inability of the inter- CONDITIONS RIPE ested parties to settle conflicting jurisdictional claims.

insists that the UMW'S District world. Widespread malnutrition, 50 retain complete jurisdiction in exposure to the cold and the eleby the city government, with a the chemical and by-products field. ments, crowded unsanitary living enza is also being studied. It is complete victory for the strikers. It is reported that no further quarters, long working hours, the known that none of the present

The International Typographical Union voted against reaffilia-The CIO Textile Workers Union tion with the American Federation of Labor, it was announced last Thursday. The official tabu'ation of a recent national membership referendum showed the proposal for reaffiliation defeated by 1,225 votes, 23,366 for and 24,591

> Unions do not have the right to insist on the dismissal of supervisory employes, no matter how objectionable, according to the ruling of Dean Smith, of Columbia University Law School, acting for the WLB in arbitrating a dispute between the Wright Aeronautical Corporation and UAW-CIO Local 669.

> Some 17,000 Wright workers went on strike last week in five

Albert Capone, Local 669, presi-The United Electrical, Radio the strike "unauthorized," hastand Machine Workers, CIO, has ened to accept the decision, which announced that a conference of he claims "closes the matter." If delegates representing 80,000 it does, then a dangerous prece-Westinghouse Electric Company dent has been established. Workworkers has voted to demand a ers will be subjected to every sort general wage increase of 17 cents of abuse and brow-beating by company stooges, without any means of defense.

Instead of accepting such ago signed a miserable contract vicious decision, union leaders disease - an estimated 280 per and powerful trade unions can embodying the infamous "incen- like Capone should be fighting 1000. In some cities records show tive pay" speed up scheme, hailed not merely for the right of workby them as a means of getting ers to have some say about supermore wages without striking. At vision, but for Workers Control



It was with elation and sincere | for that issue only? They are for appreciation that we read the fol- subscription work.' lowing sentiment expressed by one of our Chicago subscribers:

"Inclosed you will find \$6 for which I am renewing my subscription to The Militant for six ing to locate one. . . The August months and \$5 toward the good 13 letter on the methods of the work you are doing in educating San Francisco Branch are worth the workers to understand their economic interest in society."

A former New York reader of The Militant, now in Virginia still fee's the need of our paper. He writes as follows:

"I would appreciate very much a sample copy of The Militant and Fourth International, also a subscription form for these two publications. I read your paper frequently before I left New York City about eight months ago."

We are sending the sample copies and subscription blanks and The Militant, the stand will be feel assured that because this advertised both in the paper and friend will want to read the paper by leaflets distributed in the and magazine regularly, his sub- neighborhood. scriptions will be forthcoming.

Considerable activity is now being carried on by our agent in carry The Militant, give each fam-Toledo, as is evidenced by the fol- ily the current issue of the paper lowing letters received during the and a mimeographed leaflet show

"When our next bundle order of Militants is sent will you please include fifteen additional copies! This method brings results.

"Toledo does not have a newsstand where The Militant can be displayed for sale so we are tryreviewing and perhaps we can work along those lines. As soon as we get a newsstand we will party. It is certain, however, that Addes-Frankensteen, the Stalinsend the address in promptly."

The letter of August 13, referred to by our To'edo agent, was a copy of an informative letter concerning newsstands and neighbor hood work from our San Francisco agent, the main points of

1. Approach newsstands in selected neighborhoods with the proposition that if they will carry

2. Then for several weeks canvass those families in the neigh the CIO political action comborhoods where you get stands to mittee. ing the name and address of the stand where future issues can be purchased.

TRADE UNION The Threat Of Deadly Influenza ROOSEVELT INTERVENES By Grace Carlson With the reports by public health authorities that there are learth in the space of a few San Francisco Toron AGAINST RAIL STRIKE

to doctors and laymen alike.

and have a particularly destruc-

tive effect on the cells of the

Vaccines are being prepared so

that individuals may be protected

from influenza as they are from

These are still in an experi-

mental stage, however, and re-

search has been terribly complic-

ated by the discovery that there

are at least three and possibly

more types of influenza viruses.

Immunity against one type does

not guarantee immunity against

another. Separate vaccines will

The possible use of the sulfa

drugs in the fight against influ-

sulfa products, sulfanilamide, sul-

fapyridine, sulfathiazole or the

others is effective against the

"flu." itself. Even the "miracle

fective. By this time, a total of

26 powerful germ fighters have

and found wanting. Fortunate'y,

some of these drugs have been

found to be useful in the treat-

ment of the pneumonia which so

SUGGESTED PRECAUTIONS

A circular letter issued from

the Office of the Surgeon General

of the United States in January

nounced their intentions to call

often follows influenza.

have to be developed.

RECENT RESEARCH

now over 1,000,000 cases of influenza in the United States, that there were 2,000 deaths from influenza in Berlin last week, that England has a weekly toll of over 700 influenza deaths, the question in every mind has been: "Is another wide influenza epidemic like that of 1918 on the way?"

Speaking before the National Conference on Planning for War been done on influenza since 1918 and Post-War Medical Services and public health workers now early in 1943, Dr. Thomas Francis, have considerably more informaa Michigan University public tion about the cause and cure of

health expert, said that such an "flu." The germ which causes The real end-product of the "in- epidemic was "a very definite influenza was discovered in 1933 centive pay" system for which the possibility in .1943." Just as in and has since been measured and Stalinists have been clamoring has 1918, the great hazard in the in-photographed by means of the troit. The WLB upheld the com- huge war production plants where times before it would be as large right to re-time piecework rates, together, working long hours at sentence. Although small, the inthus reducing the workers' wages. top speed, so that their resistance fluenza virus particles are deadly

> Although the present influenza, especially in the United States, is not of the virulent type that the 1918 "Spanish influenza" was, methe deadly "flu" struck.

The groundwork for another influenza pandemic has been laid According to the rumors, Lewis by the capitalist rulers of the speedup, have all combined to lower the resistance of millions of people since the beginning of World War II. Influenza is always present in the population, drug," penicillin, has not been efand minor outbreaks of the disease occur in one locality or another from time to time. An increase in the virulence of the 'flu' germ and the lowering of the resistance of whole populations may combine to set off another influenza pandemic which will rock the

> Although influenza has been a 'scourge upon the people" for generations, "the pandemic of 1918," wrote Gray in the "Advancing Front of Medicine," "showed what 1942 to all army doctors urges influenza could do with the whole the greatest precautions against planet, not just one continent, as a possible outbreak of influenza a stage for its action."

Public health authorities estimate that there were 21,000,000 ately isolated and the patient kept deaths in the world from in- in bed until 48 hours after his fluenza in the ten-month period temperature has returned to norin 1918 and 1919 during which mal, the instructions read. Morethe disease raged. This global over, soldiers should resume their outbreak of deady influenza ranks normal activities at a very gradwith the plague of Justinian in ual rate while they are convalesthe 6th century and the Black cing from the "flu", because many Death in the 14th century as one of the complications of influenza dent, who had previously termed of the three most destructive occur during the period of conplagues which the human race valescence. has ever known.

In the United States alone, there were 548,452 deaths from influ- should see to it that adequate paid enza and the pneumonia which ac- sick leaves are allowed their companied it: nearly half of these members and that workers are deaths were among men and wom- given some protection against the en between the ages of 20 and speed-up system after they return 40. Other hundreds of thousands to work from a siege of the in this country were ill from the "flu." Only members of militant that half of the total population however, and even these safewas attacked by influenza in this guards may be pushed aside by a

Medical men were almost help- across a war-torn world.

(Continued from page 1)

Business only by the establish-

The Michigan CIO leaders

viction that has permeated the Convention had ordered.

ment of labor's own political the labor party conference.

the national and state CIO lead ists, as well as Walter Reuther,

question at the October UAW formed pro-labor party group.

convention although the Michigan But the two "peanut disrupters"

CIO convention held just three as Mazey and Silver were called,

months previous went on record went about their task unruffled

in support of launching an inde- by these snide attacks. The

pendent labor party. Again at the tremendous swing on the part of

Philadelphia CIO convention in the local leaders behind the cam-

November, the bureaucrats approved the reactionary program proved the reactionary program caused the labor "statesmen" to

scrapped the mandate of the lead in attempting to discredit the

Michigan CIO convention at a Mazey-Silver group. Their vicious

conference called in Lansing on attacks in the Daily Worker

Dec. 4 and 5. They gave as their against the so-called "Trotskyite-

alibi that they were bound by the Socialist group" shows how alarm-decision of the CIO Philadelphia ed are the Stalinists at the poli-

STALINIST ATTACKS

The Stalinists have taken the

of Sidney Hillman, chairman of sit up and take notice.

educational work.

of disease which swept across the earth in the space of a few months. The quick onset of the disease, its strange virulence, the failure of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had formerly been used in the treatment of colds, grippe and influence of all remedies which had the colds of the colds o ment of colds, grippe and influenza made of the "Spanish influ-

Aroused by the reactionary decision of the U.S. Supreme enza" of 1918 a mysterious malady Court not to review the case of our 18 convicted comrades, the SWP branches throughout the country are redoubling their efforts to meet their "\$15,000 - 15th Anniversary" Fund Drive quotas A vast amount of research has in record time.

This week, the San Francisco and Allentown branches. answering the challenge of the government, have gone over the top on their quotas. San Francisco, with a payment of \$400, has climbed to the top of the quota column with

> Boston is climbing fast, sending in a substantial payment on their quota, boosting them to 64%. They are in position with one more good spurt to crash into the 100% class.

11,000 TOTAL GOES UP

This week the total payments were \$1,872.38, in comparison with \$745.50 for the previous 9,000 week, an increase of over 250% in the rate of payments. This encouraging trend, reflecting the unshakable loyalty and spirit of Bolshevik sacrifice in the Trotskyist ranks, must be accelerated. This will be the finest material assurance to the comrades who go behind prison bars this coming week, that their example of and a subsequent ruling of the of the ranks has forced them to courage and sacrifice has permeated the whole party, which will fight all the harder for the socialist future.

Accompanying the San Francisco payment was the following telegram:

"Sending 400 dollars Special \$15,000-15th Anniversary Fund. San Francisco expresses its solidarity with coworkers by going over the top. Long Live The 18."

Boston writes: "The comrades are all determined to exceed their quotas and to get the money in as soon as possible. There is no question that Boston will go over the \$300 pledge before the time limit."

SCOREBOARD

	a possible outbreak of influenza		\$15,000 Quotas	100	Paid	100	Pe	ercent
	among soldiers. Every suspected	SAN FRANCISC	the second secon		\$1,050.00			105
	case of the flu should be immedi-	SAN DIEGO	100.00		100.00			100
)		NEW HAVEN	50.00		50.00			100
	in bed until 48 hours after his	ALLENTOWN	25.00		25.00			100
1	temperature has returned to nor-	Boston	300.00		192.00			64
1	mal, the instructions read. More-	New York	2,500.00	*0	1,381.50	7		55
l	over, soldiers should resume their	Detroit	2,000.00		1,034.50			52
8	normal activities at a very grad-	Cleveland	200.00		100.00	(45)		50
1	ual rate while they are convales-	Los Angeles	2,000.00		837.16			42
c	cing from the "flu", because many	Reading	75.00		30.00			40
e	of the complications of influenza	Buffalo	300.00	10	110.50			37
e	occur during the period of con-	Twin Cities	1,000.00		350.00		~	35
4	valescence.	Newark	300:00		85.00			28
	Similar safeguards must be set	Bayonne	300.00		83.50	G.		28
9	up for civilians. Trade unions	Saint Louis	100.00		25.00			25
	should see to it that adequate paid	Chicago	2,000.00		408.63			20
	sick leaves are allowed their	Toledo	100.00		20.00			20
9	members and that workers are	Youngstown	200.00		35.00			18
	given some protection against the	Members-at-Larg	e 800.00		90.00			11
1	speed-up system after they return	Seattle	1,000.00	1	100.00		*	10
5	to work from a siege of the	Akron	200.00		0			0
e	"flu." Only members of militant	East Chicago	100.00		0			0
r	and powerful trade unions can	Flint	100.00		0			0
V	hope to secure such protection,	Milwaukee	25:00		0			0
1	however, and even these safe-	Philadelphia	150.00	V2	0	*		0
S	guards may be pushed aside by a	Quakertown	25.00		. 0			0
	tidal wave of disease sweeping	Rochester	50.00		0			0
	l across a war-torn world.	Texas	25.00		0			0
		то	TALS ———		\$6,107.79			41%

tical awakening of the Michigan workers. Frankensteen-Addes are likewise prepared to fight the convention. The 17-man committee labor party forces to the bitter aised and pledges were made by appointed at the direction of the end. The Reuther forces are play-State convention to lay the ing a more cagey game. They have groundwork for the launching of halted their attacks and are That a committee for the a labor party had not functioned awaiting developments. If they promotion of a labor party could and had not even completed its see that they cannot prevent CIO be set up on such short notice report. No preparations were unions from launching a labor and have its plans mature so made to hold a referendum of the party, the Reuther forces are rapidly is due to the deep con- CIO membership as the State probably ready to jump on the bandwagon in order to steer the labor movement in Michigan that These arrogant bureaucrats new party into the channel of its interests can be protected then proceeded to denounce Mazey Roosevelt and the Democratic against the vicious attacks of Big and Silver when the latter anparty machine.

There was considerable discussion at the Book-Cadillac meeting revolving around the name of the new committee. There was one ers and the UAW top bureaucrats in whose faction Mazey was proposal to name it a "Committee have not exhausted their bag of operating as recently as the tricks in their attempts to Buffalo UAW convention, ridiculsquelch the labor party move-ment. The record of the Murrays ed the new group. Scholle, chair-man of the Michigan political ac-include the word "labor" in the and the Thomases is a rotten one. tion committee and Gibson, presidesignation of the new party. These bureaucrats prevented a dent of the State CIO, likewise The name chosen was free discussion of the labor party cast aspersions upon the newly "Farmer-Labor Party."

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the privileged few and deflation for the many."

The railroad workers, they

Friday Harrison was still begging tory.' for Congressional action to approve a miserly 8 cent an hour

But even though the union ofslapped them in the face, overand the operating unions and apset up by the President himself. have been forced to talk "tough" proved by one emergency board Through Roosevelt's Economic in the recent period. While keep-Stabilization Director, Vinson, ing in mind how far the pressure panel, the railroad workers have go, it is also well to remember been tossed a dry bone of 4 cents that these peaceful tabbies, acan hour, which even the thick- customed to licking at the feet of skinned union bureaucrats were the administration and the bosses, compelled to term an "insult."

through the elaborate machinery fit to "play ball," come forward of the Railway Labor Board, and with some phoney "compromise" then the National Mediation in an effort to avert a strike. Board, likewise got the nonoperating railroad workers nothing. Roosevelt, trying to head workers. They are ham-strung by off the storm, in early May 1943, a leadership that never knew the to bring the railroad workers into they must face the strike-breaking

THE RUN-AROUND

Vinson, basing himself on Roosevelt's "hold the line" wage freeze

economic management of the backed Roosevelt against the war . . . a strike vote against striking coal miners, preaching gross injustice in the administra- the treacherous gospel that the tion of the American war miners didn't need to strike beeconomy . . . against inflation for cause Roosevelt would see that

they received a fair raise. During this entire period, while the administration, aided by the further asserted, "do not believe jelly-fish bureaucrats, was using that swollen railroad earnings, every trick to cheat the rail larcenous profiteering, soaring workers of any increases, the prices and depressed real wages railroad corporations were gorgare necessities to the war effort," ing themselves on the biggest Even George M. Harrison, presi- profit feast in their history. Labor dent of the Brotherhood of Rail- Research Association revealed way Clerks and a submissive tool that railway net profits were of the Roosevelt administration 23% higher in the first 8 months since 1933, was impelled to remark of 1943 than in the same period today that "Maybe, it pays to get of 1942, and 1942 saw the "high tough," although as late as last peak in profits in railroad his-

Ever since the last war, the

railroad workers have been tied ficials have indicated their will- to the red-tape machinery of govingness to settle for a very ernment arbitration through the modest increase—8 cents an hour Railway Labor Act. Their stan--the administration has brazenly dards have fallen to among the lowest in American industry, they riding a contract already agreed do not even get overtime pay on upon by the railroad operators the basis of a 40 hour week, only after 48 hours work.

The railroad labor bureaucrats have not grown real tiger stripes. Long months of negotiations They may yet, if Roosevelt sees

There is a great deal of government pressure on the railroad meaning of the word, fight. And barrage of all those elements in the labor movement, like the Stalinists, who have already This board late in May brought launched a campaign of vituperaout a recommendation for a flat tion and slander against the rail-8 cent increase for the non-oper- road workers similar to their ating employes. But on June 30, strike-breaking efforts during the coal strikes.

The railroad workers have the order, arbitrarily ruled out this example of the coal miners before flat increase and proffered a dif- them. If they put up the kind of ferential increase of 4 to 10 cents, battle of which they are capable, the latter rate being applicable do not permit the bureaucrats to only to the lowest paid workers put over any slick "compromises" now getting 43 to 46 cents an and defend their interests as the miners did, they will make a big It was during this very period step forward.

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Albert Goldman Flays Supreme Court For Its Part In Railroading 18 To Penitentiary

the Civil Rights Defense Committee in New York City Thursday Dec. 16, 1943.1

By Albert Goldman

Seven legal questions were raised in the petition which the attorneys filed before the U.S. Supreme Court asking it to review the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the conviction of the 18 Minneapolis defendants. I think that at least six of these legal questions not only justified but demanded that the Supreme Court grant a review, consider oral and written arguments, and render its opinion.

I offer for the consideration of the layman only two of the legal questions raised by the defense, because in the case of these two questions no special legal training is required to decide whether or not the Supreme Court should at least have given the reasons why it affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals.

One section of the Smith "Gag" Act under which the defendants were convicted makes it unlawful "to advise, counsel. urge, or in any manner cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States." The Espionage Act of 1917 makes it unlawful "willfully to cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States. . . ." Now I admit that the language is not exactly alike because the act under which we were convicted speaks of "advising and urging" insubordination while the Espionage Act uses the expression "causing insubordination." Sensible people would agree, I think, that causing insubordination must necessarily involve in some way or other advising and urging. Even a totally dumb person would be compelled to find a method, if he wanted to cause insubordination, to communicate with others. He would then be "advising" and "urging." To all intents and purposes the two statutes are the same.

Spurious Legal Contentions

It was in interpreting the Espionage Act that the Supreme Court, in 1919, laid down the rule that, before any one can be convicted for making oral or written statements, the government must prove that "a clear and present danger" exists that these statements might actually result in creating insubordination in the armed forces. The government contended that this rule does not apply to that section of the Smith Act which is almost identical with the Espionage Act. I am not now trying to convince you that the government is incorrect from a legal point of view. All that I assert is that the question is of such importance and the similarity of the two statutes is so great that the Supreme Court was obligated to discuss it and present reasons for its

Another important question involved in the case which can be readily understood without any special training is: what constitutes urging insubordination in the armed forces. This does not involve the question whether the government witnesses testified against us truthfully. For the sake of presenting the legal argument before the Supreme Court we assume the truth

A MESSAGE FROM JAMES T. FARRELL

James T. Farrell, noted novelist and National Chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, who was prevented by illness from participating in the New York mass meeting protesting the railroading to prison of the 18 Minneapolis defendants, sent the following vigorous message to the meeting: "The refusal of the Supreme Court to hear the appeal in

the Minneapolis case is an implied recognition of the constitutionality of the Smith 'Gag' Act. The Congress of the U.S. and the Supreme Court have thus both attacked the first and most important article of the Bill of Rights.

"It is time to wake up. For now thinking is a criminal activity in these United States.

"In every possible way it is necessary to press the defense of the 18 victims and to oppose the Smith 'Gag' Act.

"Another anniversary of the Bill of Rights has come and we find that the higher authorities have lost all respect for it. It is our duty not only to defend the 18 victims, but to defend the very Bill of Rights itself from those who are pledged to

of the government's evidence. The question is whether as a matter of law the facts as presented by the government constitute urging insubordination.

Some of the government witnesses testified that a few of the defendants told them that if drafted, they should try to create dissension in the army by kicking about the food and bedding. This is obviously the invention of stupid people but we assume that it is true. Does this constitute a conspiracy to create insubordination in the army? Suppose it turned out that the food and bedding were excellent and there was nothing to kick about on that score? Suppose they were bad, would it be wrong to kick

It was also shown by the government that the Socialist Workers' Party favors military training under the control of the trade unions and democracy in the military forces. Does that constitute urging insubordination?

Political Motivation Is Clear

A Supreme Court motivated purely by legal obligations would have considered at least the two questions that I have mentioned and would have presented reasons for its decision. It is possible to come to either one of two conclusions with reference to the failure of the Supreme Court to grant a review. It is possible to say that the Court considered all the legal questions raised by the attorneys for the defendants and decided not to grant a review because these questions were not sufficiently important or were already settled in some previous case. Such a conclusion is ruled out for the reason that the questions raised were novel ones and most people will agree that they are important.

The other conclusion, and the correct one, is that the Supreme Court did not want to interfere with the conviction in this case and was not interested in discussing the legal questions that were raised. It is on this assumption that one can best explain the failure of the Court to grant a review. This was the simplest and easiest way out. It obviated the necessity of discussing the questions and presenting reasons for a decision, something that would have been embarassing for those judges who claim to be liberal. When arguments are lacking to justify a reactionary decision, silence is the best policy, especially for those who pretend to be liberal.

Every one in the labor and progressive movement must clearly realize the implications of the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals, which the Supreme Court has approved by virtue of its refusal to review it. It not only permits a viciously reactionary law, the Smith "Gag" Act, to remain on the statute books. It has strengthened that law by interpreting it in a manner which gives the widest possible scope for its use by prosecutors against any one who stands for the right of workers to defend themselves against reactionary violence and who raises



ALBERT GOLDMAN

his voice on behalf of any democratic rights for men in the mili-

What more perfect a weapon can a prosecutor expect than a statute so interpreted as to permit an indictment and conviction for any statement criticizing anything connected with the military regime? All that he need do is to frame an indictment in the words of the statute. The method of choosing juries in the Federal courts practically guarantees a conviction. What a paradise for a prosecutor aiming to convict revolutionists if no more is required to make a conviction stick than to introduce a copy of the "Communist Manifesto." The courts have opened wide the gates of the Federal penitentiaries for victims of the Smith "Gag" Law to be driven in.

Whether or not the government will set the prosecutors into motion does not depend solely on the fact that a reactionary law has been interpreted in a reactionary manner and that the conviction of eighteen Trotskyists has been affirmed. For the present the government may well be satisfied to have a powerful weapon-at its disposal which can be used whenever it becomes necessary, not only against revolutionists but against any and all militant unionists and progressives.

The weapon may again be used when the European masses take their fate into their own hands and refuse to take orders from Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill. It undoubtedly will be used when the workers of this country will become more militant in their demands to curb the war profiteers and will refuse to assume all the burdens of the war.

Undoubtedly it will be asked why the Supreme Court refused to interfere with the conviction? I explained why it chose the method of refusing to grant a review but that in itself does not explain why the judges decided to permit the conviction to stand.

Every individual having anything to do with the prosecution had his own particular reason for his desire to get us convicted. Tobin wanted to run the Minneapolis teamsters' union as he pleased without the interference of men who fought for honest, militant and democratic unionism. He asked his friend Roosevelt to do something for him. Our "great" and "democratic" President was more than willing to have us indicted and convicted in order to do his friend Tobin a favor. And once the machinery of what is called justice is set into motion every individual connected with that capitalist justice is anxious to do his part faithfully

It can also be asserted with a high degree of certainty that the desire of the Administration to curry favor with Stalin constituted a contributing factor in the Supreme Court's refusal to review the decision of the lower court. It is difficult to explain the different attitude taken by the Supreme Court in the case of Schneiderman, a Stalinist, on any other hypothesis. For the Schneiderman case involved legal questions that are almost identical with some of the questions involved in our case.

Basically, however, the special and particular reasons motivating the various personalities connected with the prosecution play a minor role. To find the basic motives of Tobin and Roosevelt and prosecutors and judges one must look to the fundamental ideas which the defendants represent and in the activities which the defendants pursue for the realization of

Let me once more assure you that the charge of advocating violence to overthrow the government and the accusation of pretexts to confuse the backward and fool the gullible. In fact it is because we are opposed to a social order which condemns mankind to the physical violence of war and fascism and to the spiritual violence of poverty and ignorance that we have been sentenced to prison terms. They who boast about the number and quality of weapons produced to kill human beings by the thousands and tens of thousands accuse us of advocating violence because on the basis of an analysis of social forces and a study of history we conclude that the ruling class will not yield its wealth and power without resorting to violence.

It is because we have been indicted, convicted, and are being sent to prison for holding and propagating advanced social ideas that the labor and liberal movements are obligated, in their own interests, to struggle for a pardon on our behalf and to erase the Smith "Gag" Act from the statute books. Too many liberals and labor leaders are so interested in supporting Roosevelt in what they consider to be a struggle against German fascism that they have forgotten that right here in this country men are being railroaded to jail because they are struggling for a new social order. Let those who want democracy to prevail and are indifferent to our case, beware. By their failure to struggle on our behalf they are helping to create a monster that will ultimately destroy them also.

Lesson of Supreme Importance

Some people, I hope, have learned a lesson in this case. They have learned that no reliance can be placed in a so-called "liberal" Supreme Court to guard essential democratic rights. A "liberal" Supreme Court may interfere with a lower court to protect the right of an unimportant and unpopular religious sect to distribute its literature. It has been shown in our

LABOR AND NEGRO LEADERS PLEDGE THEIR SUPPORT TO EIGHTEEN

Among the expressions of support for the 18 convicted Minneapolis defendants addressed to the New York protest meeting were messages from such prominent labor and Negro leaders as Willard Townsend, International President, United Transport Employees, CIO; Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and former New York City Councilman; and Mark Starr, National Educational Director of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, AFL. Some significant extracts from their messages are the

"Our International Union at its convention vigorously expressed itself against the denial of civil rights involved in the persecution of the eighteen Minneapolis defendants. We feel the refusal of the United States Supreme Court to hear your case, the first appeal of any conviction under the notorious Smith 'gag' act, is an indication of the anti-civil liberties

"We pledge our solidarity with you in the work that lies ahead to secure the freedom of the eighteen defendants."-WILLARD TOWNSEND

". . The labor-haters and the red-baiters, the anti-Semites and the anti-Negroites are all our common foe. THEY MUST BE DEFEATED! THEY WILL BE DEFEATED.

"The new Negro and the new White man are on the march and there isn't a son of a fascist in America who is going to

"We are going to fight together until . . . the eighteen Minneapolis victims of American Hitlerism are freed. . ."-A. CLAYTON POWELL, Jr.

"The Minneapolis case presents a disturbing complication in which one of the great freedoms of the Atlantic Charter has been flouted. I hope that your Defense Committee will succeed in bringing the necessary force of public opinion to bear upon what seems to me to be an infringement of the rights to think and speak freely."-MARK STARR.

case that it will not interfere with the jailing of people who seriously advocate a fundamental change in the social order.

In the last analysis only a politically conscious working class will be able to guard the democratic rights of the people. The attention of all who are devoted to these rights must be centered on the masses, on educating them to the significance of our case as a violation of their rights. All of us can and must agree on one thing-that democracy is absolutely essential for the working class. It is essential for its struggle for better conditions under the present system. It is essential for its struggle for a new social order. It is essential for the building of the new social order.

To struggle for our pardon, for the repeal of the Smith "Gag" Act and for the nullification of the decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals and of the Supreme Court is essentially a struggle for the democratic rights of the masses.

Full well do we know that the sacrifice which we are compelled to make by virtue of our imprisonment is nothing in comparison with the sacrifices which revolutionists of other lands and different times were forced and are still forced to suffer. We do not at all consider ourselves in the category of martyrs. We have done our bit in the cause of working class emancipation. We go to prison confident that the struggle for our ideals and for the democratic rights of the American masses will continue. Upon our liberation we shall together with you continue the struggle for socialism which will bring freedom and equality to all mankind.

Negro Struggle

By David Ransom

Railroads and the FEPC

Fair Employment Practices Com- South compel them to bar Negroes mittee has never gotten beyond Ross mention the fact that in the stage of holding hearings on the North, where Jim Crow is discrimination in war industries. not an official part of the social It has never had the power to system, the railroads have likeact against one violator of Roosevelt's executive order 9346, Last year, for instance the FEPC found the Capital Transit Company of Washington, D. C. guilty of refusing to hire Negroes. Today that same company is still rejecting Negro applicants for jobs According to Dr. Northrup of the without fear of punishment.

found 16 Southern railroad companies and 7 railroad unions guilty of discriminating against, Negroes. But no one was surprised when the 16 Southern railroad corporations told the FEPC they would refuse to comply with its orders to hire and have had to say that like all capiupgrade Negroes to do skilled talists, the railroad corporations work. Again the bosses were try to defeat the workers' fight showing their contempt for the

A new twist was added to the proceedings when the railroad companies put up a defense of their Jim Crow policies in a public statement. According to the statement, the railroad companies were doing something they disliked very much when they barred Negroes from jobs, but had to bow all Negro firemen from the new to the demands of the unions and Diesel engines. George A. Cook 'race relations in the South."

In blaming the unions, the railroad companies were merely following the example set by the form or another. The employers, armed forces? according to them, have only been guilty of a secondary crime submitting to the reactionary demands of the unions. Naturally, government and the bosses he the bosses have been quick to use would destroy the purpose of the this publicity in an attempt to FEPC - to fool the Negroes into discredit the whole trade union thinking that the government is movement in the eyes of the Ne- impartial and fair and will do gro' people.

licly that unions who exclude Ne- union bureaucrats have also congroes are a minority in the trade spired with the bosses and the AFL unions, admit Negroes on an erhoods have done a grave inequal basis and are in the fore- justice to the struggle of the Ne front of the fight against discrim-

Malcolm Ross, chairman of the are playing in the reply he made railroad workers. They have to the statement of the 16 South- voiced their disagreement with ern railroad corporations. But Ross did not mention that the cost of their jobs. Some of these hiring; he sidestepped the issue FEPC hearings and told of the and simply begged the railroad white workers for the past fifty corporations to hire Negroes for years. One of them, an engineer the duration of the war.

The FEPC is not only powerless to act against employers; it also refuses to reveal that it is the bosses who spread the system of Jim Crow into every- corner of industry. Why didn't Ross speak up and show that the 16 Southern by such powerful financial interests as the Morgans and the auto, public utilities, aircraft, etc. ators of race prejudice and Jim

In two and a half years the asserted that race relations in the wise barred Negroes from skilled jobs of any sort?

Far from bowing to the Southern system of "race relations." the railroads have used the Jim Crow setup existing there, to keep Negro and white workers apart. National War Labor Board, who A few weeks ago the FEPC testified at the FEPC railroad hearings, the railroads have used Negroes, "to fight unions and depress wages."

Nowhere does Ross mention the fact that during their whole hiswhite against Negro, foreign born against native, skilled against unskilled. For then Ross would for better conditions by splitting their ranks.

Just as Ross covers up the responsibility of the bosses for Jim Crow in industry, so he hides the guilt of two government agencies that helped in squeezing Negro railroad workers out of their jobs. One of them, the National Mediation Board, was a party to the infamous Southeastern Carriers Agreement of Feb. 18, 1941, which was designed to eliminate and Otto S. Beyer, chairman and member of the National Mediation Board signed the agreement.

Ross skipped over the guilt of FEPC in its latest hearings and these government agencies since publicity. Recently the wrath of it would have immediately raised the FEPC has been reserved another issue. Why does the govmainly for unions that bar Ne- ernment continue to segregate groes from membership in one over a million Negroes in the

> If Ross told the truth about the something to end Jim Crow - if the unions let them.

That the railroad unions ex-Not once has the FEPC or any clude Negro workers from memof its officials pointed out pub- bership is undeniable. The rail union movement. It has never government agencies to eliminate publicly stated that the CIO, with Negroes from employment on the half of organized labor in its railroads. In doing these things, ranks and a solid section of the the leaders of the railroad brothgro people for democratic rights.

The powerful railroad corporations pretend they must yield to FEPC, had a chance to denounce the will of the union leaders. This the anti-union game the bosses is not the attitude of many white this policy of Jim Crow at the bosses own industry and do the white workers appeared at the of the Negro's right to equality solidarity between Negro and by the name of Bruce, said that more of the white workers would have appeared but didn't because they "don't want to stick their necks out."

By their silence the union leaders have virtually admitted how indefensible their Jim Crow polrailroads are owned and controlled | icies are. They have committed a great crime. They have played the game of the bosses by split-Rockefellers. Because Ross would ing the ranks of the workers. have been forced to show that Surely it is time the Negro railthese capitalists brought Jim road workers were granted their Crow into all the other industries full rights in the unions and the they own and control as steel, bosses exposed as the real instig-When the railroad companies Crow.

Big Business Profiteers In World War II

In the First Word War, most of the profiteering scandals been spent. Donald Nelson, chairdid not come to light until years after the war was over. In this been spent. Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, that large private companies government prosecutions? Certainly, the govwar, the profiteering scandals are so outrageous that some govern- in reply to a letter from the already occupying monopoly posiment agencies have been forced to partially expose them right Truman Committee answered that tions will be able to increase their in the midst of the war.

The Truman Committee has already revealed how Standard Oil's Canadian subsidiary worked in cahoots with high U. S. Army officials, notably Lt. Gen.

lars and strengthen the power of the Standard Oil monopoly.

the entire project scientifically, using the best and cheapest routes and soundest methods and for the U. S. Treasury to foot the though \$77,000,000 has already facturers Association Berge gave deliberately created "shortages of survey of just how the monopol-

Brehon Somervell to mulct the entire bill and, in addition, give perts gravely doubt that the cartels did not hesitate to SHIELD MONOPOLISTS public out of millions of dol- all wartime and post-war options project as a whole can be brought sabotage the war effort when ever to Standard's monopoly.

In April 1942 two plans were gested dropping it. Despite the and maintenance will prove to be has been demonstrated time and manner in which Big Business suggested for an oil project in Budget Bureau's condemnation unjustifiable, even in time of again since the outbreak of the operates to protect monoplies Canada (Canol), to be financed by and Steffanson's continued op- war. . ." the U. S. Treasury. One plan was position, the joint chiefs of staff, by Vilhjalmur Steffanson, the a few months later, approved the Wendell Berge, Assistant At-Arctic explorer who blueprinted project and went ahead with it. torney General of the U. S., has exertion has been required to capitalist press and ably exposed

MILLIONS WASTED

manpower, equipment, materials Dec. 15.) and transportation, cannot be iustified . . In addition, many ex- of saying that monopolies and In May 1943, the Budget Bureau dates now scheduled and that in profits. "The significance of exception, but, on the contrary condemned the deal and sug- any event the cost of operation cartels to the American economy the rule. It is typical of the

Another government official, Since that time, all the federal power of monopoly capitalism: dustries." equipment. The other plan was agencies involved have proposed Speaking to a meeting of the

Mr. Berge found a polite way

to successful operation on the it interfered with their exorbitant scandal like Canol is not an vital materials resulting from of a series of scandals and crimes cartel restrictions. Strenuous covered up or whitewashed by the

If Mr. Berge is in possession of just issued by Pioneer Publishers, that of Standard Oil, which called the dropping of the project, al- American Pharmaceutical Manu- information that big business has is the only available documented

ficial scarcity" has been "imposed own enrichment. by cartels in many industries" government agencies initiated profiteering hinted at by Berge ernment has never hesitated to make the Teapot Dome Scandals prosecute workers for going out of the Harding administration "In my opinion, this amount of power in the process of demobiliz- on strike for living wages. The appear like a shining pattern of money, expressed in terms of ing war plants." (N. Y. Times, answer is that the government is obedient to and the instrument of Big Business.

Berge's speech indicates that a war, in the list of shortages of and profits. It is part and parcel found it politically expedient to remedy the artificial scarcity im-protest against the increasing posed by cartels in many in-pamphlet, "Wartime Crimes of Big Business." This pamphlet,

vital materials" and that "arti- ists are using the war for their

It is certain that if the sewers why has not his office or other of fraud, deceit and wartime are ever uncovered, they will honesty and civic virtue.

Buy 'The Militant'

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Carries full stock of Pioneer Publishers Pamphlets; also other U.S. and foreign Marxist Literature.

Workers Frozen to Jobs ---

Until Bosses Fire Them

According to the War Manpower Commission,

150,000 workers will be thrown out of work within the

next 90 days. They will be "released" from their jobs

In a recent issue of a monthly bulletin published by

the National City Bank this "new element" is

recognized as a growing tendency when they point

out that "we are now faced with a growing number

Cancellations of Army contracts have reached a

total of \$8,000,000. For the first time in this war, the

number of acute labor shortage areas as set by the

WMC has been reduced from 77 to 69-thus "reversing"

a steady trend." Even if these 150,000 workers find

new jobs, the changeover will still create considerable

hardships for them. Already, a number of "un-

authorized" strikes have broken out over the

attempted reclassification of workers to lower paid

jobs due to contract cancellations, newly designated as

The sudden firing of 150,000 workers is a small-

scale example of what the bosses have in store for

the working class once the extensive war production

program begins to taper off. That the present

economic setup operates in the interests of the bosses

and only the bosses is clearly revealed by this in-

cident. While there is a Presidential edict which

freezes workers to their jobs, there is no law com-

pelling the bosses to keep the worker employed.

Capitalism gives the worker job freezing but no job

security. Through the U.S. Employment Service

offices men are first "sent" into factories, then

"frozen" by means of the availability-certificate device

and fired whenever it is convenient for the employers

This is the bosses show, run for and by themselves,

for their own benefit and profits. They have no

answer to the problems of hunger and unemployment.

They cannot prevent another economic collapse on a

far greater scale than the pre-World War depression.

Only the workers, by organizing production for the

people instead of for a few exploiters, can do this.

Only the workers, by instituting a planned economy

for use, instead of present day unplanned chaos for

profit, can insure job security, prosperity and plenty

because of cancellations of war contracts.

of cutbacks in war production."

"cutbacks in war production."

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Working People

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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 e v e r y class-conscious

- 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
- 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' Govern-
- 9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

Rail Wage Crisis

The rail wage dispute has again raised, in an acute form, the question: Which road for the American worker?

The moderate wage demands of the railroad workers have been kicked around from one board to another for over a year. After a special panel had awarded an increase of 8 cents an hour, Vinson, Roosevelt's "economic stabilizer" set aside the ruling. Even the principle of compulsory arbitration, so vehemently defended by the employers, establishes that the decision of an arbitration board is final and binding. The Roosevelt administration has, however, introduced a refinement of that conception. Now, only those decisions are binding that conform to Roosevelt's Little Steel

It is to the everlasting credit of the coal miners that they refused to fall victim to this shell game. They taught the American working class an invaluable lesson: that the strike remains the indispensable weapon for the protection of labor's rights. The mere threat of a rail strike has already resulted in more governmental attention to the railroad workers' wage demands than a whole year of palavering before government boards.

Workers are growing pretty indifferent to the anguished howls about upsetting Roosevelts "stabilization program." The pretence of stabilization is wearing very thin. The cost of living continues to soar while only wages remain "stabilized" (frozen). To gain even a few cents more per hour entails bitter and long drawn out struggles.

These struggles are handicapped by the fact that the wage objectives are so limited that the effort expended is out of all proportion to the small gains made. These wage gains, even when achieved are being rapidly wiped out by the mounting war inflation. Militants are becoming increasingly aware that the no-strike-pro-Roosevelt policy of the trade union bureaucrats is bringing the unions to the brink of disaster. They are seeking for a realistic program that will provide a way out.

There is a simple and effective measure to achieve that stabilization which is the cause of so much concern every time a group of workers ask for the most modest wage increases: The rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. A reactionary Congress has threatened to remove all price controls if a general wage increase is granted. Labor's reply to such a threat must be the rising

scale of wages — that is the only realistic "stabilization" program for labor.

The coal miners found it necessary to call four strikes to gain what is no more than a modest increase. The railroad workers will not have to fight as hard. It is their good fortune that the miners did the heavy spade work. Only by following in the footsteps of the miners will the rail workers achieve their demands and take a step forward.

Secret Diplomacy

Secret diplomacy was completely exposed during the last war as a special instrument of the imperialist bandits. The Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky thoroughly discredited secret diplomacy by publishing the secret treaties of Czarism. None dared to espouse it openly. It was publicly renounced by capitalist statesmen, pompous liberals and other hypocrites in "democratic" disguises. The first of President Wilson's 14 Points called for the abolition of secret diplomacy.

The onset of reaction since 1923 is marked by the brazenness with which secret diplomacy has been practised, especially throughout the so-called 'war for democracy against fascism." Since the proclamation of the Atlantic Charter in Aug. 1941, London, Washington and the Kremlin have held a series of conferences which constitute the blackest chapter in the long filthy record of secret diplomacy. The Nov. 1 Eden-Molotov-Hull conference in Moscow made a pretense at publishing the political decisions. Thereupon the conferees immediately proceeded to show in the case of Italy the utter worthlessness of all their "democratic" promises. But from the Cairo and Teheran conferences nothing has come save silence.

All the diplomatic chancelleries and cowardly liberals have tried to explain away this silence on the grounds of "military necessity." This is the shabbiest of all pretexts. Military plans are one thing; political decisions, something else again. The only political decisions ever kept secret are those so sinister and so apt to arouse a storm of public indignation that those who conspire in making them dread to make them public. Had Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt agreed to any other kind of policies, they would have rushed to proclaim them to the whole world.

The American people have every right to know what political decisions were reached at Cairo, Teheran and at all past conferences. The workers, who bear the brunt of the war must be especially on guard against this vile resurgence of secret diplomacy, and ought to take the initiative in demanding an end to secret diplomacy.

The Hirohito Deal

Is Roosevelt planning a "Darlan deal" with Hirohito and the Japanese capitalists? I. F. Stone, pro-Roosevelt correspondent of the pro-Roosevelt newspaper PM points out in his Dec. 17 Washington report that the administration is holding the door open for just such an eventuality. The State Department, he says, recently released a carefully edited document purporting to show that Hirohito wanted peace before Pearl Harbor. "The implications (of this diplomatic document) were developed in a special article in last Sunday's Herald-Tribune: 'Hirohito Plea for '41 Peace May Save Him. Allies May Let Him Remain on Throne."

"The State Department," Stone writes, "revealed a tender concern for Hirohito months ago, when it censored a speech in which an American official took a potshot at the Emperor, and it now gives him favorable publicity in the American press on the basis of a document which shows only what fools we were before Pearl Harbor. The Department seems to be building Hirohito up for use as a Jap-

According to Stone, the Big Business interests are pressing for such a policy. "This friendliness for Hirohito reflects the needs of some sections of American big business which had cartel and other partnership ties with the Mitsuis and Mitsubishis of Japanese monopoly capitalism, ties which they hope to resume after the war. If faith in the Emperor crumbles, backward Japan, like backward Russia before it, may have a socialist revolution."

This liberal critic carefully avoids mentioning the role of Roosevelt. He helps spread and sustain the myth that nasty reactionary underlings in the State Department carry on this reactionary work without Roosevelt's knowledge and behind his back.

Roosevelt's liberal and labor supporters are reduced to such lame devices and sleight-of-hands to bolster their preposterous propaganda that Washington's war is being waged for democratic and progressive purposes.

Roosevelt long maintained and still secretly maintains ties with the puppet Petain government. Roosevelt has crowned this calculated policy by keeping in power by force of arms the ex-accomplices of Mussolini, King Victor Emmanuel and Badoglio, who are detested and opposed by the entire Italian people. He would not have to stretch his consistently reactionary policy to include Hirohito and his gang.

The facts which Stone presents provide further, evidence that the real policy being pursued by Roosevelt and his State Department is one of making agreements with and helping to prop up all kinds of militarist and dictatorial regimes. Stone's facts furthermore demonstrate that the govern ment's policy is dictated by the needs of America's monopolists to preserve their international cartel agreements with Big Business interests in other countries and by their fear that the masses will take power in their own hands and "have a socialist revolution."

N. Y. Meeting Demands Pardon For Eighteen

never compromised for one mon ent on their principles.

GOLDMAN APPLAUDED

A tremendous ovation was accorded Comrade Goldman at the end of his address, a stirring and courageous affirmation of his revolutionary socialist principles and an appeal to continue the fight for workers' freedom "in which I will rejoin you the day am once more free."

Everyone in the audience was rofoundly moved by the firm and challenging words of Goldman's White-haired, farewell address. with sensitively-drawn, handsome features, dignified in bearing, Comrade Goldman revealed in his last New York platform appearance before entering prison, those outstanding qualities of character and intellect which have made him one of the great labor defense attorneys in America.

(For the full text of Albert Goldman's address, see Page 3 of this issue.)

George Novack, National Secretary of the CRDC, stressed as the purpose of the mass meeting the initiation of a nation-wide campaign to secure an immediate and unconditional Presidential pardon for the defendants and to force the repeal of the Smith 'Gag" law.

NOVACK SPEAKS

SWP and of the Minneapolis Minneapolis case." Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO. It is a crime against the rights of free "Men and Coal" and columnist for Gag Act. speech and free press. It is a the Socialist Party organ, The crime against the rights of labor. Call, spoke on behalf of his or-We are here tonight to expose ganization in extending support that crime, to condemn it and to and solidarity to the defendants

to its dangerous implications for by a severe laryngitis. all labor. "What they have dared to do once, they will try to do the Workers Party, pointed out that the Smith 'Gag' Act has protest meeting was being held been validated - in the most the day after the commemoration it hangs like a sword suspended Bill of Rights. He pledged the over the heads of every dissenting support of his organization. force, every militant unionist in

menace, for priorities have re-

big "war wages" in industry. The

fear of part-time unemployment

runs through the bloodstream of

Although the proposed contract

for steel is the best ever pre-

wage issue from the most funda-

mental basis. The cost of living

dications are that greed for pro- gram.

MAIN ISSUE UNTOUCHED

every steel district.

Supreme Court **Denies Petition**

NEW YORK, Dec. 20-The U. S. Supreme Court has denied a petition for rehearing of the appeals of the 18 Minneapolis trial defendants immediately after the petition was filled by Osmond K. Fraenkel. counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. Thereupon, the ACLU took the extraordinary step of filing a second request for a rehearing. It is not expected that the court will reconsider its decision.

Daniel Bell, editor Social-Democratic New Leader, spoke briefly, describing the Suoreme Court decision as a "shock." "This underlines the danger in the war to civil rights. This action has underscored the complacency of a lot of people."

UNION SLOGAN

Speaking on behalf of the Workers Defense League, Rev. Aron F. Gilmartin, one of its national vice-Chairman, declared: "We see in this case, in the railroading of the 18 to jail, a major and significant attack upon the rights of labor in the United States." He reminded the meeting of the "We have come here tonight to old union slogan, "An injury to protest against a crime. This one is an injury to all," and said: crime has been committed against "It is time for all of us to raise 18 men and women, leaders of the this slogan in connection with the

McAlister Coleman, author of Samuel H. Friedman, editor of ica. After a review of all the facts The Call, attended the meeting in the case, Mr. Novack pointed but was prevented from speaking

Max Shachtman, Secretary o second time, and a third. Now the irony of the fact that this

The meeting concluded with the the country. So long as the 18 adoption of a strong resolution of the National Association for are in prison and the Gag Law in condemning the Supreme Court the Advancement of Colored Peoeffect, our liberties, the rights of decision and calling on Roosevelt ple and the Urban League, parti-

Steel Workers Are In Need Of

A Rising Scale Of Wages Now

work rationed to them on a continue to negotiate wage raises has supplied the answer: a rising

weekly basis. Prior to the out- according to regular business un- scale of wages to meet the rising

break of the war in Europe, thou- ion methods. A flat wage raise cost of living. This is the only

sands of steelworkers were work- of 17 cents per hour for stee immediately effective answer ing one, two, or three days per workers is no doubt an immediate which the steelworkers as well as

week. Even full scale war has not improvement. But if such a de- the entire American working

completely done away with this mand were realized, its value class can give to the capitalist

the Murray leadership shows an

inability to cope with the prob-

sented, it still fails to attack the the gap between wages and rising formula indicates that the steel-

prices. The trade union leadership

duced many sections of the steel rising prices and mounting taxes increasing prices.

proved to be a fiasco.

down to the misery of part-time Murray and the USWA leadership

plants to part-time work in the continued to steal money out of

midst of all the propaganda about the pockets of the steel workers.

is continually rising, and all in has failed to present such a pro-

fits will drive it higher at an ac- | The Socialist Workers Party | ive action.

erial token of their support, the audience contributed \$341 to the Minneapolis Prisoners Relief Fund.

Detroit CRDC Pledges Support To 18 Defendants

The Detroit Branch of the Civil Rights Defense Committee held a Turkey Dinner and Dance on Dec. 11 at which more than \$100 was raised for the 18 Minneapolis defendants. Invitations had been sent out before the Supreme Court announced its refusal to hear the appeal of the defendants, but as the news of this reactionary de cision became known, many auto workers who were unable to attend the dinner, nevertheless bought tickets as a gesture of so lidarity with the 18.

There was a musical program during dinner, following which the local secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, Mrs. Swanson, reviewed the history of the Minneapolis Trial and told of the work of the committee. It was unanimously voted to send a telegram of greetings from the sixty guests present to the eighteen defendants, which read as fol-

"Detroit members and friends of the Civil Rights Defense Committee salute the 18 Minneapolis defendants to whom the Supreme Court has denied the usual democratic right of a hearing to test the constitutionality of the Smith

"We assure them that we shall continue to fight with redoubled vigor against those who would black out civil liberties in Amer-

"And we further pledge ourselves to raise material aid for the support of the eighteen families who are so unjustly victimized."

The Seattle branch of the Civil Rights Defense Committee held a successful bazaar at Independence cowardly and hypocritical fashion of the 150th Anniversary of the Hall on Dec. 4, to he'p raise funds for the 18 Minneapolis prisoners.

> Over 70 people, including many new friends and several members

Although Murray has been com-

pelled to go along with and sup-

Steel formula, he has as yet given

no indication that he is prepared

new contract. His subservience

workers will have to conduct a

genuine fight within the USWA

to prevent the Murray leadership

from once again blocking effect-

Employers Can Pay Higher Wages from Huge Profits The corporations have already answered the unions'

demands for wage increases by complaining that they can't afford to pay them. Benjamin Fairless, U. S. Steel President, has put in his requisition for higher steel prices while the coal-operators have already been granted higher prices per ton by the govern-

The Commerce Department reports on 1943 profits released Dec. 18 show however that Big Business is literally choking with profits. Corporation profits for the third quarter of this year were \$5,700,000,000, before taxes. This is "the highest for any quarter in American economic history and 16 per cent above the same quarter of 1942," says the Commerce Depart-

The Department estimated that profits after taxes would establish "an all-time high" of about 8 billions Total profits for the year, before taxes, will be from 22 to 23 billions, about four times the 1939 level.

White Collar Workers Get **Crocodile Tears in Senate**

A Senate Subcomittee on Wartime Health and Education announced last week that it was going to "study" the economic situation of 15 million whitecollar and professional workers whose salaries have remained fixed while prices have been soaring.

What a flood of crocodile tears these hypocrites are shedding over the white-collar workers! This fake campaign was initiated some weeks ago by the N. Y. Times which suddenly discovered that these unorganized workers had no way of securing even the meagre pay rises permitted within the limits of the Little Steel formula.

The aim of the N. Y. Times was not to aid the white-collar workers who are so callously exploited by the corporations nor to get wage-increases for them. This capitalist sheet hoped to use the starvation salaries and miseries of the white-collar workers as an argument against the wage-increases being demanded by the industrial workers and thereby to drive a wedge between the two labor groups.

These same reactionary motives animate the Congressmen who have taken up the cries of the Times. The Times was itself obliged to point out that the white-collar workers were not covered by the Little Steel Formula precisely because they were unorganized. The obviously indicated method for remedying this defect is for the white-collar workers to organize into unions. But neither the Times, nor the investigating Senators make this simple suggestion.

Senator Thomas plainly intimates that his colleagues don't intend to do anything beyond investigating the situation. "There is no proposed legislation on the white collar worker's wage problems before the Senate subcommittee, nor will its investigation necessarily produce any," he stated.

The white collar workers can best help themselves to win wage-increases by organizing into trade unions. And in their own self-interest the union organizations must ecourage and aid the white collar workers in their efforts to organize and fight for higher salaries. By combining forces in a joint struggle for higher wages the organized industrial workers can frustrate the schemes of the bosses and their agents to pit the white collar and professional workers against them, and thus turn their divisive campaign into a boomerang.

It Is Time to Build An Independent **Labor Party**

International Notes

York Times publishes a brief cable from its Stockholm correspondent revealing the growing their Nazi tools.

correspondent reports: combings have overnight created a new class of 'have-nots' who regard hatefully anyone who looks well clothed. Walking down the or newspaper correspondents who sturdy overcoats or shoes have derisive remarks thrown after them, such as 'Upper class swine'!"

The writer adds: "Nazi toughs arly obnoxious to them."

ing revolutionary ferment inside

sessions in London last week, workers giving more and more France to "cope with post-war of the German capitalists and needed, he asserted, because "uncould easily lead to civil war."

unions of France have been reor-Berlin Streets, foreign diplomats of small employers have been resisting the enemy, but not a single shot or hundreds of thousands imprisoned."

shoot out of hand so-called un- France must be taking on considdesirables, pretending afterwards erable proportions, for a de Gaul-Nazis use the same opportunity ment of a reformist trade union to get rid of party men particul- bureaucracy, like that which aided in stifling the 1936 general strike These are signs of the increas- and held back the workers' revo-

The Allied Military Govern- ing to Italy.

Under the heading of "Berlin | Speaking at the Internation- | ment at Naples has banned a Crime Rise," the Dec. 19 New al Labor Organization during its scheduled political congress, spon-"The those directing industry that it rights of free speech and assembly. Tixier admitted, "The trade

ganized and with the assistance the Dec. 18 AP dispatch, is conhave been able to save or replace big employer can be found result of the explosive situation among the tens of thousands that had arisen between the anti-

The revolutionary situation in they were killed as looters. Anti- leist to advocate the re-establish- capitalist, landlords, bankers, monarchy.

sored by the pro-Allied six-party Adrien Tixier of the de Gaulleist coalition, the Italian Committee French Committee of National of National Liberation. Even class conflict inside Germany, Liberation spoke for the need of Senator Croce, right wing monwith the destitute, bombed-out strong union organization in archist-capitalist politician, and one of the leaders of the sixopen expression to their hatred chaos." Such organization was party coalition, charged that the AMG was becoming "the tool of derground information shows neo-fascism," and that it had vio-Quoting "a traveler from the there will be such a tense situa- lated the recent Moscow confer-Reich capital today," the Times tion between the masses and ence pledge to safeguard the

would be of short duration while scheme of reducing real wages by

In its approach to this issue, port the drive to break the Little

lems of the workers. Murray's to lead the steelworkers in actual

campaign for price roll-backs has militant struggle to achieve the

What is needed most now is a to the Rooseve't machine and

wage program which will bridge slavish adherence to the no-strike

The AMG, Anglo-American occupation authority, according to templating "ending all political activity in liberated Italy as a monarchists and the groups supporting King Victor Emmanuel."

Of course, the capitalist correspondents do not write that it is only a small clique of the big army brass hats and Catholic Church hierarchy that backs the

Such is the "democracy" that Roosevelt and Churchill are bring-