

THE MILITANT BOOKSHOP
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UNION HEADS BACK FORCED LABOR PLAN

Allies Impose Harsh "Peace" On Greek ELAS

By Larissa Reed

After the civil war which raged for over a month in and around Athens, the Allied invaders and their Greek Quislings have succeeded in imposing savage terms upon the defeated ELAS forces. Weeks of negotiations ended on Feb. 12 when Premier Plastiras secured the signatures of the Stalinist leaders of the EAM-ELAS on his "peace agreement."

According to the provisions of this agreement, the ELAS forces have been ordered to "stack their arms within fourteen days." Determined to guarantee a complete disarming of the ELAS fighters, the government stipulated that within these two weeks at least 41,500 rifles, 1,000 light machine guns, 163 mortars, sub-machine guns, heavy machine guns, 32 pieces of assorted artillery and 15 radios must be turned in. Thus the British aim to carry through their plans of depriving the workers of their means of self-defense which were interrupted by the civil war beginning December 3.

As a condition for surrendering their arms, the ELAS leaders demanded the simultaneous disarming of the reactionary brigades which had shot down Greek workers for the Nazis during the occupation. Churchill and Scobie flatly rejected this demand. Thus the armistice provides only for disarming the ELAS forces. The government is permitting the British-created Royalist Mountain Brigades and the pro-Nazi Security Battalions to keep all their weapons.

REIGN OF TERROR.
The government also rejected the demand by EAM-ELAS for a general amnesty, thus leaving the way open for its continued reign of terror against the masses. General Plastiras can now proceed to frame up, imprison and execute workers in the fashion of Franco after the Spanish

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UAW Referendum On Strike Policy Nears Conclusion

The organized workers in every industry are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the CIO United Automobile Workers' referendum on the no-strike pledge. The referendum has been virtually concluded. The deadline for the active membership's mail vote was February 17, while members in the armed forces have until February 28 to send in their ballots.

Regardless of the voting results, which will probably not be disclosed for another month or more, the battle of the UAW militants to rescind the no-strike pledge has helped to educate millions in the labor movement about the disastrous consequences for the workers of the no-strike surrender policy and to arouse hundreds of thousands of auto workers to the need for a return to a militant union program.

The struggle for such a program in the UAW is bound to continue. It is ensured by the Rank and File Caucus, which organized and led the fight against the no-strike policy at the last UAW convention, and conducted a widely supported campaign nationally to win a majority vote

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Trying to Hold Down the Iron Lid



Real Aims Uniting The Allies At Secret Crimea Conference

By William F. Ward

The Crimea conference marks the highest degree of unity achieved by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. The elation expressed by the official press in Washington and London as well as in Moscow reflects this fact. If not all the questions dividing the Allies and bringing them into sharp conflict with each other were settled, it is clear that some of the most pressing problems which engendered serious friction between the meetings at Teheran and Yalta have been ironed out.

Among the major matters disposed of were the territorial partition of Poland and the kind of governments to be imposed upon Poland and Yugoslavia. The Baltic states are to remain part of the USSR. In return for these and other concessions in Eastern Europe, Stalin has evidently set aside his Free Germany Committee headed by Junker generals. The Allied plans for the military occupation, dismemberment, spoliation and enslavement of Germany signify that their policy in Italy will seem benefited compared to their projected treatment of Germany.

For a free hand in the Balkans and the states bordering on the Soviet Union, Stalin has given sureties to the Anglo-American imperialists that in the countries occupied by the Red Army he will continue to maintain intact capitalist property. He has also agreed to support governments in these countries which, while subservient to the Kremlin, are pledged to protect the capitalists and landlords against the demands of the popular masses.

As the EAM's shameful surrender to Scobie's "armistice" terms in Greece indicates, Stalin is also fully prepared to give unreserved support to the Allies in their schemes to dominate the countries allotted to their spheres of influence in Western Europe. He has thrown in the services of the Stalinist parties as small change in this deal.

UNPUBLISHED FACTS
In the horse-trading that went on at Yalta, there were undoubtedly a number of other commitments made about which the official pronouncements have not said a word. This is confirmed by a cable from London by Raymond Daniel published in the Feb. 18 N. Y. Times, stating that "the unpublished results of the conference may have as strong an influence on future events as those that have already been published." As one small example, N. Y. Times correspondent Harold Callender reported from Paris on Feb. 16 that "the British and Americans at the conference agreed that the Marianas and other islands mandated to Japan after World War I should be under American control after the defeat of Japan."

The Yalta conference did not and could not eradicate the deep-seated imperialist rivalries between the United States and Great Britain nor eliminate their underlying class hostility toward the USSR. The bitter competition between the capitalist cliques of the United States and England over markets, sources of raw materials, control of the air, the seas and the land and their other

CALLS FOR LABOR UNITY
The Trotskyist candidate's declaration points out that she is the only candidate for Los Angeles mayor who "stands unreservedly for the interests of the producers of society's wealth, the workers of all categories— and AGAINST the small minority of profiteering capitalists."

She advances a program for

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HELEN JUDD

Her tired heart worn out by a life-time of toil and struggle on behalf of the working class, comrade Helen Judd, 71-year old pioneer Trotskyist, died suddenly of a heart attack in Chicago last Saturday. The sad news of the death of this sterling American Bolshevik arrived as The Militant was going to press.

Her passing means the loss of a veteran communist fighter and a link with the best traditions of the American Marxist movement going back before the last war. As a Debs Socialist, a founding member of the Communist Party and one of the first Trotskyists, she worked indefatigably for the cause of socialism to the moment of her final collapse.

Despite her advanced years, Helen insisted on doing more work than her full share of party work. Never did a day pass that she did not devote to party work, including literature distribution in the coldest weather. Characteristically she was hurrying to the party headquarters when her brave heart gave out. The Chicago SWP held a Memorial Service Tuesday night. Her funeral was on Wednesday.

(A more complete account of Comrade Helen Judd's life will appear in the next issue of The Militant.)

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Support Vicious Substitute For May-Bailey Slave Bill

Join Employers to Urge Kilgore-Wagner Bill Freezing Workers to Jobs at Frozen Wages

By C. Thomas

The capitalist press last week gleefully announced that all "organized" resistance to compulsory labor legislation had ended, with the endorsement of a "substitute" manpower bill by top union officials. The labor leaders ended their "resistance" by joining with the National Association of Manufacturers and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in support of the employer's "manpower program." This substitute measure was offered by Senators Kilgore and Wagner in place of the May-Bailey slave labor bill, now before the Senate. It empowers the War Manpower commission to enforce the job-freezing, compulsory labor decrees, issued by Roosevelt over the past three years. If enacted into law, the Kilgore-Wagner bill would tighten and extend these drastic labor controls into the "post-war" period.

Campaign Begins For 10,000 'Militant' Readers

In its most ambitious Militant subscription campaign, the Socialist Workers Party on February 25 will launch a drive for 10,000 new regular readers of the Trotskyist weekly. The drive will begin with a nationwide Red Sunday—a one-day full party membership mobilization for the sale of Militant subscriptions. This campaign is the next step in the fulfillment of the Program of Expansion adopted by the Socialist Workers Party at its National Convention held last November.

The subscription campaign will last three months, closing officially on May 27. For the purpose of introducing The Militant to thousands of new worker-readers, the paper is offering a trial subscription for 26 weekly issues at the reduced price of 25 cents.

Last year's successful campaign, which began with a 3,000 quota and ended with over 7,800 new subscribers before the campaign deadline, demonstrated the growing receptivity to the Trotskyist ideas and the ability of the SWP membership to carry out a concerted and disciplined sub-drive in true Bolshevik fashion.

This year the SWP branches throughout the country have accepted their increased campaign quotas with enthusiasm and determination to go over the top in this drive to make The Militant the mass fighting paper of the American working class. Some branches have confidently raised the original quotas assigned them.

All sympathizers and readers of The Militant are urged to join the subscription campaign by selling trial subs to their friends and shopmates.

The Kilgore-Wagner "substitute" aims to put "teeth" in the existing manpower regulations by granting the WMC statutory authority to impose "legal" sanctions against the workers. The "teeth" are sharpened to chew the labor movement to pieces. One of the sharpest of these "teeth" would "legalize" WMC's ruling that employers must do all their hiring through the United States Employment Service or other designated agencies." This provision would give the capitalist government "legal" authority to grant or withhold employment, to move workers from one plant to another, from one area to another, or to keep them frozen to their jobs.

ROOSEVELT'S ACTIONS
The Roosevelt administration has sought to concentrate this power in its hands for some time. On Dec. 5, 1942 Roosevelt issued an executive decree instructing the chairman of the War Manpower Commission to take all "lawful and appropriate" steps, "to assure that all hiring and recruitment of workers for jobs in any plants, facilities, occupation or areas designated by the chairman shall be conducted solely through the United States Employment Service or under arrangements he approves." Under this decree WMC Chairman McNutt later issued an order effective July 1, 1944, instructing employers to "hire all male help" through the offices of the U. S. Employment Service.

Under the Roosevelt-McNutt "controlled referral" plan, workers who refused to accept jobs in plants and areas designated by the WMC would be unable to get jobs elsewhere. In addition, McNutt declared, they "might be deprived of unemployment compensation." The "plan" was a "work - where - you're - told - or - starve" measure. It was denounced as illegal by Representative William J. Miller, Republican of Connecticut, who contended it invoked a national labor draft without Congressional sanc-

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SWP Candidate Files Nominating Petitions

(By Wire to THE MILITANT)

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 17.—Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, has qualified for a place on the ballot by filing last Wednesday her nominating petition with 930 signatures of registered voters. She will be the only working class candidate on the ballot.

Since the trade union movement has not put a labor party and labor candidate in the field but is following the bankrupt policy of supporting capitalist party candidates, the Trotskyist candidate has declared her definitive decision to run for the office of mayor.

Both the AFL and CIO here have declared support for capitalist candidates. The AFL has endorsed a lawyer, Anthony Entenza, while the CIO Council, Stalinist-dominated, has endorsed Mayor Gletcher Bowron, who is also backed by all the "notables," including the head of the Chamber of Commerce.

The first union meeting to receive the Trotskyist candidate's newly printed platform was the longshoremen's meeting at Wilmington Thursday night. Despite the announced opposition of the union officials, union rank and file outside the hall gave a friendly reception to the leaflets and contributed funds to the Trotskyist campaign.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14.—Offering the first serious labor challenge in many years to the corrupt and boss-ridden capitalist political machines here, Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in the April 7 elections, this week issued the full militant workingclass program on which she will campaign against the candidates of the anti-labor parties.

The attractive and dynamic

Trotskyist candidate, who is widely known in this area for her union activities with the waitresses and exploited camera workers, in the statement issued from the SWP campaign headquarters, 232 South Hill Street, has called for full labor support on a program to make this largest West Coast industrial center a 100 per cent union town and to win security, decent wages, adequate housing and living conditions, and abolition of racial discrimination.

In her program, which is receiving wide circulation here, the Trotskyist candidate emphasizes that a fundamental solution to the problems of the Los Angeles workers and oppressed minorities can be achieved only through a national and international program to free all workers from capitalist wars and exploitation. The most imperative need of the American workers is for their own independent labor party, the program points out.

Among the important planks in her platform are: job security through nationalization of industry under control of the workers' own organizations; opposition to forced labor laws and all other freedom-destroying legislation; no labor support to or dependence on government agencies; revocation of the no-strike policy; elimination of taxes on the incomes of workers and those least able to pay; independent consumers' committees to control prices; a rising scale of wages to offset rising living costs.

In the true spirit of interna-

WLB Chairman Davis Gives Whitewash Excuse For Board's Stalling Policies

By Art Preis

William H. Davis, chairman of the pro-corporation War Labor Board, last week came out with a prize example of hypocrisy. Trying to conceal the Board's function as the "graveyard of grievances," Davis complained that the Board is receiving too many cases which could be settled by direct negotiations between unions and employers.

"Too often," he asserted with a straight face, "the board finds a tendency among both unions and employers to drop small differences into the board's lap for settlement rather than seek agreement through negotiations. This delays the settlement of major issues, since the board refers back to the parties issues it feels have not been adequately negotiated."

The statement that "both" the unions and employers "drop small differences into the board's lap" can evoke only a big horse-laugh from the workers. The very existence of the compulsory arbitration board, dominated by the employers and their "public" agents, has provided the pretext for the corporations to brush aside direct negotiations with the unions.

The employers know that without the right to strike the workers can not clinch their bargain-

were often and promptly prohibited — and the board didn't spend a year or two years coming to a decision.

That's what happened in the coal miners case two years ago. After the union and the operators agreed to a contract, the WLB intervened to rule the wage concessions a "violation" of Roosevelt's "wage-stabilization" policy. Just a couple of weeks ago in New York, the WLB stepped in to order a wage cut for 8,000 pocketbook workers after the manufacturers had granted bonus and merit increases.

SHEER HYPOCRISY

What Davis is trying to do with his hypocritical statement is to whitewash the WLB and refurbish its tattered prestige. The workers have come to understand its function. They are demanding that the union representatives withdraw from the board. Davis is seeking to prop up the board by disclaiming its pro-employer function as an agency for stalling the workers' demands. That is why he tries to attribute its red-tape to "both" the workers and

bosses who "refuse" to negotiate "small grievances."

This hypocrisy stands doubly exposed in the light of the most important wage cases now pending in the WLB. What has held up the decisions in the packinghouse, auto, textile, glass, aluminum cases? Some of them have been before the WLB for over two years. Were they just swamped out by the volume of "small grievances" pouring into the board? No, these cases have been deliberately stalled by the WLB. And when this device became too crude and obvious, Roosevelt tried to take the heat off his WLB by getting his Director of Economic Stabilization Vinson to block any WLB wage decisions.

For Davis to pretend that the Board would not continue to stall grievances if it didn't have so many is as absurd as contending that a wild tiger devours raw meat not by preference but only because it can't get fresh vegetables.

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