

MASS LAY-OFFS, PAY CUTS ANNOUNCED

Veterans Bitter  
Over Fraudulent  
"Bill Of Rights"

By Larissa Reed

The first contingents of returning veterans are learning in deep disillusionment exactly what the government is providing for them in the so-called "GI Bill of Rights." Enacted by Congress in June, 1944, this measure formally known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, is already being called by disgruntled veterans the "GI Bill of Gripses." It is so scandalous that even the ultra-reactionary poll-tax Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi has been forced to apologize for it and Congressman William G. Stigler of Oklahoma has bluntly declared the bill "a mockery."

Even that instrument of Big Business, the American Legion, has been forced to criticize the bill and propose sweeping revisions. The Disabled American Veterans, through its national service director, has blasted the law as a "gross deceit to the veterans and a disgust to the public."

The main provisions of the bill cover educational, loan and unemployment benefits as well as employment assistance. The veteran has been led to believe that when he returns home with empty pockets and a precarious future in civilian life, his economic problems will be cared for until he can get back on his own feet. But what is the reality?

RED-TAPE

The "totally disabled," that is, those who have left the best part of their lives and limbs behind them in the war can get no more than \$115 a month REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS THEY HAVE. This begins after they leave the hospitals in this country where neglect and mistreatment of veterans is now reaching the stage of open scandal.

Veterans who have not been permanently maimed and disabled have been told that if they cannot immediately find a suit-

able job, the government will provide unemployment compensation and assist them in finding a job. But these and other "benefits" are so snarled up in bureaucratic red tape that hardly ever does a veteran get help when he needs it the most.

The loan provisions are so "messed up," according to the May 1 PM that they will "reach scandalous proportions by the time large-scale military demobilization arrives." Veterans who want to buy or build a home, start a business or a farm believe the government will guarantee a \$2,000 loan. Many do not know that the government itself does not lend any of this money. The veteran's application must be "processed" by a bank or other lender in the same way as an ordinary loan before the government will guarantee up to \$2,000 of the loan. Moreover the veteran is confronted with such a mass of intricate questionnaires and forms that he cannot fill them out without expert advice—and such advice costs money.

In addition there are many conditions attached to securing the loan. The Veterans Administration must approve of the veteran and his application after a searching time-wasting examination. The bank or lending

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NAZIS SAVED MORGAN INTERESTS IN FRANCE

After the conquest of France, the Nazis imposed a regime of terror on the French people. Thousands of French workers were sent to slave labor in Germany. Hitler hurled vituperative broadsides at the Anglo-American imperialists for daring to challenge his right to dominate France and all Europe. But for the British and American banks in France, the Nazis had only kind words and, more important, kind deeds. Each proved helpful to the other.

The well-known newspaper columnist Drew Pearson recently disclosed some of the facts. When the American army swept into Germany, they captured a Dr. H. J. Caesar, the Nazis' Alien Property Custodian who had charge of all American banks and alien property which the Germans seized in France. Dr. Caesar was questioned by his captors and furnished, among other things, information showing how American banks in Paris collaborated with the Nazi conquerors. Pearson reveals part of what Dr. Caesar disclosed.

The Chase Bank (J. P. Morgan and Co.) was especially favored and "protected" by the Nazis because "it had been active on behalf of Germany before the war in such matters as the German 'standstill' credit negotiations." These negotiations led to suspension of German reparations payments, thus securing Chase's German loans and freeing the Nazis of a tremendous financial burden so that they could move ahead faster with their armament program.

The Nazis were grateful for this aid and furnished the Paris branch of the Chase Bank with profitable business throughout the period of the occupation of France, Dr. Caesar disclosed. The manager of the Paris branch, however, felt constrained to curry favor with the Nazis by showing that the House of Morgan had nothing to do with Jews. A memo which Caesar received from Mr. Lecestre of the Morgan banking firm read:

"On the attached sheet there is

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Hard Coal Miners  
Continue Strike  
Into Third Week

MAY 14 — Pennsylvania's 72,000 hard coal miners, upholding the militant traditions of the United Mine Workers, continue to stand firm after two weeks of their strike to win a new contract and substantial wage gains. Their walkout began on May 1 with the expiration of their old contract, in conformity with their "no contract, no work" policy.

All government attempts to intimidate the miners and force them back into the pits have proved futile in the face of their fighting determination and solidarity. For more than a week they have ignored a government back-to-work order and the "seizure" of the struck mines on May 3.

Because the miners took a strike vote in a NLRB poll and have maintained their walkout within the terms of the Smith-Cannally anti-strike law which permits no penalties when workers leave government-controlled industries "on their own volition," the administration has as yet hesitated to invoke direct measures to break the strike.

OPERATORS STALLING

But it is becoming clear that the mine owners and their government agents hope to use the weapon of hunger to whip the miners back to work on the operators' terms.

The operators, with the tacit support of the government, are stalling and prolonging negotiations over the issue of portal-to-portal (underground travel time) pay. They are refusing to accept last week's ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding portal-to-portal pay in the case of the soft coal miners, trying to contend there is a difference involved in such payment for hard coal miners.

At Harrisburg, Pa., William H. Chestnut, state Secretary of Labor and Industry, has declared the striking miners ineligible for unemployment compensation on the pretext that they are out of work "due to voluntarily leaving without good cause." The state agents of the operators do not consider the lack of a contract "good cause," although responsibility for the strike rests squarely on the operators.

The latest issue of the United Mine Workers Journal exposes editorially the price-robbery and planned shortages, especially of meat, in the company-owned mining towns. Despite the grueling labor of the miners, they cannot get meat. "Coal miners cannot produce coal," points out the Journal, "on coca-cola, a doughnut and a cigarette for breakfast; macaroni and peas, a peanut butter sandwich and a cookie for lunch; and for dinner, rice, beans, cabbage, potatoes and coconut custard pie."

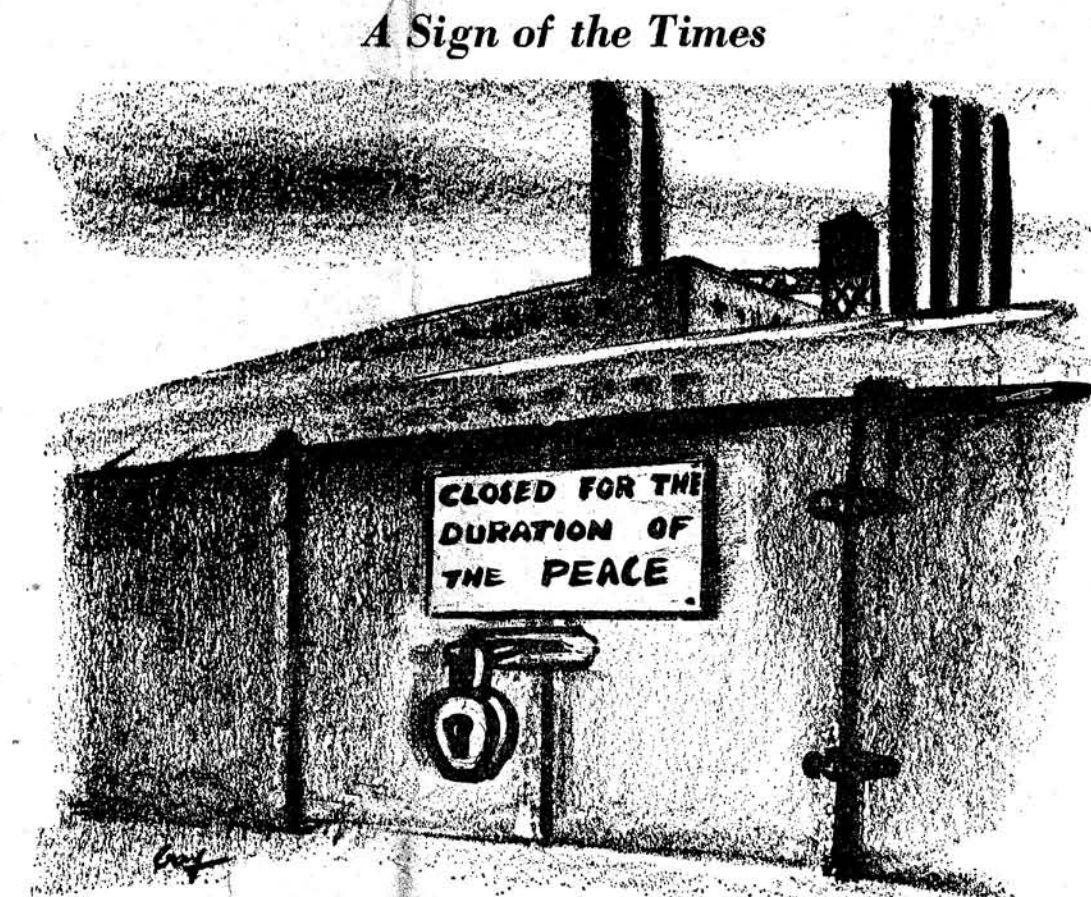
Ford Local 600 Rally Calls  
For End Of No-Strike Policy

By Roy Weston

DETROIT, May 5. — At a meeting called by Ford Local 600, CIO United Automobile Workers, held in Cass Technical High School here today, more than 5,000 Ford workers went on record as favoring the immediate revocation of the no-strike pledge and the calling of a national labor holiday if the Little Steel formula is not abandoned and an effective reconversion wage policy adopted.

This action came as a climax to an overflow meeting at which more than 5,000 workers were turned away due to lack of seating space. The rally was initiated as a protest against the cut-backs, layoffs, shortened work-week and the resulting pay-cuts in the Ford Rouge plant.

Present at the meeting, which was presided over by W. G. Grant, president of Local 600 and a notorious Stalinist stooge, were R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, and Richard T. Leon-



A Sign of the Times

Greek Dictatorship Continues  
Brutal Terror Against People

By Joseph Hansen

British-supported reaction in Greece is methodically continuing its suppression of the Greek people who drove out the Nazi conquerors. Since the February 12 "accord" that ended the Allied-instigated civil war, more than 7,500 have been slaughtered, according to EAM (National Liberation Front) figures published in the May 5 Nation.

"EAM adherents, republicans, and sometimes just plain people who neglect to adorn their homes with the King's portrait are being arrested, beaten, and even murdered," declares the Nation correspondent. "When the guardsmen themselves do not join the man hunt, they and the local gendarmerie look the other way while illegal pro-fascist bands smash printing presses, burn organizational headquarters, and torture non-converts... Peasants are taking to the hills as in the days of the Germans."

"Greece... is torn by complex feuds which may explode at any moment into fresh hostilities," observes the Nation. In preparation for these "hostilities," the British are reconstructing the Greek army "and the British are furnishing first-rate modern equipment... The Greek General Staff is methodically welding this army into a political weapon, loading it with royalists from the ranks to the top command."

"Quieting security battalions and monarchist mountain and sacred brigades are being incorporated en masse. Eighteen to twenty-six of the brigade colonels of the National Guard are royalists. Conspirators suspected of an ELAS (Greek National Liberation Ar-

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ard, UAW National Ford Director.

A series of resolutions were passed. One of them — on the Little Steel formula — was read by Larry Yost retiring president of the Aircraft Unit of Local 600 and president of the National Rank and File Committee.

UAW HEADS STUNNED

Thomas, along with Grant and the Stalinists, appeared stunned by the resolution, particularly when it was passed unanimously.

Complaining that Yost changed the text of the resolution as it had been adopted by the local's executive board when he included the threat to revoke the no-strike pledge and call a national labor holiday, Grant, who came out second-best in the local's recent primary elections, suggested to the meeting that the workers "didn't intend to pass such a resolution."

Immediately there were cries from the floor: "Oh, yes we did!" Yost admitted having altered the resolution which had called for abandonment of the Little

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Wage Freeze To Continue  
While Prices Are Boosted

Government Officials Disclose Hunger Plans  
For Workers, Huge Hand-Outs for Profiteers

By Art Preis

A partial picture of the ominous future awaiting the American workers and returning veterans was presented last week in a series of official actions and pronouncements by leading agencies and spokesmen of the Truman administration.

Its essential features include growing mass unemployment, wage slashing, increased shortages particularly in food, price rises and a continuation of the wage-freezing Little Steel formula.

Negro Battalion  
Herded Onto Ship  
By Armed Guards

The men in the 34th Construction Battalion (Seabees) have been herded like prisoners or criminals under "armed guard with drawn bayonets" aboard their ship bound for the Pacific, "as though they were reluctant to serve their country."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent this vigorous protest on April 27 to Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal. "This battalion has 21 months overseas service and has proved beyond doubt its ability and loyalty," stated the NAACP telegram.

SHAMEFUL TREATMENT

Such shameful treatment was accorded the men in this veteran Battalion after their hunger strike on March 2-3 in protest against gross mistreatment and discriminatory conditions fostered by their Negro-hating Commander, J. P. MacBean of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. As a result of the exposure of these conditions by Negro organizations and the press, the Navy Department was forced to remove MacBean from his command. Now, the NAACP claims, the men of the 34th are being "humiliated and punished" in retaliation.

At the same time, the government intends to continue its wartime restrictions on the independent actions of the unions. It will attempt to enforce the no-strike policy in all industries, whether or not they are on war production. It will continue to impose government regulation of collective bargaining through the employer-dominated War Labor Board and compulsory arbitration.

The profit-bloated corporations face an altogether different prospect. The government has given them substantial assurances that their profit and monopoly incomes will be fully safeguarded. Within the next two years, the war profiteers are to be reimbursed with almost \$6-billion in various types of tax rebates.

Price ceilings are to be fixed during the "reconversion" period to guarantee manufacturers not less than the abnormally inflated prices of 1942, the third war year. They are assured further price increases where "necessary." These are the initial measures planned for the "relief of the greedy."

The general features of the

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GOVERNMENT ASSURES PRICE, TAX 'RELIEF' TO PROFITEERS

While millions of workers and veterans will face total unemployment and those still working will have reductions in weekly earnings of from 25 to 40 per cent on a return to a 40-hour week, Price Administrator Bowles on May 11 told the manufacturers that they could be assured of prices at the high 1942 wartime level "at least." Of course, there will also be "a few instances in which increases in retail prices above 1942 levels will be necessary."

Moreover, the OPA head assured the war profiteers that he recognized "important changes have taken place in the factors affecting production costs." He sympathized with reconverting manufacturers having "to shoulder burdens they could not bear." And he added significantly: "We are not going to disregard such cost increases even temporarily." This is a signal for cost-padding and a general stampede for OPA approval of price increases.

This OPA price-boosting scheme disguised as "price control" has merely whetted the appetites of the profiteers. Their legislative agents, headed by Senator Taft of Ohio, promptly moved to scuttle even the pretense of price control.

On May 11, Taft proposed before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee to reopen hearings on renewal of the price control act. He claimed the OPA was "determined fanatically" to keep prices at a "fixed level." "In my opinion," he stated, "price control policy now in effect is far too strict, even for wartime."

GIFTS TO MONOPOLISTS

Taft is one of the spokesmen for the big meat packers. Two of them, Albert and Hahn of Cincinnati, as revealed in Senate hearings, contributed substantial sums to his recent election campaign.

On top of this green light to price-gouging, Big Business was promised a further windfall. On May 11 it was announced that Truman had "tentatively approved" a scheme of the Treasury and Congressional "tax experts"

to speed into the pockets of the monopolists the vast sum of \$5,700,000,000 (billions) in cash.

This is in the form of tax refunds and exemptions already provided under the federal tax laws. The latest proposal would make these sums immediately available, allegedly for "reconversion and post-war expansion."

Actually, it will go to add to the staggering total of over \$40,000,000,000 (billions) which the SEC reports the American banking and industrial plutocracy has amassed in working capital (undistributed profits) out of the "blood, sweat, toil and tears" of the American masses in this war.

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TRAILBLAZERS VISIT STEELWORKER AREA

The Trail-blazers have secured a total of 845 subscriptions to date. Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes write on last week's work in the Pittsburgh area.

"Thanks to the advice of a friendly steel worker who subscribed last night, we found a housing project to work in today where the majority of the men are Homestead Steel mill workers.

"It was V-E day and we had the May Day issue to work with. One of the strongest reactions to V-E day we encountered was deep concern over the inevitable industrial 'cut-backs'...

"Those with large families told us that their men had to work three-double shifts a week (16-hours) in the mill to earn enough to cover the necessary expenses. Most of them know that their earnings are due for a sharp slash with approaching curtailment in production.

STEEL WORKERS

"Among the 27 subscribers we got today, 20 we know of are working at the Homestead Mill. The subscribers we get are those workers who are anxious to see what we have to offer as a solution to their fundamental problems. One of them looked through the pages of The Militant with interest and inquired about our successes among the steel workers.

"But the young men have grown up with no illusions and they will lead the struggle. He also remarked that the Corporation which once fought unionism with blood and violence has found it also effective to operate through a union leadership that is 'house-broken'...

"One steel worker held us in discussion for almost an hour while we explained the program of Trotskyism. We were intrigued from the start by this worker's appreciation of the role of Stalinism.

"Workers here seem to sense the imperialist nature of the war. They all know the capitalists are growing fabulously wealthy today, and that the whole story of equal sacrifice is a hoax.

"Another woman whose husband is a railroad, expressed interest in PM because it occasionally exposes the corporations and Wall St. politicians. She took The Militant, she said, because PM doesn't answer the question 'What is to be done,' and also because its policy of supporting some capitalist politicians

16,283 Subscriptions Pour Into 'Militant' Office As Campaign Enters Last 2 Weeks

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

During the first eleven weeks of the 13-week Militant Subscription Campaign members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party have secured 16,283 new readers. This is already 163 percent of the original goal of 10,000 new subscriptions to The Militant.

FROM THE BRANCHES

Ruth Grayson, New York Trotskyist Youth Group: "With the fire and enthusiasm that is native to youth, the New York Trotskyist Youth Group (although severely handicapped by the loss of our 18-year old males) is nearing its quota of 500 subs.

Bob Kingsley, Cleveland: "We aim to quadruple our original quota of 200 subs."

A. Field, Minneapolis: "The standing of our two teams is—Go-Getters 431, Sub-Builders 464. Rivalry between these two teams is intense right now, for each team has about the same number of subs to its credit and a continued neck-to-neck pace is anticipated.

Jerry Kirk, Detroit: "On V-E day one of the comrades who got off early from the plant rounded up four other comrades (one was in the bathtub, another sound asleep) and went out to sell The Militant headlining revolt in North Italy. They sold 50 subscriptions.

"By very rough figuring I see that during this campaign we have sold directly in the auto factories 440 subs."

"I mentioned that 35 friends are selling subs with us and that six of them joined the Socialist Workers Party. This does not mean that all six joined only as a result of our sub work in this campaign. And so there will be no misunderstanding, let us say that several joined as a result of sub work in this and the last campaign."

Inez Cope, Youngstown: "Enclosed are 66 new subs. We're certainly glad to have such active competition as Cleveland. They have us on our toes."

P. Mertens, St. Paul: "Enclosed please find 20 subs. That brings our total to 183 percent. And three weeks more to go!"

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "We are all sure that the party as a whole, and the Buffalo branch certainly, will make 200 percent by the end of the campaign."

K. Karl, Philadelphia: "Our branch now stands at about 160 percent of its quota, with 62 to go in three weeks to make it 300 subs. We anticipate no difficulty in attaining this or better. And as to Bayonne, well—they'll just have to keep eating our dust."

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "We are hoping that these last three weeks of the campaign will see us well over the 500 mark. The national results are wonderful!"

Dorothy Lessing, Newark: "During this campaign we have branched out into workers sections which we never canvassed before. The results in these areas showed us that there are hundreds of workers ready and willing to read The Militant.

Rose Stevens, Seattle: "Because of the difficulty caused by employment conditions plus travel our sub campaign suffers. However, we are happy to report that approximately 50 percent of our subscriptions have been gathered in the city of Tacoma.

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "The branches of Los Angeles stand as follows in the campaign—East Side 124 percent, Southside 106 percent, San Pedro 85 percent, West Side 77 percent, Central 54 percent. Our Pace-Setters are: Leo Lusetti of the Socialist Youth Club with 95 subs, Jack Gail with 92 subs, Abe Bors with 78, Julie Miller with 69, and Herb Cappy with 62 subs.

MILITANT PACE-SETTERS

Here are the twenty who have sold the highest number of subscriptions in this campaign:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Branch, Subs Sold. Lists top subscribers like Mike Warren, Jerry Kirk, Paul Kujac, etc.

SCOREBOARD

Table with 4 columns: Branches of the Socialist Workers Party, Quotas, Subs, Percent. Lists various cities and their subscription progress.



Agents for The Militant report a few of the many instances in which the paper is discussed among shopmates.

Dave Jeffries of New York: "A girl in my shop to whom I have been showing The Militant told me that she had gotten into a conversation with the washroom attendant during which they discussed various newspapers that they read. The attendant mentioned that among other papers he read The Militant, and he thought it was excellent."

H. Newell of Allentown: "Comrade Fitch sold a sub to a worker in steel who bought the paper on the strength of the recommendation of his buddy. His buddy had shown him the paper in the shop."

Reports from agents in other sections of the country also indicate the ever-widening circle of workers to which The Militant is becoming known.

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "I went out with the East Bay people last Sunday. One of the subscriptions I secured was from a member of the Bakers Union. He immediately recognized the paper, saying: 'Oh, sure, I saw that paper at the San Francisco Labor Temple. Yes, I'll subscribe.'"

Inez Cope, Youngstown: "We occasionally run into workers and find the person's brother or friend in another district is receiving The Militant. Naturally this stirs discussion and as a result these friends and families get together and discuss articles in The Militant."

"We had a successful May Day meeting with visitors from Akron and New Castle, and, of course, our local friends. We're trying to get New Castle to cooperate with us in this subscription campaign."

"New Castle isn't too far from here so we plan to sell subs there this Saturday. The reception should be good as it was formerly a very militant town. I know when we sold our paper on the streets there about six years ago we sold them like hot cakes, until we were interrupted by the police and politely told to vacate."

These incidents were experienced by our agents while securing subscriptions.

Joyce Hess, San Francisco: "One of our old subscribers, a young Negro housewife, bought the enclosed trial sub for her sister in Alabama. She told me that she had been trying to sell some trial subs: 'But all my friends already subscribe to The Militant!'"

New York SOCIALIST YOUTH FORUM Friday, May 25, 8 p. m. 'Italy and Germany - Has Fascism Been Destroyed?' Questions... Discussion Speaker: SANDY ROBERTSON 116 University Place Free Admission

Stalinist Ranks Aid French Trotskyists

The March 17th issue of La Verite (Truth), organ of the Internationalist Communist Party, French section of the Fourth International, has just reached this country. The following is a summary of some of the articles in the paper.

Freedom of the press remains a mockery under the de Gaulle government. The government uses its dictatorial powers over the supply and allocation of newsprint to foster reactionary newspapers and to discriminate against working class periodicals. New capitalist papers are permitted to appear daily in large format while working class papers are forced to continue in small tabloid size, mostly single sheet. None of these papers conform to the government rule of having appeared illegally in struggle against the German occupation.

L'Humanite, the Stalinist paper, stated that it appears that the quantity of paper allocated to periodicals is distributed in inverse proportion to the number of issues which appeared illegally. Verite ironically comments that on such a basis it would not receive a single sheet of paper BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST PERIODICAL TO RESIST THE HITLERITE OCCUPATION.

The Stalinists continue their scurrilous smear campaign against the Fourth Internationalists in France. One Stalinist paper speaks of the Fourth International as "the Trotskyist scum and the Fourth International of Berlin." L'Humanite goes further in libelling the Trotskyists with the charge that the "Hitlero-Trotskyist literature, as everyone knows from a recent inquiry is turned out by Darnand's men (fascists) who are dipping into the cash register of the Liquid Air Trust which is run by the traitor Georges Claude."

challenge it has made each time the Stalinist leaders have published these lies. "If the leaders of the C.P.F. (French Communist Party) believe the charges they hurl against the Trotskyists what are they waiting for? Why don't they institute trial proceedings in broad daylight so that the labor movement may be definitively purged of the scum. On more than one occasion we called upon Cogniot and Monmousseau (Stalinist leaders) to proceed with such action."

DEMANDS OPEN TRIAL "Our party challenges L'Humanite to produce the evidence for its anti-Trotskyist charges before a commission composed of all tendencies of the labor movement and the resistance movement. If L'Humanite refuses to prove its charges in the open, that will show that it and the Stalinist leaders, by their slanders and their lies are introducing filth into the labor movement."

Some idea of the increasing support received by Verite among the workers under difficult conditions of persecution and repression can be gathered from a small item addressed to "The Friends of La Verite." In it they state that for every bundle of Verite's that a frightened bureaucrat destroys, innumerable copies are distributed secretly with an infinite variety of ingenious methods by communist, socialist, anarchist and non-party workers. An example is given of one French factory where some workers placed copies of Verite on every work bench.

FIGHT FOR THIS PROGRAM:

- 1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans! A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay! A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living! Operate all government-built plants under workers' control!
2. Independence of the trade unions from the government! Rescind the no-strike pledge! Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!
3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!
4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities! Down with Jim Crow!
5. Working class political action! Build the independent labor party! Establish the workers' and farmers' government!
6. Tax the rich, not the poor! No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism! Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions! Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces!
8. Hands off the European and colonial peoples! Withdraw the Allied Occupation Troops from Europe! Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the European and colonial peoples!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 116 University Place New York 3, New York I would like: To join the Socialist Workers Party. To obtain further information about your organization. To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city. Name (Please Print) Address City Postal Zone State

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MAY 18, 1935

TOLEDO—Ending their historic three-week strike in the first pitched battle against General Motors, the Toledo Chevrolet workers voted to accept an increase of four cents per hour and minor concessions, yielding their demand for union recognition.

"Out of this fight," The Militant reported, "has grown a force of militant progressives in the auto unions who have demonstrated conclusively their power and ability."

"Tonight these progressives are planning to get together, to lay out a national program, to organize, train and discipline themselves more thoroughly. . . The men unanimously pledged themselves to stick in the union, throw out their false leaders, and build the organization toward a fight to the finish with General Motors."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—For the third time the Illinois Workers Alliance massed its forces to march on the state capital demanding immediate relief for the starving unemployed.

Governor Horner of Illinois, elected as a "humanitarian friend of the poor," threatened: "Not one cent" for relief until the Assembly voted to increase the state sales tax from two to three per cent, thus throwing the burden of relief upon the underpaid workers.

Fearful of the threatened hunger march, however, some counties were already yielding a measure of relief, while the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission suddenly "discovered" \$1,250,000 of available relief funds.

