

THE MILITANT

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Wall Street's Drive Against Soviet Union

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General Motors Continues Its Arrogant Stand

BULLETIN

DETROIT, March 3—General Motors Corporation, in a typical arrogantly-worded letter, today rejected the proposal of the CIO United Auto Workers GM conference to arbitrate the remaining differences in the 103-day old strike.

By Grace Carlson

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, March 2—Meeting on the 101st day of the General Motors strike—the longest strike in automotive history—250 delegates to the CIO United Auto Workers GM conference voted here yesterday to stay on strike until the corporation showed a disposition to meet the union's just demands.

The final action of the delegates, who concluded their two-day conference this afternoon, was a proposal to the corporation, which has been deliberately stalling negotiations, to submit the remaining issues in dispute to arbitration.

Walter Reuther, UAW vice-president and director of the union's GM department, opened the conference yesterday with a one-hour report on the progress of the negotiations with GM since the last conference. In a fiery speech which reflected the militancy of the delegates from 92 strike-bound GM plants, Reuther maintained that the negotiations had revealed a conscious

Americans Cable Protest Against 'La Verite' Ban

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 — A second cable protesting the suppressive acts against La Verite, organ of the French Trotskyists, was sent today to the new French government by a group of prominent leaders of civil liberties organizations and editors of labor and liberal papers. La Verite was the first working class paper to be published in the underground fight against the Nazis in France.

The protest cable, addressed to Felix Gouin, the new President of France and Gaston Deferre, Minister of Information, was signed by Roger Baldwin, Chairman of Board of International League for Rights of Man and Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; George Novack, Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, and Morris Milgram, Secretary of the Workers Defense League.

Editors signing the cable in (Continued on Page 8)

Navy Exonerates Wounded Brother In Ferguson Case

By William S. Farrell

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, March 4—Joseph Ferguson, Ship's Cook 3/c, wounded brother of Charles and Alfonso Ferguson who were murdered by a Jim-Crow Freeport, N. Y. cop on February 5, was completely exonerated of all charges of misconduct by an official Navy investigation committee.

The Navy statement, signed by Captain Sidney S. Bunting of the Lido Beach Naval Station, says: "The evidence now available clearly shows that Joseph A. Ferguson, finding himself in a very difficult position, conducted himself in a manner which in no way can be construed as misconduct."

This action by Navy officials clearly demonstrates that the policeman, Joseph Romeika, is a murderer and that he deliberately killed in cold blood. It also proves that the civil authorities of Freeport are guilty of legal lynch law in the jailing of Richard Ferguson, the fourth brother. The Nassau County Grand Jury which whitewashed the cop's crimes stands branded as a Jim-Crow supporter of murder and frame-up.

PROTESTS MOUNTING

The Freeport Case is rapidly becoming a national issue. Mounting protests have already forced public officials in Long Island to indicate their willingness to "make concessions" in order to quiet the aroused labor and Negro movements.

An informal meeting of representatives of several large and influential organizations was held this weekend to prepare a fight to win justice for the Ferguson family, to bring about the arrest and punishment of policeman

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PHILADELPHIA CIO PICKETS BATTLE POLICE TERRORISM

The Mighty Arm Of Solidarity



Cops Mercilessly Club Vets Who Help Defy Injunction

By Robert Oliver

(Special to The Militant)

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28—In defiance of a court injunction, mass picket lines of CIO workers, determined to defend their right to picket and peaceably assemble, have fought bitter pitched battles on two successive days against motorized and mounted police near the strike-bound General Electric plant here. Over 5,000 men and women surrounded City Hall at noon today in an angry demonstration against police brutality.

Truman Policy Paves Way For Big Price Rises

Although the Truman Administration continues to promise it will hold the line on prices, a whole series of its actions in the past week demonstrates that this promise is worthless. Far from holding down prices, the Truman Administration is permitting them to soar at an unprecedented rate.

On February 26, for instance, Chester Bowles authorized a jump in the price of meat that without benefit of black market gouging will add one and a half per cent to the already outrageous cost of meat in butcher shops.

This price jump, it must be underlined, is an additional benefit granted the packing corporations on top of the already enormous subsidies paid them out of the public treasury.

PHONY EXCUSE

The phony excuse advanced by the Truman administration in its brazen attempt to justify this fresh concession to the corporations is that the 16-cent wage increase won by the packinghouse workers on the picket line necessitates this price increase.

The packinghouse unions have cited facts and figures proving that the packers could have absorbed this wage increase without raising prices at all, simply by paying the increase out of their enormous profits. But the Truman administration decided not to touch these holy profits.

An "Agricultural Department spokesman," according to a February 28 press report, declared

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of pickets to 10. Yesterday the sheriff's office launched its first assault.

An army of 2,000 police on foot, horseback and motorcycle, was commissioned under the "Riot Act of 1850," passed to secure the capture of fugitive slaves. This army, with mounted police in the forefront charged into a peaceful, unarmed picket line still many blocks from its destination, the GE plant.

As the police charged relentlessly against defenseless men and women, some ran for refuge to homes nearby. On motorcycles and horses, across sidewalks and lawns, the cops pursued them, swinging their sticks, and dismounting to break into homes to capture these modern-day "fugitive slaves." Seven workers were arrested and carted off to the precinct police station.

Undaunted, the pickets who (Continued on Page 2)

See Editorial "Change Of Mind" Page 4

State Troopers, Armed Lynch Mob Unleash Bloody Warfare Against Negro Community

By Evelyn Atwood

On Nazi Model

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stated on March 1 that "the action of the Tennessee State troopers in roping off the Negro section of Columbia, Tenn., and firing at will, was closer to the action of the Nazi storm troopers than any recent police action in this country, the South not excepted."

Tennessee's white ruling class unleashed savage armed warfare and wholesale atrocities on February 25 against the entire segregated Negro section of Columbia, Tennessee.

Some 500 state troops and hundreds of armed white hoodlums invaded the Negro community, ruthlessly poured gunfire into dwellings and business places, ransacked homes and drove the inhabitants into the streets where they were searched and barbarously beaten. Scores were shot and clubbed.

This orgy of Jim-Crow terror was climaxed when two of 69 Negroes dragged to Maury County jail were lynched inside the prison by guards who shot

IN THE NEWS

'Crime' And Punishment

An Army Clemency Board, it was reported on February 26, reduced the court-martial sentence of Pfc. Alex Ondi, of Cleveland, from 75 years in prison to five years. Ondi was convicted of refusing to obey a command to go out on patrol under direct fire at Luxembourg in January 1945, after he had previously gone on three such patrols.

What About British Machine Guns?

"The combination between Hindus, Moslems, and others for the purpose of violent action is unholy. The looting and burning of streetcars and other property, insulting and injuring Europeans, is not nonviolence of (my) Congress type." — Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Too Big A Risk

The Sun Life Assurance Society, a British firm, announced on March 1 that its future life insurance policies will not pay if death is caused by atom bombs. "If only one atom bomb were to fall on London," the announcement explained, "we would have to pay out three-quarters of a million sterling (\$3,000,000) to policy holders."

Make Anybody Sick

Some 600 Paterson, N. J. school teachers voted to become ill one day during the week of February 24 after the Board of Tax Estimates not only rejected the teachers' demand for a \$400 bonus but eliminated from the city budget the already existing \$200 bonus.

New Revolts Carry On Fight For Independence Of India

The revolutionary movement to free India from British rule is gathering momentum. The heroic strike of the Royal Indian Navy men in Bombay, February 17-26, touched off a whole series of supporting demonstrations.

At Jubbulpore, 550 miles northeast of Bombay, 2,500 Indian troops were reported to have "revolted" on February 27. They paraded through the streets, demonstrating their sympathy with the strike of the Bombay seamen and protesting the British court-martial sentence of a captain in the Indian National Army.

SHOW SOLIDARITY

Like the other demonstrators throughout India, these troops conspicuously carried the flags of the All-India Congress and Moslem League side by side. By this proof of solidarity against the common foe they gave the lie to British propaganda that imperialist rule must be maintained over India to prevent Hindus and Moslems from fighting each other.

The British despots answered the demands of the Jubbulpore demonstrators in the same brutal way they had answered the Bombay strikers. With bayonets and revolvers they tried to drive the

marchers back into their barracks.

At Lahore, in northern India, on the same day, student demonstrators stopped the automobile of the Punjab Governor. They removed the hated Union Jack and stoned the machine.

In Jamnagar, between Bombay and Karachi, hundreds of sailors in the Royal Indian Navy staged a walkout. At Majherhat, near Calcutta, 500 RIN men ended a seven-day strike on February 25. At Karachi police fired on huge crowds of demonstrators. Ten thousand workers struck in Trichinopoly.

Two strikes "in sympathy with Bombay mutineers" were still in progress at Bombay February 26. In Madras on the same day a huge crowd of 10,000 stoned passing trains. The police, in accordance with British policy, opened fire on the unarmed demonstrators.

Meanwhile in Bombay, a dispatch passed by the British censor said that nine banks, more than 30 shops, 22 government grain and clothing shops, 10 post-

offices and 10 police stations had been attacked during the demonstrations there. The official estimate of deaths from British gun fire rose to 300.

The British colonial despots are preparing savage reprisals against the leaders of these widespread demonstrations for freedom. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, British Commander in Chief in India, announced over the radio that "ringleaders... would be tried and the guilty punished."

In Bombay the British removed 396 men from Royal Indian Navy ships and shore establishments. The 14 members of the Naval Strike Committee were ordered transferred to an undisclosed destination. British police prowled the streets of Bombay looking for "trouble makers."

The bourgeois heads of the All-India Congress Party had promised the Navy strikers there would be no reprisals if they ended their demonstration. It was only in the light of this promise and the overwhelming military force arrayed against them, that the Naval Strike Committee ordered an end to the strike. But they warned that if anyone (Continued on Page 3)

SWP Protests Anti-Negro Atrocities In Tennessee

Governor Jim McCord, Nashville, Tennessee

We vigorously protest the outrageous wholesale atrocities and violations of civil rights committed by state troops and local police against the Negro citizens of Columbia, Tennessee.

All the facts clearly prove that the invasion by your troops of this Negro community was a calculated move to terrorize and repress the defenseless Negro citizens of Columbia who had been threatened by lynch mobs.

Eye-witness reports reveal that your troops blasted away at Negro dwellings and businesses with machine-guns and carbines, invaded and ransacked homes without search warrants, manhandled men, women and children and arrested at random scores of Negroes, many of whom are still being held in jail in violation of their constitutional rights. Two imprisoned Negroes were shot down in cold blood by guards.

Together with other working-class political parties, unions and civil rights organizations, the Socialist Workers Party demands that you immediately end the reign of terror in Columbia, withdraw the state troops and release all the innocent victims who are being held illegally in prison.

We hold your administration directly responsible. James P. Cannon, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

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TIGHTEN THE RANKS

By The Editors

The CIO Steelworkers' victory in the basic steel industry several weeks ago left the false and dangerous impression that Big Business was prepared to end its immediate resistance to settlement of the remaining big strikes.

It is clear that this impression was deliberately fostered by the government and press in order to induce a mood of complacency among the workers and a relaxation of their struggle, while the corporations aimed new blows at the unions.

Events of recent days clearly demonstrate that the impression that the fight is "almost over," that labor can relax its militant fight for even a moment, is perilous. At this stage of the strike wave it is necessary to sound the alarm to the labor movement: NO COMPLACENCY! NO RELAXATION! TIGHTEN THE RANKS FOR BITTER STRUGGLE!

The facts are that, despite the return to work of some 400,000 workers in basic steel, there are nearly that number still out in the smaller steel fabricating mills. The smaller steel owners are deliberately refusing to settle in hopes of pressuring huge price increases similar to those Truman yielded to the big steel concerns.

There are nearly a million workers still on strike. Most of them, like the valiant General Motors workers, have been walking the picket lines for long weeks and even months. They have reached the stage of their struggles where they are facing severe hardship and must call upon their deepest reserves of courage and tenacity to hold on and fight it out to a victorious end.

This is the stage where Big Business, calculating on a relaxation of labor's vigilance and the wearing hardship of prolonged strikes, has turned with renewed arrogance and ferocity to the attack.

General Motors, the main battering ram of the American (Continued on Page 2)

Stalinist Leaders Of CIO Transport Workers Union Capitulate To Strikebreaking Threats Of O'Dwyer

By Art Sharon

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, Feb. 27—The threat of a subway strike precipitated by the refusal of the Board of Transportation here to recognize the CIO Transport Workers Union as sole collective bargaining agency for the city's underpaid and overworked transit workers, came to an end yesterday. It collapsed with the capitulation of the Stalinist union leadership led by Michael Quill.

Almost without exception the capitalist newspapers broke out in scare headlines and screaming editorials against Michael Quill, who is also the American Labor Party city councilman from the Bronx when he announced the union's threat to strike. Demands were made for his impeachment and Mayor O'Dwyer was called upon to stand firm against the transit workers demands.

O'Dwyer in turn repeated his strikebreaking performance of the tugboat strike crisis. Adding to the hysteria and panic, he announced the creation of an emergency setup to operate the trains with scab crews. O'Dwyer made clear his determination to break the strike if it was called. This energetic strikebreaking is becoming O'Dwyer's routine answer to every strike of any proportion in New York City. This is the payoff from the Democratic candidate put into the mayor's seat with the support of the American Labor Party and the Stalinists.

Michael Quill promised the membership of the union that nothing would stop the calling of the strike should the city refuse to recognize the TWU. O'Dwyer stood adamant on his refusal to give the union recognition as the sole collective bargaining agency for the city's transit workers. O'Dwyer called upon David Sar-

noff, millionaire president of the Radio Corporation of America, to act as an intermediary between the city and the national leaders of the CIO in an attempt to get national CIO intervention.

MURRAY MAKES DEAL
Philip Murray responded by hastening in person to New York City and making a back-room deal with the Mayor that the strike would not come off and that the conditions of the transit workers would be put up to a board of "fact finders" who will "study the union's demands and the City's position."

The Stalinist leadership of the TWU quickly agreed to Murray's proposal as a means of getting out of their uncomfortable position. The strike was called off and the capitalist newspapers congratulated Mayor O'Dwyer on his victory.

Frightened by the opposition they aroused, the Stalinist leadership is now circulating as a special leaflet an editorial of the newspaper PM, which states that the union leadership "never wanted a strike" because "it would have wrecked the union" and that they are "glad now to be off the hook." The strike threat can be called "the bluff that failed."

The Stalinist TWU leaders folded up like a wet rag on the main issue for which they threatened to strike, sole collective bargaining rights. The wage demands are now at the mercy of a hand-picked committee over which the workers have no influence.

Police Terror In Philadelphia



Leather-coated, pistol-packing Philadelphia cops were caught by the camera February 27 as they opened their brutal assault on the mass picket lines thrown around the General Electric plant by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO. A police reign of terror throughout the following two days resulted in many injured workers and a CIO threat to call a general strike.

—Courtesy of Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

Philadelphia CIO Pickets Defy Injunction, Fight Police Terror

(Continued from Page 1)

had fought back valiantly, reassembled. They jammed the courtroom and thronged neighboring streets. They shouted and sang "Solidarity Forever" as their first day of battle closed.

ANOTHER PARADE

Today another parade to the GE plant was scheduled to begin at a park. Police were on hand to bar the workers from the public property, and drive them into neighboring Delaware County. Over 3,000 workers assembled at the County Line, facing the army which had already shown its brutality.

The pickets set out on a march back to Philadelphia, taking streets far from the plant. Police watched suspiciously, blocking a street which led to GE. With a mock Hitler salute to the cops, the parade marched on. The workers finally turned up a cross street nearly ten blocks from the plant.

Then began the second day's assault, as 40 mounted police charged into the dense crowd of men and women, followed by nearly 50 motorcycle police and hundreds of club-swinging patrolmen. Many workers, several of them women, were trampled. Scores required medical attention. Those who tried to aid their injured comrades were picked out by the cops for merciless beatings. And today, too,

Philadelphia SWP Holds Gay Social

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 23 — A capacity crowd attended the housewarming party tonight of the Philadelphia Branch of the Socialist Workers Party at the spacious new headquarters, 1303-05 West Girard Avenue.

Most of those present were readers of The Militant, who came because of their keen appreciation of the paper. Among them were a number of trade unionists, including several workers from the UE locals now on strike in this area. A delegation came from Camden, where The Militant was introduced for the first time during the last subscription campaign.

private homes were raided in search of "escaping slaves." Special target for the storm-troop attack was a group of union veterans. CIO member Domenico Di Perzio, carrying a large American flag, fought to protect himself as 60 mounted police surged in, raining blows with riot sticks on his bare hands. Many of the blows aimed at Domenico were ward off by his buddy, Helder Rheinhold, an AFL member.

VETS ASSAULTED

William Hood, a veteran and member of Local 119, was another victim of the police in the "Battle of 65th Street." He had been released from the army in January, after being wounded in both hands during European battles. He showed battle-scarred hands to the Militant reporter.

There were fresh wounds on them now, inflicted by police clubs when he had tried to defend the American flag he was carrying. "The cops called me every conceivable name," he said, "as they tried to force me to surrender the flag." Another veteran of Local 119, Richard Duane, had been wounded three times in three years of combat in Europe. Duane called the GE picket line more dangerous than the battlefield.

There was a reason for this special victimization of veterans, an old-time union man declared. "They're taking it out on our vets because they are sore at them for being solid with the union. The company and the cops had expected the vets would serve as strikebreakers. Instead, they're our best union defenders."

Incensed workers gathering to defend their banner-bearers were overwhelmed by sheer force of numbers. One of the most severely beaten was Herbert Lewin, a Westinghouse worker, who later described the attack:

"WE'LL WIN"
"It was just a peaceful parade until the Gestapo set upon us. This will wake up the entire union movement to the need of united action. We are going to win this fight and get rid of injunctions. We are in the fight until the victory."
The company and police plans have failed. Their deliberate, ruthless terror has united the veteran and non-veteran workers, the men and the women, and has mobilized wide support for the pickets. Housewives whose homes were invaded when they aided the workers, are today

Dinner Opens New Toledo Quarters

TOLEDO, Feb. 24—Scores of members and friends enjoyed the housewarming held in the new headquarters of the Toledo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party at 213 Michigan Street. Delicious duck dinners, which the Toledo comrades had prepared, were consumed with great gusto by the celebrants. A string trio from Detroit entertained, following after-dinner speeches by three amateur comedians. Many of our friends expressed the desire to be notified of the next social or meeting.

Ancient British "Riot Act" Used In Jersey Strike

By Alan Kohlman
(Special to The Militant)

BLOOMFIELD, N. J. March 2 — Utilizing a pre-Revolutionary War "Riot Act," a carryover from old English law, Sheriff William B. Butler yesterday dispersed 1,000 CIO United Electrical Union strikers from mass picketing at the Westinghouse plant here. Sheriff Butler had mobilized additional police from numerous towns in Essex County. He gave the pickets one hour to disperse.

All 1,000 strikers immediately marched to the City Hall where they staged a demonstration in protest, while UE Local 410 officials conferred with the sheriff. Following upon the brutal police clubbings of UE strikers in Philadelphia, this police action in Jersey indicates a concerted and widespread plan to aid the bosses by utilizing police forces to back up previous injunctions. These court orders issued by compliant judges aim to deprive strikers of their right to picket and keep out strikebreakers.

For 46 days the UE strikers here have engaged in mass picketing to keep the Westinghouse plant closed. For the past two weeks such mass picketing has been in defiance of vicious injunctions issued by local Chancery Courts. As previously reported in The Militant, this mass picketing, ranging from several hundred to 3,500, has successfully defied the injunctions and prevented supervisors from entering the plant.

In previous clashes with management, goons and police, a number of pickets have been arrested while Local 410 officials are charged with contempt proceedings. But the union continued to defy the injunctions until yesterday's dispersal order.

It is expected that the coming week will see a renewed upsurge by the UE strikers and a defiant answer thrown back to the police.

Reading Union Hits Case Bill

We have received a letter from Local 197, AFL Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers, in Reading, Pa., informing us of two important resolutions recently passed by the local. One was a demand sent to the Senator to vote down the anti-labor Case Bill. The other pledged support to the move to prosecute George P. McNear, head of the Toledo and Peoria Railroad, whose armed strikebreakers murdered two strikers recently.

We welcome such local union letters and information and will be glad to publicize other such progressive actions.

General Motors Continues Arrogant Stand As Answer To UAW Delegates

(Continued from Page 1)

plan on the part of the company to undermine the union.

Corporation hopes to place the union "in a helpless bargaining position" lay back of its stubborn insistence on removing important union security provisions from the contract. Reuther argued. Besides the wage demands, a number of important questions were still in dispute after weeks of union-corporation negotiations. Reuther listed maintenance of membership, transfers and promotions, vacation pay and local union grievances.

Reuther blasted the corporation lie that the union's Top Negotiating Committee was holding out solely for the additional one cent an hour increase. But he lashed out at GM for offering only an 18½-cent increase in the face of the government Fact-Finding Board's recommendation for 19½ cents.

Citing the problems which had been created for the GM negotiating committee by the "company security" clauses in the Ford and Chrysler contracts, Reuther contended that the "one at a time strategy" might have worked if there had been "proper coordination."

SCORES UE AGREEMENT

But the separate agreement which the Stalinist-dominated CIO United Electrical Workers Union signed last month with the General Motors Corporation was "an act of treachery unparalleled in the history of the labor movement," Reuther charged. Pointing out that the UE ranks had been betrayed by their leaders, he condemned the secret, underhanded deal which had been made with GM.

In order to rescue these workers from their present treacherous leaders, Reuther announced that he would ask the coming CIO convention for UAW jurisdiction over the electrical workers in auto plants. Wild applause greeted this announcement. (In the discussion which followed the report, not a single Stalinist delegate dared to defend the UE leadership.)

New Big Strikes Loom

Balloting in the strike poll of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, two key railway unions, was running 98 per cent in favor of strike. It was announced on March 1, with 90 per cent of the vote completed. The final total is expected to be announced by March 6.

Unlike other railway unions, the trainmen and locomotive engineers have correctly rejected arbitration of their basic wage demands for a 25 per cent increase and 45 improvements in the working rules. The 215,000 organized trainmen and 78,000 locomotive engineers could effectively tie up virtually the entire railway system.

In addition to the pending railway walkout, the country's militant coal miners, whose bi-tuminous contract expires April 1, may be putting their traditional "no contract, no work" policy into effect on that date unless the operators meet the new demands of the AFL United Mine Workers.

UMW President John L. Lewis on March 2 informed the soft coal operators of the union's desire to reopen wage negotiations on March 12. He simultaneously filed a 30-day strike notice with the NLRB.

It is reported that the miners will seek wage increases above the 16 to 18½-cent "pattern" fixed by the administration in the packinghouse and steel cases. The miners cracked the Little Steel formula during the war—but it was not split wide open because the other unions failed to follow the miners' fighting example.

Perhaps the miners will crack the new "Big Steel" formula before it hardens into a real wage freeze.

Chrysler Contract

There has been a general hush-hush about the terms of the new Chrysler contract which the CIO United Auto Workers leaders concluded in January.

This contract was concluded in an utterly bureaucratic fashion over the heads of the Chrysler workers. The reason for this high handed conduct can be gleaned from two letters sent by UAW officials to the Chrysler Corporation on January 26. The letters reveal some of the impermissible concessions made to the corporation—concessions which the Chrysler workers would have rejected out-of-hand if there had been any prior full and free discussion of their real meaning.

In a letter to Robert W. Conder, director of labor relations for Chrysler Corporation, Norman Matthews, UAW-CIO National Chrysler Director, states that the International union disapproves of "violation and abuses by union representatives of the bargaining procedure" which were "due to lack of understanding and because of changing conditions during the war." He

states further that "a large percentage of time has been spent by Union representatives on matters other than provided for in the agreement" and that the UAW will "assign a full-time representative to see that this abuse of the bargaining procedure will be discontinued."

Thus, the resistance of local unions to the continued provocations and contract violations practiced by Chrysler during the war when the workers were shackled with the no-strike pledge is now slanderously labeled "abuses" by Matthews. He proposes to spend the union's money for an international representative, not to safeguard the workers from contract violations by the company, but to FROTECT THE COMPANY from the "abuse of the bargaining procedure" when local unions and grievance men seek to end company provocations!

Another vicious feature of the Chrysler contract is revealed in a letter from the International union office to Conder. This states that "the union and the company disapprove and will discourage their members or representatives from using or issuing statements in their official papers, handbills, newspapers or other literature which are inconsistent with amicable industrial relations between the parties."

This capitulation to the corporation's demand that the union surrender its rights of free speech and press is a most sinister precedent for the whole labor movement. Even if the corporation abides by this agreement, which is very doubtful, it can continue its anti-union propaganda indirectly through a thousand channels. It has the daily press and radio, Big Business political spokesmen from the city halls all the way up to Congress, "front" groups like the NAM and Chamber of Commerce.

This restriction is really aimed exclusively at silencing local unions and militant workers when they seek to expose the corporation's anti-union practices, provocations and contract violations. It would forbid them the right to publicize corporation profiteering, price hiking and political activities. Moreover, the whole lying inference of the "non-criticism" agreement is that the union in the past has been unjust and untruthful in its printed attacks on the corporation.

This concession to the corporation will be used by the company, in collaboration with the union officials, in attempts to suppress the voice of the workers when they seek to fight company abuses. It is a flagrant attack on freedom of speech and press which can only further encourage the invasion of the democratic rights of the unions.

Ask Your Shopmate To Subscribe to The Militant

TIGHTEN THE RANKS

(Continued From Page 1)

can plutocracy against organized labor, has determined to continue its resistance to the heroic GM strikers and attempt to starve them out. Big Business has an especially malevolent hatred for the GM workers because they have been the very backbone of the strike wave. Their struggle has been directly responsible for winning the wage increases in Ford and Chrysler and forcing the government to recommend the new "pattern" of wage increases up to 18½ cents an hour.

The Truman administration itself has given every encouragement to corporations like General Motors, General Electric and Westinghouse Electric to stall any settlements and drag out the strikes. The robber price boosts which the government has granted the steel moguls and meat barons has whetted the insatiable appetites of all the capitalists.

All of them are now clamoring for exorbitant price increases before they will accede to the just wage demands of the workers. All of them are counting on a generous capitalist government to safeguard their swollen profits through outrageous price inflation, and are holding out against the strikers with that end in view.

At the same time, direct attempts to smash strikes by violence and legal intimidation are mounting steadily. In Philadelphia and northern New Jersey the big electrical trusts have secured injunctions against mass picketing. The CIO workers have had to defend themselves in pitched battles with the police for their unrestricted right to picket and peacefully assemble. From one end of the country to the other come accounts of police terror and brutality against strikers and the use of court injunctions to open the way for strikebreakers.

The only answer to these new attacks is united action by the entire labor movement.

To the vicious and ruthless attempt of General Motors to starve out the GM strikers—the fighters to whom all labor owes an incalculable debt of gratitude—every worker, every union, every progressive-minded organization must answer with: ALL-OUT IMMEDIATE MATERIAL AID.

The mighty arm of labor solidarity alone can hold back the hand of hunger which is reaching out for the GM strikers and their families.

And to the court orders and police terror, like those invoked against the CIO Electrical Union strikers in Philadelphia, there can be but one decisive and effective reply: THE UNITED MASS ACTION OF ALL LABOR.

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Bronx Branch Housewarming

Saturday, March 9 8:30 p.m.

Join us in a social evening. Meet friends and neighbors who are Militant readers.

Refreshments . . . Dancing
1034 Prospect Ave.

Belgian Trotskyists Gain In Election

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT
 BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb. 25—The International Communist Party, Belgian Section of the Fourth International, participated in the election campaign in the Charleroi district. Out of 200,000 votes, the Trotskyist candidates received 1,100. This result, however, very imperfectly reflects the progress of our party.

The relatively small number of total votes cast indicates the political stagnation and lack of interest in the election among the masses. But the election campaign which we conducted in Charleroi was the best organized and the most fruitful of any we have yet engaged in.

Brass Hats Exile U.A.W. Militant To Okinawa

Sgt. Emil Mazey, one of the leaders of the Philippine GI demonstrations, has been "exiled" by Army Brass Hats to Okinawa, the "Siberia" of the Pacific area, according to a protest filed in Washington by the CIO Veterans' Committee.

Mazey headed the GI Committee which raised \$5,000 for advertisements in U. S. newspapers to publicize the plight of GIs held overseas who demand to be sent home. The tactics of the Manila committee set a pattern for GI demonstrations that swept around the world in January.

In civilian life, Mazey was president of the militant Briggs Local 212, CIO United Auto Workers. At the 1943 convention of the auto workers he led the fight of the progressives against the no-strike pledge and introduced a resolution for the formation of a labor party.

Mazey's transfer to Okinawa is one of numerous reprisals now being taken by Brass Hats against GIs who headed the January demonstrations.

which is extraordinary for a small party like ours. Before the war a whole year would not have brought us such results. Even more remarkable is the fact that almost 1,000 sympathizers contributed to the fund. And we received contributions, some of them quite large, from areas where we have no representatives.

SOUND TRUCK USED

Thanks to the success of the financial campaign we were able to really "electioneer" in the Charleroi area. For the first time in the history of our movement we utilized a sound truck which toured the entire region for four days. In every important community and at every factory we were thus able, for the first time, to broadcast the voice of the Trotskyists. More than 100 speeches were made in the sound truck and more than 50,000 leaflets or newspapers distributed.

In addition to neighborhood meetings, we organized a big meeting at Gilly. More than 600 people attended. All the party speakers received warm ovations from the audience, many of whom had come from distant places to hear our program. No other party was able to organize a meeting in Gilly as successful as ours.

The bourgeoisie prevented us from speaking over the radio. The Stalinists succeeded in keeping us off the ballot in Brussels, and in Charleroi they unleashed a vicious campaign of slander against us. But neither the pressure, the calumny, nor the terrorism were able to stop the militant Trotskyists.

RICH EXPERIENCE

This was the first election campaign for the greater part of our young comrades. They passed the test, emerging tempered, experienced, and above all, more closely linked to the masses.

The heightened popularity of our ideas, the wider circle of our sympathizers, and the increased number of members—this constitutes for us the balance sheet of the election campaign.

Belgian Stalinists And "Socialists" Block Election Victory Of Workers

Militant Action Wins Japanese Union Demand

In the five months since the surrender of Japan some 200 strikes have occurred. None of them have been as sweeping in character as the strikes in the same period in the United States, but they have nevertheless won significant gains for the workers.

Most of the strikes brought the workers wage gains as high as 500 per cent.

At the Tokyo Shibaure Electric Company the strikers barred the management from entering. They took over the plant, continued to operate it and stepped up production. They increased their wages five times.

EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES

The strikers adopted some very effective techniques. The street car operators, for instance, continued to operate the street cars after the strike was organized. They simply stopped taking fares and let the public ride free. Later they resumed taking fares, but deducted their own wages at the rate demanded by the union before turning over the balance of the proceeds to the company.

The telephone operators successfully used similar tactics. They refused to recognize telephone calls put through by the Communications Ministry. At the same time they made all public telephone calls free of charge. They won their demands.

The Good Old Days

"If the national accounts can be balanced by an expansion of exports, we shall at least be no worse off than in the years of the Great Depression." (The British Economist, Dec. 22, 1945.)

Japanese Workers Line Up For Food



As inflation in Japan brings soaring prices, the workers today are striking for wage increases. The photo above, taken shortly after V-J Day, shows one of the long lines of workers in Tokyo waiting for their meager food rations.

Call Nation-Wide Strike In Fight To Free Egypt

By Charles Carsten

A nation-wide general strike, called by the National Committee of Students and Workers as a "day of mourning" for the 14 martyrs killed during the February 21 anti-

British demonstrations, paralyzing Egypt on March 4.

The principal slogans shouted by demonstrating students and workers were "Down with England!" and "Evacuation or Revolution!" Thus they continued to press their standing demand that the British get out of Egypt. They also insisted on Egyptian sovereignty over the Sudan area which is now ruled by the British jointly with the Egyptian government.

In Alexandria, government police fired on demonstrators, seriously wounding 18. Alexandria

lords had the gall to request "punishment of the guilty, compensation and reassurances for the future."

The Egyptian government's reply has not been made public. Although Sidky Pasha claims to support demands for evacuation of British troops, on March 3 he appealed to the Egyptians to "remain quiet and refrain from demonstrations."

However, the rebellious students and workers did not heed his appeal. As they have done repeatedly in the past, they voiced their desire to rid the country of the oppressive British overlords. While the nation has nominal self-rule, the British control the economy, they station troops in the country, and hold important naval bases.

By E. Germain (Special to The Militant)

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Feb. 22—The legislative elections on February 17 led to a paradox in its results. In the House of Representatives, the government coalition of the Socialist Party, Communist (Stalinist) Party, and the bourgeois Liberal party now hold a majority of 20 seats. But in the Senate the reactionary

bourgeois party, the Christian Social party, gained an absolute majority.

The provincial elections of February 24 will complete the composition of the Senate, but it is extremely doubtful that the Christian Social party will be dislodged from its position. (The Christian Social party won 344 out of 696 Councilorships in the February 24 elections. This is only eight less than the combined Councilorships won by the Socialist-Stalinist Liberal coalition.—Ed.)

How did it happen that the most reactionary bourgeois party was able to win such a victory? No other explanation is possible than the following: The Belgian masses, finding further radicalization blocked politically, have lost interest in politics during the past half year. This was clearly evident throughout the whole election campaign. There was not the least sign of animation in any of the large parties. Their meetings did not arouse any enthusiasm. The most complete calm reigned. The debates among the different parties were not even sharp. One had the impression of watching a comedy in which the roles were assigned in advance.

MASSES DISILLUSSIONED

Whence arose this lack of interest among the working masses? It came from the deceptions practised by their leaders—the "Socialists," and above all, the "Communists." It arose from the fact that these parties, linked by their collaboration in the government with the bourgeois "liberals" and "technicians," did not pose before the voters any question capable of arousing the interest of the workers. It came from the fact that the masses for the past year, and above all during the monarchical crisis, discovered that their "leaders" were not ready at any time to engage in genuine struggle with the bourgeoisie on any issue whatever.

This was clearly expressed in the votes of the workers. Although immediately following the "liberation" the Stalinist party was well on the way to rolling up a crushing majority of workers, now it could not obtain more than 24 seats out of 202, most of these due to petty bourgeois votes. The Socialist party, which a year and a half ago was in full disintegration, obtained 69 seats, that is, has even gained in comparison with 1939.

There is no doubt that if the Socialist and Communist (Stalinist) parties had entered the election with a clear program and with the will of jointly forming a government, excluding all bourgeois parties from power,



Leon Lesoil

The founder of the Belgian Trotskyist movement, Leon Lesoil, arrested by the Nazis on June 22, 1941 for anti-fascist activities, died in Neuengamme Concentration Camp May 6, 1942. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Fourth International.

they would have obtained a large absolute majority even at the present time. But it is more than certain that if the elections had taken place six months ago, as the Trotskyists demanded, the reaction would have received a crushing defeat.

The fact is that from the end of the monarchical crisis the Trotskyists ceaselessly warned the masses that the postponement of the elections, together with the hesitations and evasions of the reformists and Stalinists on the question of the monarchy, would prepare a victory for the Christian Social party. This party mobilized all its forces in defense of Leopold III.

TROTSKYIST WARNING

But if the reformist and Stalinist chiefs from the beginning of the monarchical crisis had put the King on trial, if they had published their incriminating dossier on Leopold III, if they had demonstrated before the entire country the true role of the monarchy, the Christian Social party would have been incapable of making electoral capital on the question of the monarchy.

The Reformists and Stalinists want to maintain their coalition with the bourgeoisie. They do not want to "diminish the prestige of the monarchy and of the Royal House." It is their fear of the people which prevents them from agitating on the question of the monarchy as the interests of the workers necessitate. Thus they prepared the electoral victory of the reaction.

On the basis of the present parliament it is extremely difficult for the different parties to find a solution to the governmental crisis. The coalition

which has governed up to now is in danger of not obtaining a majority in the Senate. A "government of national unity" that is a coalition, widened to the Christian Social party, runs up against two difficulties. On the one hand the Christian Social party does not want the Stalinists in the Government, but the reformists don't want to enter the government if the Stalinists do not likewise participate. On the other hand there exists a powerful opposition in the Belgian Socialist party as well as in the Communist Party against any collaboration with the Christian Social party. If the leaders act against the wishes of the rank and file militants, they risk provoking splits, not grave crises.

In this political crisis the working class nevertheless has lost nothing of its militancy. Sporadic strikes broke out among the miners the day after the elections. In the bourgeois milieu and in their press one feels very well the fear of the capitalists at the possible violent reaction of the masses. That is why the bourgeoisie is doing everything it can to set up a government of "national unity" to which the reformist and Stalinist leaders will be tied even more tightly than in the past.

The Trotskyist slogan, "No coalition with the bourgeoisie," remains therefore more timely than ever. At the same time the correctness of our demand, Abolition of the Reactionary Senate, which we were the only ones to advance before the election, was quickly confirmed by events. The Trotskyists now say to the workers: There is no reason for your being demoralized. It is not you who were beaten in the election, but the false politics of your leaders. Your struggle must be continued in the field proper to it, the field of class action. There you will be victori-

I Saw Them Die In Calcutta's Streets

(Editorial Note: The following article is a condensed version of an eyewitness account of the 1943-44 famine in India. Estimated deaths were near 3,000,000. Another British-sponsored famine now threatens the lives of 10,000,000. The author is an American soldier, John Frederick Muehl. The complete article is printed in the January 1946 "Asia and the Americas." It was distributed by the India League of America.)

No one will ever really know how many died in the Bengal famine. Calcutta was the center, but it was certainly not the entirety. All over the province rice was dear and life was cheap. There was never a count, seldom even an estimate of the numbers that were burned in the city alone.

For the dogs of Calcutta this was not a famine but a time of feasting. They roamed the streets bloated and glassy-eyed, picking at human flesh and carrying human bones. They fell upon the bodies most freshly dead, attacking them as soon as resistance ceased. Occasionally a family sat crowded together, guarding its own and beating off the scavengers. More than once I saw a dog fighting with a hysterical woman for possession of a husband's body.

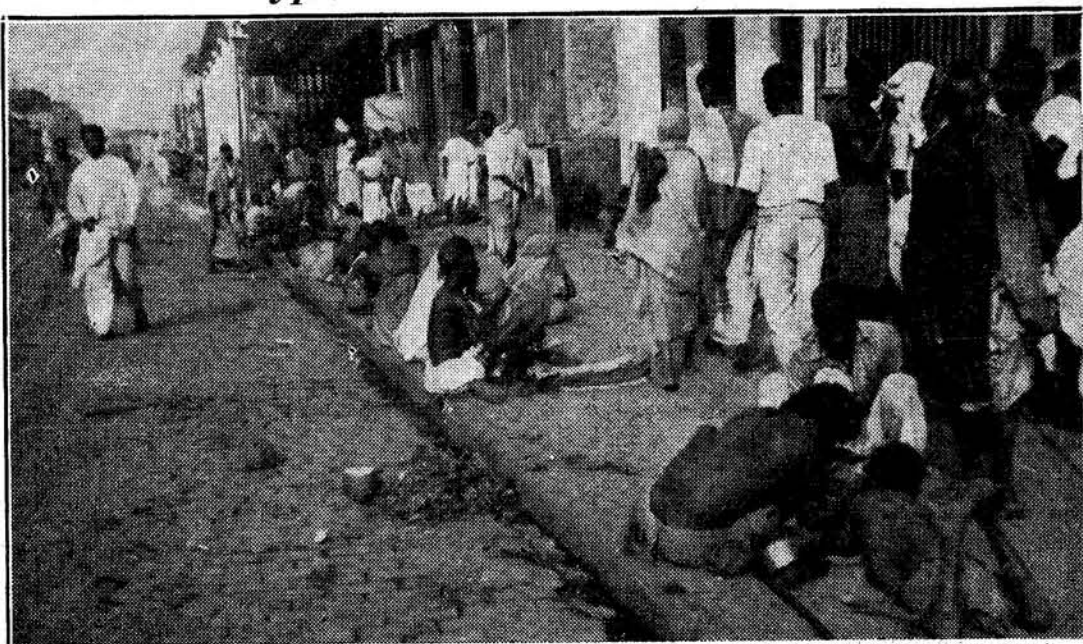
Streets Glutted With Dead

Though the dead were burned in great rotten heaps, the fires could never consume them fast enough. Though the air of the city was white and acrid, the streets were glutted with the dead and the dying, sprawled indiscriminately and overlapping, together on the street and in the gutter. But there was seldom a death on Chowringhee Road, for when a beggar appeared weak or dangerously emaciated, he was driven back into the native sections, to die out of sight among his own people.

That evening as I walked from the Grand Hotel, the worst of the misery was blotted out by the darkness. But as my foot treads echoed on the quiet walk, I could hear a continual stirring about me. An occasional hand would grasp at my passing leg; a voice would whisper, "Sahib! Sahib!" When I approached the entrance to Firpo's Restaurant, I was caught up sharply in horror and disgust. There in the doorway lay two nude bodies, still glistening with sweat in the semi-circle of light. I tried to avoid them as I mounded the step, but a young captain who was following close behind me was more considerate. Excusing himself from the girl he was escorting, he rolled them out into the darkness and entered after me, continuing his conversation . . .

The human mind can adjust to almost anything; I learned that by rote in my undergraduate years. But I never realized the significance of that axiom till the day in Calcutta when I found myself eating a candy-bar, disinterestedly watching a woman die . . . The tell-tale marks of chronic famine are plainly seen throughout Bengal. The beggars and untouchables have been stunted and withered, and half the population seems crippled or diseased. But the well-fed sahib bears the worst mark of all in his brutalized outlook and his bitter inhumanity. The cost of the famine, like the cost of our war, has been even greater than the lives that are lost. There is something that happens to all who live through it which leaves a stamp on the body or mind. Surely this is one of the costs of imperialism, this subtle contamination that enters the blood stream.

Typical Street Scene In India



Even this picture falls far short of conveying the actual conditions of starvation, filth and misery into which British imperialism has plunged the Indian people.

I learned next morning that the railroads were crowded and that I could not leave Calcutta for at least a week. But at breakfast I met a young lieutenant who suggested that I spend some time with him, promising that it would be "well spent, if a bit unpleasant." He was working, at the moment, with the Government of Bengal, evacuating bodies from the streets of Calcutta . . .

But instead I spent the day at the Calcutta Boat Club . . . While most of the men were out on the lagoons, I retired to a sitting room where the women were talking. Seizing the conversation when the opportunity presented itself, I directed it toward the subject of most immediate interest to me, the famine. I questioned the women about conditions in the city, and more tactfully I thought, about their own opinions. But I advanced too far and a charter member of the circle exploded in my face. "Look here, young man! This famine is causing us enough trouble already. On the streets we're virtually besieged. My garbage cans have been rifled twice within the week, and just last Monday the Club discovered that nearly half its ducks had been stolen right off the lagoons. You are apparently a stranger, so we can forgive you for not realizing it, but this subject is a very tiresome and unwelcome one to us all."

The others nodded their calm-approval and the speaker continued in a quieter, more friendly tone. "These Indians have been having their famines since the beginning of time. If they're not dying of malnutrition or starvation, why they're killing each other or dying of horrible Asiatic diseases. There have always been too many of them anyway. A few millions less would be no loss, least of all to you and me."

If I had not understood at that moment how they felt, I would shortly have learned. About an hour after lunch there was an outbreak of laughter which seemed to emanate from the group that was seated outside on the lawn. When the

meriment continued for several minutes, I went slowly to discover the cause. On the grass near the lagoon, an emaciated little Indian girl was chasing a crow with a broken wing. She had apparently hit the bird with a well aimed rock, but had failed to kill it immediately. Though the crow could not fly, it had managed to escape by fluttering and hopping across the grass.

The girl was aware that she might be punished for trespassing, but the crow was food and food was life. Alternately hesitating and pursuing, she looked to her audience for encouragement or disapproval. Though signs of both were evident, they were bewilderingly contradictory and deliberately meant to torment and confuse. The struggle within the child between hunger and fear was goaded to the utmost and laughed at uproariously. But the show ended prematurely with the capture of the crow and its subsequent killing by a twist of the neck. This last brought a groan from the women in the audience, who found it offensive and an ill-fitting conclusion for so humorous an episode.

I arose the next morning hours before dawn, driving to the burning yards in Crawford's staff car. When I approached the gate it was still very dark, and though I could not see, I smelled the horror within. The air was choking with dust and smoke, smelling of kerosene and burning flesh . . .

The grisly plot, seen by daylight, extended for hundreds of feet in every direction. From boundary to boundary, it was crammed with flesh, most of it too entirely decomposed ever to be denominated human bodies. Enormous rats dragged bony remains that as often as not fell apart at the touch. Snakes and dung-beetles crawled back and forth, fighting with each other and tearing at loose members. Though the bodies were dead, they quivered with life.

A load of logs was brought in in a bullock cart and was spread on the ground in parallel patterns. The coolies arose from mats where they

slept and began loading bodies on top of the logs. The process was repeated again and again, till the alternating layers stood shoulder high. Then kerosene was poured liberally over the pile, precipitating a nauseating and unbelievable exodus of the insects and vermin which infested the bodies. Blow torches were applied at the bottom of the piles, and the coolies moved on to other pyres . . .

A dispatch rider went out ahead of our trucks to determine the sections that most needed evacuation, and to report what streets would afford the "best pickings." When he returned he carried, in addition to that information, a sheaf of complaints from prominent citizens whose yards and driveways had not been cleared. In Calcutta, the surest sign of influence is property free from the remains of the dead. Among the complaints was one from a Christian mission, promising court action if its grounds were not cleared. The one which interested me most, however, read: "I have lived in Calcutta through several famines when the bodies were removed with commendable expedition. The inefficiency of the present administration taxes my faith in the existing instrumentalities."

As we drove up before a Famine Relief Station, a bag of rice was being distributed to the lucky few who stood nearest the shelter. The queue pushed forward, those at the head anxious to get their share before the supply was exhausted. But the majority of the line moved slowly and skeptically, obviously aware of the tragic limitations of a single bag of rice among thousands of people. While the living were fed in front of the basha, the dead were being counted in a yard to the rear.

A Man-Made Famine

That evening, when Crawford introduced me to his Major, I asked about the Famine Relief Stations. I was anxious to know just what they were doing and how many lives they were able to save. My questions were direct and his answers were frank. "You can't stop a famine with a few bags of rice, you know. And you can't save a great many lives with what little there is. But the Stations serve a double purpose; otherwise they'd hardly be worth maintaining. Just the chance of a handful of rice will attract those who are close to collapse, and even if we're unable to feed them, it makes the bodies much easier to collect."

Accepted long ago as a member of the Raj, since I had been serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps in Burma, I was not surprised by this frankness. I was much too close for the patent explanations, and had come to be considered "one of the family." A Lieutenant Colonel in a Rifles regiment, with whom I traveled from Calcutta to Nagpur, was equally candid in his discussion, and was particularly bitter with reference to the cause of the famine. "It's not just the result of a drought, you know. In part, it's a man-made famine."

At this last I sat bolt upright in my seat, for I had suspected as much but had feared to believe it. "The British Army has encouraged and subsidized the local black market so that it can buy its food rather than ship it in. It's more expensive to pay profiteers' prices, but it's not hard to outbid the natives of Calcutta. It's costly and it's brutal, but we continue to do it because it saves our damned valuable shipping space."

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Says Trotskyists Are Genuine Marxists

In the latest Militant, I read with great interest the article by the editors entitled: "Red-Baiting, Stander — Stalinist Style." In that article was quoted a vicious attack upon the SWP by the March 1 People's World, West Coast Stalinist paper. It refers to your Los Angeles majority platform.

When I read this, I understood that I owe you a very profound apology indeed. I see now that you did call for an end to the murder of the workers of Europe, while said murder was going on. This clears up in my mind the very last doubt regarding your devotion to the international working class.

Frankly, I couldn't understand what I believed to be your silence concerning the slaughter of German non-combatant workers and peasants. I know now that you were not silent, and I fully realize the courage you possessed to write such statements into your platform in 1945! Some of my friends who agree with me in this matter, are also greatly impressed.

They are wondering, would it be possible to obtain a copy of that majority platform, that we may show it to others, to convince them that one party, at least, dared to raise its voice against the greatest horror the world had yet known... to raise its voice here in the USA, the great Wall Street bastion; to raise its voice, not only AFTER the war, but DURING it. We will gladly pay for this copy, if we may have one, and if you will let us know how much it is.

Best of wishes to you now and always... I realize now you are the only Marxist party worthy of the name.

Belle Montague
Cambridge, Mass.

On Unemployment Pay To Jobless Veterans

I read with interest an article in the N. Y. Times, dated February 22 from Albany. It stated: "Governor Dewey signed the Pillion-Burney bill today authorizing unemployment insurance benefits to veterans out of work because of a strike. It was stated that actual payments under the new law would begin the week starting March 4.

"On that date also veterans who have been on strike for seven weeks through strikes may make application for benefits of \$20 a week, to begin then. The duration of benefits is limited to the sum to which they would be entitled under Federal readjustment allowance. The fact that these Federal allowances are cut off where a veteran is out of work because of a strike led to the introduction of the Pillion-Burney bill upon the recommen-

Concentration of Wealth

There are only half as many banks in the U. S. as in 1920, but they have three times as many assets.

Where You Can Buy 'Fourth International'

- AKRON**
Militant Bookshop, Everett Bldg., 406-6 Everett Bldg., 39 E. Market St.
- BERKELEY, CALIF.**
Sather Gate Book Shop, 2338 Telegraph Ave.; Whitney's corner Bancroft and Telegraph Ave.
- CHICAGO**
51st St. L. Station; News Exchange, 51 S. Main; Ceshinsky's Bookstore, 2750 W. Division St.; University of Chicago Bookstore, 5802 S. Ellis Ave.; Randolph News Shop, 63 W. Randolph; Newstand N.W. corner 51st and Cottage Grove.
- DETROIT**
Family Theater Newsstand, opposite theater, Carls Book Store, 9109 Woodward Ave. Cass Newsstand, Cass at Michigan Ave. Michigan Ave. Militant Bookshop, 6108 Linwood.
- LOS ANGELES**
NE Corner, 5th and Main; 326 W. 5th Street; Consolidated Bldg. 6th and Hill; 2210 1/2 Blyth Ave.; 175 N. DeWitt and Hollywood Blvd.; 1065 N. Los Palms and Hollywood Blvd.; 335 1/2 S. Hill St.
- MILWAUKEE**
Militant Book Shop, 424 E. Wells St., Room 21, Newsstand, N. E. Corner Plankinton, 2nd Wisconsin.
- MINNEAPOLIS**
Labor Book Store, 16 South 4 Street.
- NEW YORK**
Newsstands on 14th Street, between 2nd and 6th Aves.; 42nd St. between 8th & 9th; 116 University Place.
- NEWARK**
Progressive Workers' School, 423 Springfield Ave.
- PHILADELPHIA**
13th and Market Streets.
- PITTSBURGH**
Kauffman's Dept. Store, Book Dept.
- PORTLAND, ORE.**
Rich's cor. S.W. Washington and S.W. 6th Ave.
- SAN FRANCISCO**
Duncan's Newsstand, 1888 Sutter St.; Rays Smoke Shop, 1174 Sutter St.; MacDonald's Book Store, 867 Mission St.; Golden Gate News Agency, 81-3rd St.; Fitzgerald News Agency, 21-4th St.; San Francisco School of Social Science, 305-Grant Ave., 4th Fl.
- SAN DIEGO**
242 Broadway.
- SAN PEDRO**
Socialist Workers Party, Rm. 214, 1008 S. Pacific Ave.; Johnson's Book Store, 234-4th St.; Johnson's Pool Hall, 531 Bascom St.; LaRue Pharmacy, 1309 Pacific; Abrams Pharmacy, 1002 South Gayfer.
- SEATTLE**
Eckert's corner, Washington and 1st Ave.; Bishop Drug Store, 807 Jackson St.; Barrett's Book Store, 905 3rd Ave.; Pool Room, 500 Main Street.
- ST. LOUIS**
Foster's Book Store, 410 Washington Ave.
- TOLEDO**
Hirsch News, 219 St. Clair St.; Athletic Sport Center, 906 Washington St.; M. & M. Drugstore, Michigan St. and Madison Ave.; Militant Book Shop, 213 Michigan St.; Orchard Drug Store, 3059 W. Bancroft; St. John's News Co., 408 Jefferson.

Mink Coat For Her Dog



Has it been a hard winter for you? It hasn't been for Lillian Elke of Chicago, or her dog "All-American Captain Beanie," who wear matching mink coats, in the very best style. Beanie's fur coat, fastened with corded silk buttons, cost a mere \$250. He owns eight pieces of clothing, including a raincoat with a hood, to keep him comfortable in any weather. While you're shivering on a picket line, think of Beanie!

Acme Photo

Pioneer Notes

Three letters this week from branches of the Socialist Workers Party all tell of successes in selling A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow and The Struggle for Negro Equality. These two pamphlets are in great demand, not only from the SWP branches, but also from individuals who write in.

Baltimore writes: "We have done fairly well in selling Jackson's pamphlet on the street. We sold 81 copies on two Saturday evenings on Dolphin and Pennsylvania Streets in the heart of Northwest Baltimore. We are sure that before the month is out we will have sold the 120 copies we have on hand and will be wanting more copies."

And from Detroit we hear: "Sunday, February 24, we had a meeting at which Grace Carlson spoke on 'The Myth of Race Superiority.' The speech was very good and we had a very full hall. The literature we sold was The Struggle for Negro Equality and A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow."

Chicago sent in this enthusiastic report: "Ten of us covered an FEPC rally at the Coliseum here. We distributed 1,000 Militants and could have used 500 more if we had had them... We also sold 100 copies each of The Struggle for Negro Equality and A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow — all we had with us. All this was done in a period of one hour. The only competition we had was from a small group of Socialist Party members, who passed out some insipid announcements and tried hard not to look too impressed at the number of comrades we had present and the amount of literature we were selling."

A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, by Charles Jackson, second edition, 10c. The Struggle for Negro Equality, by Albert Parker and John Saunders, third edition, 10c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK — The Trotskyist Youth Group, 116 University Place, holds its weekly forum every Friday at 8 p. m. Dancing and refreshments after every meeting. Send name and address for weekly announcement... Friday, Mar. 8, 8 p. m. "Twilight of the British Empire." Harlem: Every Monday, 8 p. m., class on "Fundamentals of Socialism," Dick Guerrero, instructor, 103 W. 110 St., R. 23.

PHILADELPHIA — Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p. m., 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.

some time that the present government policy toward GIs was aimed at using them to lower prevailing wages in industry, this brought it closer to home for me.

Who benefits from this policy? The veteran? No! After one year, he will find himself still working for 60 cents per hour, minus the subsidy.

R. O. Philadelphia

Reader Approves Praise for S.W.P.

Editor: On the letter by D. M. from Detroit, in his suggestion of the writers not to dress up the articles too much and not to propagandize the "Join our movement because we are so wonderful." I personally disagree. It is through this way of writing and always urging, that we will get more members to our party. I'm for it! We need more people to help us in all this unending work.

I would like more articles such as V. Grey wrote back in the November 24 issue, to explain why it is so important for people who understand and see the need for our program to join us and help continue the struggle for a better world.

If it's possible, would you please reprint that wonderful article by V. Grey.

P. N., a New Member
Detroit

Workers' Debts Grow
Home mortgages held by the Federal Housing Authority have increased 3.3 times since 1938.

Reader Condemns Doles, Wants Full Production

Editor: Nineteen people out of twenty, on being questioned, will declare that they have no desire to become millionaires. They want only enough money to secure for themselves and their dependents the essential things of life. In other words, they want security.

In the golden days of free enterprise when land was free and everybody had an opportunity to "go into business," it was possible for an individual to accumulate enough to assure his personal security. But, at present, many millions of people are dependent upon the whims of ruthless corporations for an opportunity to secure a day-to-day livelihood.

The chances for obtaining personal security has gone the way of the wooden plow and the horse and buggy. So it is necessary now to obtain social security.

President Roosevelt inaugurated a social security plan and President Truman and many others are demanding that his plan should be enlarged. This is an appropriate time to discard wishful thinking and emotional approaches to the subject and analyze the plain facts.

All of the present social security plans anticipate mass unemployment on such a large scale that local authorities will be unable to cope with it and only the national government can meet and cope with it.

Politicians and the big industrialists are constantly assuring us that they want to create general prosperity. But that is impossible so long as there are large numbers of unemployed workers subsisting on security doles that are just above the starvation level.

The fact that all of these plans anticipate a vast number of unemployed workers on a starvation dole is sufficient reason for their condemnation. These plans, in effect, prohibit the worker from buying the things that he needs today, in the hope that he may buy them next year or sometime in the distant future — if he should live until then. But they do not make any provision for producing those things. That is left to the whims of the powerful corporations which own the means of production.

Our production facilities are now so developed that it is possible to produce all of the services and good things of life that the people need. Thus, it is just as illogical, unnecessary, uneconomical, and unstatesmanlike to prevent people from buying all the things they need as it would be to prevent them from using all of the air they need when there is enough for all.

There is enough air to meet all human needs and we have the materials and man-power to provide the things of life that the people need. So why should people be prevented from buying the things they need under a security program or any other pretext?

Instead of preparing for mass unemployment under the guise of social security, why not prepare for full employment with wages that will enable the worker to buy the things he produces? That method will create general and permanent prosperity.

Frank Simpson,
San Diego, Calif.

USES Forces Veterans Into Low Pay Jobs

Editor: A little experience I had at the Unemployment Compensation office should be of interest to other Militant readers, in general.

After being unemployed for six weeks, and futilely seeking a job that would pay better than the \$20 a week unemployment compensation that I collect, I sought out one of the job placement interviewers at the U.C.C. He was a sympathetic fellow and told me that he had no job listed for which he thought I would qualify.

"You see," he said, "the only openings we have are calls for veterans to work as learners. The employers only pay them 50 or 60 cents an hour, while the government subsidizes them for \$90 a month. I can send you on such a job, but the government won't pay any subsidy for you. Do you think you could AFFORD to take such a job?"

J. R. Freeport, L. I.

PINE

(On December 26, 1945, at Pineville, Kentucky, 23 miners were killed in a mine explosion.) Like the massacred victims of Butcher Hans Frank the miners of Pine were sentenced to die. In a maelstrom of murder, shut off from the sky while the hangmen lamented, (Yes, crocodiles cry!)... There were tears to be sure, but they flowed from their own. Only workers could grieve, feeling deep, lasting pain. At the slaughter of innocents ruthlessly slain. That their blood might propitiate the Great God of Gain... But we shall not forget, and we shall not forgive. We shall pass on its memory in letters of flame. As a day of injustice, a symbol of shame. Until We—as the jury, apportion the blame.

Eddie Dumaine

dation of Oswald D. Heck, Speaker of the Assembly."

It sure is unfortunate that they cannot get UE insurance in Jersey state. Why doesn't Governor Edge follow the footsteps of Governor Dewey in New York?

I wish you would publish this fact in this week's issue of The Militant, for the benefit of those veterans who possibly overlooked it, as it was buried on Page 10 of the N. Y. Times. Just think of the good you will do for plenty of veterans who are not aware of it. They sure deserve a break. As you will note this goes into effect March 4th—MONDAY. Thanks so much.

World War Veteran
New York

Police Beat Negro For Boarding Bus

In another vicious Jim Crow attack, Detroit police on February 24 again showed their ruthlessness as agents of the "democratic" capitalist system. Boarding a Toledo bus, an elderly Negro man was refused passage on the ground that he had "cut the line." The driver, after the usual Jim Crow insults, attempted to bar his entrance onto the already crowded bus. When the man succeeded in forcing his way onto the coach in the presence of local Greyhound authorities, the station manager called two policemen who promptly proceeded to pummel and push him from the bus.

During the struggle such humble queries as "Why are you treating me like this?"... "I

just want to go to Toledo" "I was a gentleman, not hurting anybody"... "Please just let me stand in the bus"... were heard.

As the Negro vainly attempted to resist the police, they pulled him along the sidewalk to a metal post where they beat his head unmercifully against it. Their answer to his pitiful sobs were taunts and jibes and kicks. They then marched him, already weak and totally beaten to a private automobile for the customary "ride."

The passengers, in a hurry to be on their way, made a few slight protests. "He wasn't bothering anyone—Let him ride," etc. However, the police intervention seemed to quell any real protests they might have made.

Such vicious Jim Crowism, repeated endlessly throughout the country, reveal more sharply every day, the rising tide of the reactionary role that the agents of the government play.

Florence Hayes
Detroit, Mich.

For a Larger Old-Age Pension

Editor: I am 82 years old, and always did stand for the truth. Therefore, I am sending my renewal to The Militant, along with a few more subscribers, written on the back of the renewal card.

Please take up the old age assistance cause. It is very hard for us to live on our allowance now. Thank you.

E. E. Hague
New Castle, Pa.

Corruption Grips Nassau County, Scene Of Ferguson Murder Case

Editor: The brutal Jim-Crow murder of the Ferguson Brothers is only one of the culminations of decades of boss rule in Nassau County, Long Island. There have been others as atrocious. And there will be more, unless Nassauites awaken and sweep out the filthy, money-pandering politicians who now exploit them.

Nassau County is in the grip of a powerful political octopus as ruthless and despotic as the Pendergast or Vane machines in their palmy days.

Nassau County consists of three

towns and two cities, embracing more than 50 villages in an intricate, interlocking system of government from which the politicians pluck their plunder.

From the semi-industrial South Shore of Long Island, where the Boss rules the local setups under the guise of ever-shifting, evanescent "non-partisan" parties, to the Gold Coast of the North Shore, where maids and footmen and butlers solemnly goosestep into drawing rooms to elect Lords of the Manors as mayors of tax-evading incorporated estates, the Sprague monarchy grips tensely.

J. Russel Sprague (one "I," please), is Boss of the whole county. He rules completely, unopposed, omnipotent. Not a plum falls without his regal nod. Research into the records of the Board of Supervisors for the last 15 years shows but one "Nay" vote. That poor wretch, though he apologized through two meetings, paid for his single dissent with his political life.

Boss Sprague wields the scepter he inherited from his uncle, the late Boss Doughty, with a heavy hand and great striking power. He has added to his lustre. He now controls two political parties in Nassau County, the Democratic as well as the Republican. The County Democratic leader, holder of a well-paid job as Commissioner of Jurors, never makes more than a shadow of a campaign.

The two and three-to-one Sprague majorities pile up monotonously. Freeprot, scene of the wanton killing of the Ferguson boys which the Sprague district attorney whitewashed last week, has a section known as Bennington Park. Freeprotors don't even pass through this place, if they can avoid it. Except Freeprot's segregated Negroes. They must live there. They live in hovels, sleep in shifts, live in unimaginable squalor, in shacks with broken doors, stuffed windows, primitive or no toilet facilities, freezing in winter, insect and disease breeding in summer. Hempstead and Rockville Centre, both in the county, have sections as bad.

Freeprot now has the chance, mainly at state expense, and by

a simple act of the Village Board, to replace these slums with new, modern apartment units for its Negro citizens. But not The machine has lost face. Negroes have dared to protest the murder of two boys. The chief of police has been criticized, the village board, even Boss Sprague! Someone must suffer. Who? Why the Negroes, of course!

So the Village Board has decreed that the proposal must be placed on the ballot in the March election, where political machination will undoubtedly result in its defeat.

And then these well-fed, warmly-housed "fat-cat" officeholders went forth to pay lip-service to "Brotherhood Week" in the controlled press! Next day they emphasized their brotherhood by discontinuing all assistance to Child Care Centres for working mothers in the village.

Where is the "Voice of the People," the "free" capitalist press? Its vocal cords well stuffed with money, it speaks when told to, says what its masters command.

There are two dailies in Nassau County. One is owned by the Guggenheim millions, and published by the Crown Princess of Joseph Patterson, owner of the New York City Daily News. It makes faint, feeble yips at minor Sprague policies, and supports him in vital ones.

The other is the direct mouthpiece of Sprague. It is backed by powerful utility and contracting interests, and published by one of the behind-the-scenes wirepullers who manipulate Sprague. Its editor is an imported Kentucky Colonel, sub, who has all of the Bourbonisms. He openly espouses lynching, and on two occasions in his editorials has advocated the rope for Negroes. He mumbles that suspected thieves should be shot on sight, to save the state the trouble of a trial and incarceration. Some of these bloodstained magnolia blossoms he has waived into print have caused violent protest, but you'd never know it if you lived in Nassau County.

Truman Signs Phony Bill On Jobs As Unemployment Rapidly Mounts

By Ruth Johnson

All the capitalist politicians' promises about "Sixty Million Jobs" dwindled into nothing on February 20 when President Truman signed the Employment Act of 1946. The adoption of this completely emasculated version of the original "Full Employment" Bill—now changed to "Maximum Employment"—caused scarcely a ripple in the capitalist press. The only jobs actually guaranteed by the bill are contained in its provisions for three \$15,000-a-year experts who will serve as economic advisers.

While Congress and the Administration were engaged in their sham debate on this measure, the capitalist government and kept press instituted a conspiracy of silence and misrepresentation on the real extent of unemployment already gripping this country.

FIGURES FALSIFIED

The newspapers buried the most recent government figures, issued by the Department of Labor, which admit over three million unemployed and anticipate six million jobless by June 30. But even these figures are a falsification of the true situation. They are based exclusively on the number applying for unemployment compensation and registering with the United States Employment Service. The government's figures arbitrarily exclude millions of working women and youth, laid off since V-J Day, who are told to return to their homes and schools and are not officially recognized as "unemployed."

A truly significant indication of the ravages of unemployment are the figures on jobless veterans. General Omar N. Bradley, head of the Veterans' Administration, on February 20, the day the bill was signed, stated: "We are concerned over the fact that estimates based on the latest census survey show about 1,000,000 veterans unemployed. In addition, over 1,500,000 more veterans not yet actively seeking work, will enter the labor market shortly and many of these will

join the ranks of the unemployed. What does the "Maximum Employment" really provide for these millions already unemployed?

ONE PROVISION

All this measure requires is that the President shall annually submit to Congress a message citing the level of employment, and proposing a program to "provide full employment opportunities." What that program shall be is not specified, except that the government which ran up a \$300-billion war debt is not permitted to engage in "deficit spending" to ease the plight of the unemployed. Congress, of course, is not required to accept any proposals brought before it by the President.

Why then the long and bitter debate over this worthless measure in Congress? Simply because the original version of the bill contained a statement of principles which implied that the government had responsibility to the American people for providing the means to guarantee full employment. The overwhelming majority of Congress strenuously objected to the very conception of full employment, let alone any promises to work for its achievement!

On this account the disputed phrase "Full Employment" was dropped from the title of the bill and substituted for it was the subtitle, "Maximum Employment, Production and Purchasing Power."

The liberals and labor leaders who were making such a clamor about "Sixty Million Jobs" have let out scarcely a peep about the adoption of this "free enterprise" bill. It offers not a single measure either to alleviate the immediate problem of unemployment or to solve the more fundamental problem of recurrent capitalist economic crises.

Union Heads Flay Case Bill As Revival Of 'Blacklists'

The Case Bill, to establish an "anti-labor Gestapo" and Federal blacklists to make lifetime outlaws of pickets and strike supporters, may come to a vote in the United States Senate within a week, rushed through by the same labor-baiters who framed the Smith-Connally Act. The National Association of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States both came forward as sponsors of some of the main features of the bill, while labor leaders, at hearings before the Senate Labor Committee, exposed it as "slavery," "government by injunction" and an invitation to corporation violence.

COMPANY PROVOCATEURS

Lee Pressman, CIO legal counsel called the Case Bill a "new drive for a Federal anti-labor Gestapo . . . reminiscent of the fascist corporate state." He declared the bill tells a worker: "If you are engaged in a picket line scuffle . . . which does not conform to drawing-room standards of conduct, you are for the rest of your life deprived of your right to vote in a labor board election . . . you are outside the law . . . on a blacklist, you have no redress. A more perfect union-busting provision could scarcely be devised."

Wally Hopkins, general counsel for the AFL United Mine Workers, declared the bill would reduce workers to "wandering nomads," deprived of all working rights, with loss of pay and of any protection by the Wagner Labor Relations Act. He said it would be simple to outlaw workers for the acts of corporation provocateurs who might be used to start trouble on picket lines just to get workers victimized.

William Green, AFL president, termed the bill a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment forbidding slavery. He called it "a flat and permanent prohibition of the right to strike in usual and ordinary circumstances" and a return to "government by injunction."

REVIVES BLACKLIST

"The hateful blacklist is revived," Green declared, "and this time it would have formal support of the Federal Government." He pointed out that "violence by the employer is nowhere mentioned or punished."

In sharp contrast, Otto Sey-Subscribe To The Militant Use Coupon Page 2

FEPC Meeting Hears Plan For Capitol March

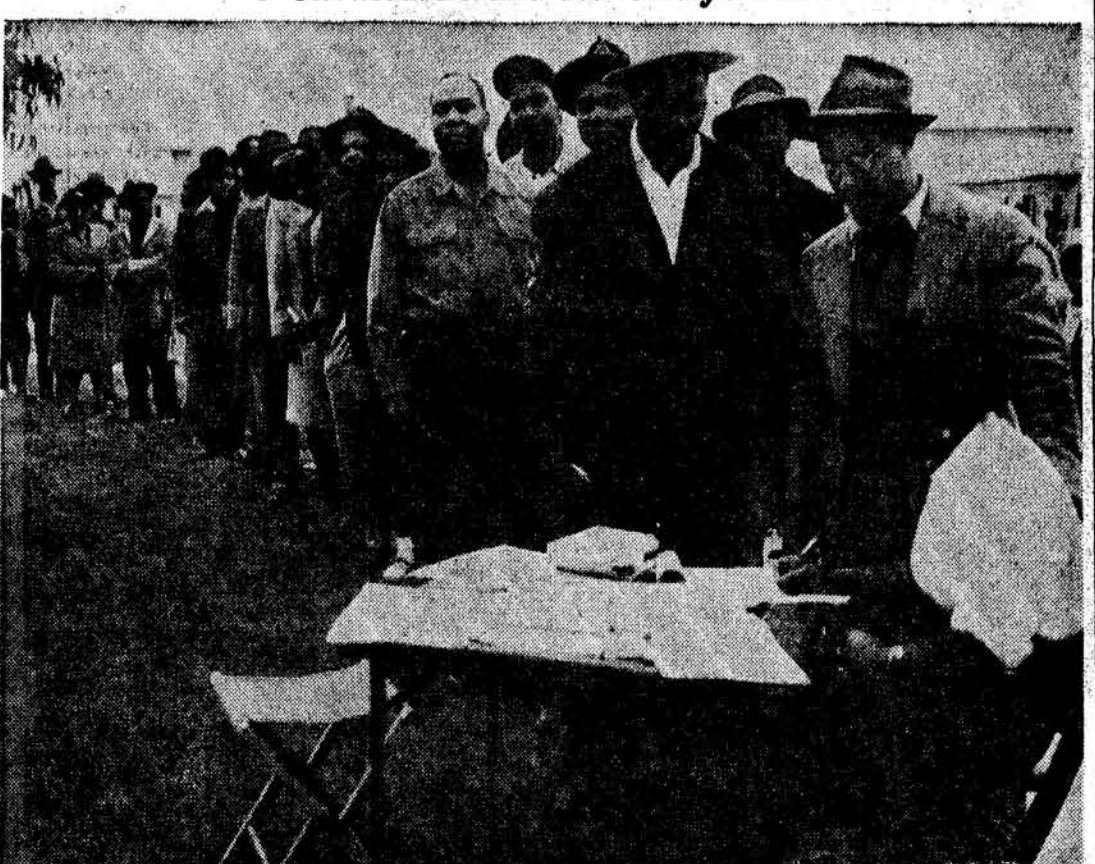
SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT
JERSEY CITY, Feb. 24—A well-attended rally to demand passage of the Fair Employment Practices Bill today enthusiastically greeted A. Philip Randolph's announcement of definite plans for a March on Washington. Randolph is president of the AFL Pullman Porters and of the March on Washington Movement.

The meeting held at the local Lincoln High School Auditorium was marked by a fine spirit. A resolution was passed unanimously charging the Democratic and Republican parties with complete failure to fulfill their promises to the Negro people and paying only lip-service to democracy. The resolution called for electing only those people who mean what they say.

Randolph drew tremendous applause when he pointed out the hypocritical contradiction of a U. S. policy that claims to teach democracy to the Japanese yet refuses to provide elementary protection to racial minorities at home.

Though Randolph stated that the major capitalist political parties had failed miserably in their promises, that for him it was a Tweedledum-Tweedledee choice, he nevertheless, failed to draw the obvious and logical conclusion—the need to build an independent labor party.

Demand FEPC In California



These workers in Watts, California, are waiting in line to sign petitions demanding that the question of establishing a state FEPC be submitted to the people by regular ballot. A state-wide campaign, in which the Socialist Workers Party is participating, is now being conducted to obtain 300,000 signatures on the FEPC petitions. The California Legislature recently killed an FEPC bill, thus necessitating petition action on the part of the workers.

WLB Record Shows Why Labor Should Get Off The New Board

By Jeff Thorne

While the top union leaders sharply criticize Truman's new "wage-price stabilization" policy as an attempt to put over a "Big Steal" wage-freezing formula, representatives of the CIO and AFL are sitting on the very Wage Stabilization Board established to enforce the government's policy.

The union leaders are thus continuing, in effect, the role they played in bolstering up the new Board's predecessor. This was the late unlamented National War Labor Board which imposed the wartime Little Steel wage-freezing formula.

The whole history of the National War Labor Board serves as an object lesson for labor. It is well to review that history now, since the new Wage Stabilization Board has been devised as a similar government instrument for curbing labor, stalling the settlement of grievances, whitening down the workers' demands and freezing wages.

The National War Labor Board was quietly buried on December 31, 1945, after it had completely exposed its pro-corporation character and stood thoroughly discredited in the eyes of labor. Its last act, one hour before its dissolution, was to deny a general wage increase to the Western Union workers and cut in half a wage award recommended by the New York regional panel.

NWLB HISTORY
In its four wartime years the NWLB had helped freeze wage rates at 15 per cent above 1941 while prices soared at least 50 per cent. It had broken hundreds of strikes. It had stalled 20,000 major grievances of 14,000,000 workers and came to be known as the "Graveyard of Grievances." It was discarded only when rising labor militancy and strike action ran roughshod over its authority and it was incapable any longer of fulfilling its wage-freezing, labor-shackling function.

During the very negotiations to set up the WLB, a Militant headline on December 20, 1941, warned "New Board Planned to Curb Labor." Another headline on January 10, 1942, declared, "Unions Face Runaround From WLB," and a week later, "New Board Stacked Against Labor" and so on for four years.

The top union officials, however, accepted and even acclaimed the WLB. Its loudest champions were the Stalinists.

STALLING BECOMES ART
Right after the WLB was established, the CIO national executive board on January 26, 1942, called on all CIO unions to demand "substantial wage increases" and the closed shop in future contracts. But the bosses answered all demands, "Take it to the WLB."

Soon the CIO referred to the board the wage demands of steel and General Motors workers. After eight months of stalling, the \$1 a day increase

Jim-Crow Rink Denied Injunction Against Pickets

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)
CHICAGO, Feb. 26—Superior Court Judge Donald S. McKinley last Monday denied the request of Howard Fox, owner of White City Roller Rink, for an injunction to stop picketing protests against the rink's Jim-Crow policy. McKinley ruled that the rink bars Negroes, in violation of the Illinois Civil Rights law, and therefore has no right to relief in a court of equity.

For nine weeks the White City rink has been picketed by representatives of over 15 labor and community organizations united to protest Jim Crow. Among the organizations supporting the fight are the Chicago CIO Council; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Chicago Urban League; Committee of Racial Equality; Labor's Council for Community Action; Socialist Workers Party; United Transport Service Employees, CIO; Socialist Party; Chicago Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, and many CIO local unions.

Michael Mann, Executive Secretary of the Chicago CIO Council, testified that picketing on nights when he was present, had been peaceful. He stated that the CIO actively supports the fight to end Jim Crow at White City because it is CIO policy to fight racial discrimination everywhere.

"CLUB" EXPOSED

Gerald Bullock, chairman of the Committee of Racial Equality which initiated the White City picketing, exposed the "membership card" trick by which Jim Crow is maintained. On December 21, he was informed by Fox that "membership" books were closed, and no further members would be admitted to the "skating club" until others dropped out. A large number of "members" however, were later admitted. The "club" was not even chartered until January 9, four days after "club" manager Robert Michell had been arrested for violation of the Illinois Civil Rights law.

M. J. Myer, co-defense attorney with Leon Despres, assailed the "club" as a subterfuge whose only reason for existence is to exercise discrimination against Negroes.

Hearings on the warrants secured for the arrest of Michell for violation of the Civil Rights law will be held before a jury in the Criminal Court Building.

Immediately Roosevelt ordered Ward stores "seized" by the army. This action broke the strike. Meanwhile the WLB order was ignored and the stores operated at a rising and guaranteed profit to the corporation. Only when the Ward workers brought Avery to his knees in a second strike last November, was anything gained for the workers. But this came after the WLB, was practically dead from disgrace. Avery finally granted general raises and agreed to bargain further increases.

The final WLB report December 31, 1945, listed the following among its achievements: "Basic wage rates were held within narrow limits" (while prices rose 45 per cent). About 415,000 untested wage adjustment applications were "processed," involving 26,300,000 employees. In another 65,000 cases the WLB denied wage raises granted without its prior approval, and 4,289 employers who gave such raises, were referred to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for tax penalties. No penalties were provided for employers falling to raise even the most substantial pay.

A NEW FRAUD

So bitter did the workers' resentment against the pro-employer WLB become, that the insistent demand arose for the union leaders to "Get Off the WLB!" Early in 1945 the CIO United Auto Workers called on the CIO to break with the WLB—although the UAW leaders never took that step themselves. But the union leaders clung to the WLB to the very end.

Now they are acting as a "labor front" for Truman's new Wage Stabilization Board whose basic function is no different than that of Roosevelt's WLB. It is up to the union ranks now to demand that the union leaders get off the WSB immediately.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

Origin and Significance of "Race"

We often hear heated discussions among Negro "intellectuals" as to whether the use of the term "Negro" is proper or not. Some contend that the word means black and should therefore not be used because there are very few pure blacks in America today, as a result of the fact that the Southern plantation owners practiced social equality to such a great degree during the time of chattel slavery.

Some say the word has taken on the meaning of someone low or base or innately inferior. This, of course, is but a reflection of the job the capitalist controlled society has done in an effort to pound into the heads of the white workers the myth of white supremacy. Some say "Afro-American" is more proper.

But after all, what's in a name? It is the origin, the present relationship and the future role of any group of people in our society that is really important.

WHAT "NEGRO" MEANS

In America the word Negro means practically any race or mixture of races that is not white. It means a group of people singled out by the schools, the churches and the so-called law on a basis of dark skin color.

In some states a Negro is defined as anyone who "has a drop of colored blood in his veins." In reality, of course, every living person has colored blood in his veins, for if his blood were colorless it would contain no hemoglobin, without which human life could not exist. Incidentally the color of blood of all races is identical and scientifically indistinguishable.

Why, then, do people look different, one from the other, on the outside? Through perhaps dozens of millions of years of evolution, different tribes of men were subjected to different conditions of nature, such as burning rays of sun or snow-covered mountains. As a result of this process, different tribes were forced to change in appearance in order to exist.

Those in the Scandinavian peninsula, for example, became "tow-headed" blondes, while those in the tropical regions became frizzy haired and dark skinned so that they would be better protected against the dangerous ultra-violet rays of the sun. This is but another orderly process of natural selection which has tended to modify the external appearance of every animal from the tree toad to the zebra in accommodation to its particular environment for the purpose of self protection and thereby race preservation.

These varying racial characteristics within one species of animal do not denote superiority or inferiority. Man, regardless of race, is the same kind of animal as his fellow man even if he lives on the opposite side of the globe. He can mate with him and bear offspring; he is born his potential equal and he will be his equal, given equal opportunity for development.

Since the decline of primeval communism and tribal habits, however, we have seen the advent of class society; that is, the kind of society wherein there is a ruling class and an exploited class of people. Since then the destiny of men has depended not so much on their ability to protect themselves from the forces of nature, but on the basic factor of "economics and their relationship to the means of production of the things that are of use to themselves and to others."

During this time we have seen both rich and poor within the same race; and increased migration has led to the condition where now in many lands one may find members of every race of the earth. History records the existence of black slaveholders as well as black slaves; white slaves as well as white slaveholders.

Even today under a higher form of slavery—wage slavery—there are a few Negro capitalists. They are, however, insignificant compared to the mass of Negro workers and farmers.

From a strictly scientific point of view, then, the potential qualities of all races of men are equal. Furthermore there is in America today no pure-blooded Negro or black race, nor no pure Caucasian or white race.

It so happens, however, that under the capitalist system it is necessary for the rulers to try to keep the workers divided and to set up a super-oppressed group of dark-skinned workers to be kicked around when the white workers are resentful about their own economic insecurity. And unfortunately for us it is the factor of social forces rather than scientific truth, which controls our pursuit of happiness and, in many cases, even life and death.

Therefore, call us what you wish, the very hypocrisy of the rotten economic system must force all the workers to recognize and struggle relentlessly for that group of doubly oppressed humans—the Negro toilers.

Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

- AKRON** — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 to 9:30. Current events discussion Wednesday evenings, Fridays at 7:30, class on "Forward March of American Labor."
- Mar. 15, 7:30 p. m. "Post War Plans"—1919 Style, by Mary Clark.
- Afternoon sessions on same series of lectures every Friday by Milton Genecin.
- ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM** — Open meeting every Friday, 8 p. m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.
- Public Forums—First Sunday each month, 2:15 p. m.
- BOSTON**—Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 6 p. m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.
- BUFFALO** — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.
- CHICAGO** — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a. m. to 8 p. m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.
- Classes every Wednesday, 7:30 and 9:30 p. m.
- CLEVELAND** — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p. m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.
- DETROIT**—Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 3 p. m. at 6108 Linwood. Office open daily 10 to 6. Phone Tyler 7-6267.
- KANSAS CITY** — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p. m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.
- LOS ANGELES** — Visit SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.
- MILWAUKEE** — Visit the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at its headquarters, 424 E. Wells St., any evening from 7:30.
- MINNEAPOLIS**—Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. Forum every Sunday, 3:30.
- NEWARK**—Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30.
- Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p. m.
- Militant Readers' Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7:30 p. m.
- Sat., March 9—Social evening. Dancing, refreshments. Admission free.
- NEW YORK — CENTRAL**, 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.
- Sat., 4 p. m., rehearsal of Trotskyist chorus. Militant readers invited.
- BRONX**: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor.
- BROOKLYN**: 635 Fulton St. Open 1 to 9. Phone ST. 3-7433.
- HARLEM**: 103 W. 110th St., room 23. Phone MO. 2-1866. Office open Monday through Thursday, 1 to 4:30; Fridays and Sundays, 7:30-10:30 p. m.
- PHILADELPHIA** — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open forums every Friday, 8 p. m., on current topics.
- Classes on Lenin's "State and Revolution," every Sunday, 7 p. m.
- Office and bookshop open every day.
- PITTSBURGH**—Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn. Ave. & Beatty St., E. Liberty, Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:30 to 9:30. Sundays at 7:30; Round Table Discussion on "News of the Week in The Militant."
- PORTLAND, Ore.** — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p. m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8 p. m. on Tuesday and Friday.
- Fridays, 8 p. m., Open House and Round Table Discussions.
- SAN FRANCISCO** — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p. m., Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p. m. Monday through Friday.
- Friday night study groups: Introduction to Trotskyism, 7:30 p. m.
- EAST BAY BRANCH**—P. O. Box 1618, Oakland, Calif.
- Meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, I.O.O.F. Hall, 410 Eleventh St.
- Mar. 13—"The Case Bill."
- SEATTLE**—Visit our Headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Ave.
- ST. LOUIS**—Visit our headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday through Saturday from 12 to 2 p. m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8 to 10 p. m.
- TOLEDO**—Forums every Tuesday, 8:00 p. m., 213 Michigan St. Open evenings, 7-9.
- YOUNGSTOWN** — Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5; also 7:30 to 9:30 p. m., Monday through Thursday.

Diary Of A Steelworker *By T. Kovalesky*

There's a little note in No. 10 of the "Lackawanna Striker," strike bulletin of the Bethlehem Lackawanna Steel Locals, which means a great deal. Under the general heading, "On The Lines," is the following item:



"Here is spirit! Three women, Mrs. Alma Rayford, Mrs. Ruth Wright, and Mrs. Pernell Martin walked on our picket line for over four hours and in freezing weather, while their husbands went home for a little badly-needed sleep."

All sorts of things go into the winning of a strike... and not the least of these is the support and cooperation of the working-class wife who is willing to sacrifice that the union may win. The great Steel Strike showed a whole class united!

In spite of the fact that the "Lackawanna Striker" was a little paper started up during the strike and concerned with the hundreds of matters that come up during a strike—who was scabbing, who was helping the union, what pickets were most faithful, what funny incidents occurred, etc., it is refreshing to see that national politics were not ignored, but on the contrary, closely followed and analyzed.

Issue No. 20 is headlined "CASE ANTI-LABOR BILL." After a brief outline of the provisions of the bill, the "Striker" demonstrates, using the example of the Bethlehem strike, the disastrous effects of the bill upon the labor movement. "Let's take a look at what Case and his buddies are preparing for us," says the article.

"Suppose we're all set to strike for a decent wage, and (just like this time) the company is starting to pack the plant with food and scabs. We tell this new-born WLB (the fact-finding board) we're going to walk out. Then

we wait five days. Then we wait thirty more days. Meanwhile ten thousand scabs and six boatloads of food are brought into the plant.

"At the same time, Bethlehem drags us into court, because they say we violated the contract. Long before the court action is finished, our thirty day stalling period ends, and the boys go out on strike... if the company has not already locked us out to make room for the scabs.

"So the boys hit the bricks, and ten minutes later they find that we have no bargaining rights any more, since we have picketed 'forcefully' and organized a boycott against the company.

"Then, with the strike broken, we try to go back into the plant... without a union... and they won't take us back."

And here is where the "Lackawanna Striker" hits the nail on the head. Instead of making the usual plea for union members to write their congressmen, the "Striker" called for the formation of a LABOR PARTY! "If we get rid of these big-shot politicians and send our OWN men to Congress," it states, "we won't have people like Case bringing up bills like this one."

Frequently in the different issues there appears the heading, "On the lines." In Number 23 under this heading is a tribute to the "anonymous picket," which I particularly liked: "Occasionally we hear of some outstanding action and get the chance to mention the names of certain pickets, captains, or officers. But this strike is being won by all of us. The anonymous picket who spends long, dark hours out in the freezing cold is the most important man in this strike. We'll probably never know the name of each man who has watched our gates and fences, but we wish to say to him now, 'Thank you, Brother. Your faithful service on the line is smashing the giant Bethlehem Company to its knees. The power of the Union rests in YOU and men like you.'"

Notes Of A Seaman *By Art Sharon*

A certain Mr. Bishop, spokesman for the War Shipping Administration, had his say in Washington before a Senate committee the other day. He painted a dire picture of the maritime industry's labor supply if the draft laws affecting young men below the age of 26 were removed or amended. Without the threat of being drafted, he said, thousands of young seamen would leave the industry.



I don't know Mr. Bishop. I have never seen his picture in the newspapers. But I'm willing to bet my next payoff against one box of mouldy ship-biscuits that this gent, like the rest of his colleagues in the War Shipping Administration, is very well fixed, especially since the war. He is undoubtedly well-fed, lives in a comfortable home with all modern conveniences, enjoys numerous vacations and, furthermore, receives a handsome compensation for his heroic toil in the offices of the WSA.

When Mr. Bishop spoke his piece in Washington there wasn't a single person at the Senate hearing who spoke up for the thousands of young seamen scattered over the oceans in every corner of the earth. Mr. Bishop spoke before sympathetic capitalist politicians only too eager to respond to the "plight" of the "poor" shipowners as against the needs of the thousands of young seamen now forced to continue sailing by the compulsion of the draft laws.

The draft board pressure is only the latest pressure to be used. Between wars the normal labor "surplus" under capitalism forces many young men locked out of industry to go to sea.

Actually, few seafarers really desire the life of a seaman. Most of them dream and talk of leaving the sea. Few succeed in breaking away and becoming stabilized ashore. The longer they remain seamen the more difficult it is for them ever to come ashore. Then one day comes the realization that they are going to sail until they are too old to end up anywhere except in Sailors' Snug Harbor, the seamen's poor-house.

Some, their hopes shattered, seek escape in the bottle. You can meet these broken men in every waterfront gin mill and they will speak about "that chicken ranch in Petaluma, Cali-

fornia" they were going to buy, or the little bar in Hoboken "I could have had if I had married McClosky's widow." They always swear that this is their "last trip." But you're sure to meet them at the Union hall shipping out again.

But once in a while one of them figures it all out and can't see the percentage for himself any place. Then he does what an oiler shipmate of mine did a few years ago on a trip to the islands.

He had really tried to make a homelife for himself ashore but couldn't beat the system. Forced to take long trips to make enough to keep a wife and home, he returned after one eight-month trip to find her gone. On the ship going to the islands shortly afterwards he told his story over and over again until the gang stopped ribbing him because he took it so much to heart.

On the fifth day out after he had finished standing his watch he came into the messroom where we were playing cards and called out: "So long, boys!" Being preoccupied with our cards we hardly looked up. One of the gang made a crack about the oiler going nuts and we all silently agreed.

About ten minutes later we heard some shouting outside and the sound of a crew member running hard down the deck. We rushed out to meet the messman who told us that the oiler had just jumped over the side, suit-case in hand. We stood there a little shocked, looking into the murky dusk, trying to locate the oiler. We could make out a dark object floating, but it was only his suitcase.

The occupation of a seaman by its very nature forbids normal, stable family life which most seamen, like everyone else, desire. The shipowners, however, provide nothing to compensate for this unnatural type of life.

If seamen were paid sufficiently to maintain families, and if the industry were rationally organized to permit the maritime workers to spend regular periods ashore, this problem could be largely resolved.

But the capitalist shipowners don't want to spend a dime or forego a nickel of their swollen profits to make ship life attractive and acceptable to workers. They therefore seek measures, like continuation of the draft laws, to coerce the seamen to continue in the industry.

Three Growing Boys *By Grace Carlson*

Recently, the Woman's Home Companion asked several thousands of its readers the question: "Now that the war has been over for some months, do you feel that we are on the road to permanent peace?" Eighty-two per cent answered, "No."

Although I do not believe that she was approached by the Woman's Home Companion investigator, I know one Detroit woman, who thinks the same way. She is sure that the United States will go to war again—and she is terrified at the thought!

I don't even know her name. Ours was just a grocery store acquaintance. I met her one busy Saturday afternoon, after I had rescued her little boy from the grocery store window, where he was about to be snowed under by the piles of apples and oranges with which he had been playing. The mother thanked me gratefully and then turned to the four-year-old with that mixture of pride and irritation, which is characteristic of the parents of small children.

But her "Donald, you're a bad boy," didn't bother Donald at all. He started for the window again, thinking that he would give the apples and oranges another try.

"I know that I spoil him," she said to me apologetically when we were outside, "and I should know better too because I've brought up three other boys." I was almost speechless with admiration for a woman, who could cope with the problem of four "Donalds."

While I was trying to find words to express my admiration, she spoke again, and this time, there was a little catch in her voice. "Since Gordon died, I haven't been able to bring myself to punish Donald. When he was little, Gordon looked just like Donald does now—the same blue eyes and red hair, even the same dimple in his chin." She pulled Donald's curly head against her side in a gesture of affection—and sorrow. I murmured a few words of sympathy, but the mother scarcely listened. She wanted to talk about her dead boy. The words came pouring

out as if they had been dammed up for a long time. "Gordon was just 18. That's why it's so hard to believe that he's dead. It's almost a year now since we had the telegram from the War Department that he had been killed in action in Germany, but I still can't believe that he's really dead—that he'll never come home again."

Her voice broke then and we walked along in silence for a little while. When she spoke again, there was a note of anger in her voice. "It isn't right for them to take a young boy like Gordon and give him only 17 weeks of training and then send him out to be shot. He just didn't have a chance at all!"

All this came in a rush of anger. She paused a moment to catch her breath and then said in a meditative tone, "And I always took such good care of my boys. We never had much money, but they always went to a good baby doctor and had all their shots. Yes, you can save your boy from whooping cough but not from war!" She shook her head back and forth in a kind of hopeless anger. "It's terrible, it's terrible!"

I agreed with her that it was terrible and completely unjust! This seemed to give her the courage to go on. "And there's another war coming. I'm half crazy worrying about it—when it will come and whether they'll take my other boys. Robert is 14 and Peter is 16, so if the war comes in five or ten years, they're sure to go. And, if the war holds off for fifteen years, they'd take all three—even the little one—even my baby!"

We had reached her home by then and were standing on the sidewalk outside talking. Donald was restless and wanted to go inside, so it was impossible to prolong the conversation. But I did say a few things about our fight against war and our hope for a socialist world of peace and brotherhood. I wanted to comfort her a little—to give her some hope for the future. "Otherwise, this world is a pretty terrifying place for the mother of three growing boys!"

Huge Labor Demonstration In Houston Halts Strikebreaking Attempts By City Officials

Cheering Houston Strike Victory!



Thousands of CIO and AFL workers cheer the announcement that their huge demonstration has forced the Houston, Texas, City Manager to recognize and deal with the striking County Employees, AFL. It was the attempt by the city management to break the city employee's union which brought this magnificent support from all organized labor. Addressing the crowd is D. W. Maxwell of the Houston Building Trades Council, AFL.

Why ALP Nominee Lost Election In New York East Side District

By Lou Cooper

In the special Congressional election held on the East Side of New York City on February 19, Arthur G. Klein, the Democratic Party candidate was the victor over the American Labor Party candidate, Johannes Steel.

The vote was Klein (Dem.) 17,366; Steel (ALP) 13,505; Shea (Rep.) 4,359.

The Socialist Workers Party, New York Local, gave critical support to the ALP candidate, despite the fact that he was not from labor's ranks and had no real labor program. The SWP

pointed out that the ALP was sponsored by the bulk of CIO unions in New York City, and every step, no matter how timid, in the direction of labor's independent political action, should be supported by the workers of New York.

The ALP vote of 13,500 was

indicative of the large support this party has already obtained in this overwhelming working-class district.

EXTENSIVE CAMPAIGN

The ALP campaign was colorful and extensive and the CIO unions were circled by many CIO unions.

But how explain the fact that the ALP could not win in this slum-ridden neighborhood of trade unionists and poor people?

The answer to this question was unwittingly given by the Daily Worker of February 18, a day before the election, which stated: "The political pitch has not been raised to the point where these voters are stirred by the necessity to elect him" (Steel). Only 40 per cent of the eligible 80,000 voters went to the polls on February 19.

Why weren't the other 60 per cent of the workers of the East Side "stirred"? Because Steel had no program with which to inspire them. Steel declared: "I'll fight for the Roosevelt-Truman-Wallace program." (Daily Worker—Jan. 30.) This "program" has less and less meaning to workers nowadays. The slogans of "four freedoms" and "sixty million jobs" have been exposed as empty phrasemongering in the light of recent developments on the international and national scene.

PROGRAM NEEDED

To be really effective and win today, and rally real support from the workers, the ALP must have a program of jobs for all under workers' control of industry and government operation of idle plants. Also, the ALP must demand a wide scale low-cost housing program to be carried out regardless of the banks and real estate magnates. Both of these demands have special significance on New York's congested East Side.

If the people of the East Side had felt a real living stake in the program of the ALP, Tammany would have been decisively defeated.

The fighting program advocated by The Militant could have inspired victory!

Klein, the Democratic Party nominee, asked to be re-elected to "carry out Roosevelt's program." Steel, the "liberal democrat," as he called himself, said, "Klein is a good man with a good voting record in Congress." Steel did not distinguish himself from Klein except to claim that he would be more "aggressive" in Congress than Klein had been. It is necessary to have an aggressive program, and neither Steel nor the Stalinist leadership had such a program in this election.

URGENT TASK

The members and supporters of the ALP in New York City have before them the urgent task of steering the course of the ALP toward real independent labor action on the political field. This means first of all a fighting labor program and a consistent set of independent labor candidates for the 1946 elections.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 26—A magnificent demonstration of ten to twenty thousand workers, both AFL and CIO, this morning forced city officials to back down on their strikebreaking threats and agree to deal with representatives of 700 city employees, members of AFL City-County Employees Union, on strike for the past six days.

This action climaxed months of negotiations between the City Council and City Manager Edy (subsequently succeeded by Acting City Manager Nagle) for wage increases needed to bring up the incomes of city employees to meet the skyrocketing cost of living. The City Managers brazenly backed down on their promises to grant increased wages "if an increase in the tax rate is granted by the voters." The tax bill was passed but the promises were not fulfilled.

In fact, the City Council "discovered" that it was "not obligated" to deal with union representatives "except as individuals." An indignant rank and file forced the union leadership to call the 700 man strike which began February 20.

CALLED "REBELLION"

Immediately the Mayor, the City Manager and City Council raised the slogan: "You Can't Strike Against the Government." Mayor Otis Massey called upon Texas' reactionary Governor Coke Stevenson to supply Texas Ranger units, battalions of the State Guard and other armed forces to "protect" the city. In Austin, Governor Stevenson immediately promised "anything you need" while fascist-minded Lieutenant Governor John Lee Smith announced: "This is nothing more nor less than rebellion!" He demanded legislation to "deal with strikes."

City Councilman Clyde Fitzgerald, a member of CIO Oilworkers Local 227, conducted a single-handed struggle against the rest of the City Council. Rejection of his modest proposals was the signal for calling the strike.

SPLENDID UNITY

Although the AFL leadership was conciliatory and the CIO leadership tried to dodge the issue by passing the buck to local unions, the unity of AFL and CIO workers throughout the strike and in the demonstration was magnificent.

William Mann, shop steward of CIO Steelworkers Local 2083, now on strike against the Reed Roller Bit Company, carrying his own picket sign, shouted through the microphones: "We at Reed are all with you. We'll win this fight if it takes 'til 1950!"

J. C. Fikes, CIO oilworker and member of the South Side Citi-

zens' Council, succeeded in passing a resolution through a mass meeting of that organization the night before the demonstration, demanding that the City Council negotiate with the strikers and threatening initiation of a recall referendum if the Council refused.

Houston has witnessed, for the South, a precedent-smashing event. Although gaining little in their immediate demands, the mere presence of large bodies of both CIO and AFL members at the demonstration lifted the workers' morale to a high peak. They learned the great lesson that labor unity in action is absolutely essential in struggles against the bosses and their government agents.

Americans Cable Protests Against 'La Verite' Ban

(Continued from Page 1)

clude: Herman Singer, The Call; Farrell Dobbs, The Militant; E. R. Frank, Fourth International; Liston Oak, New Leader; Dwight Macdonald, Politics; Max Shachtman, New Internationalist; Albert Gates, Labor Action.

TEXT OF CABLE

The full text of the cable follows:

On January 18, 1946, the undersigned cabled Charles de Gaulle, then President of France, and Andre Malraux, Minister of Information, urging their government to grant freedom of publication and circulation to La Verite, central organ of the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (Trotskyist).

In view of La Verite's record as an anti-fascist paper published in the underground against the Nazis, and the participation of the PCI as a legal party in the French elections, we could not understand why this paper was being denied the rights of expression and circulation.

We have since been informed on good authority that no favorable action has been taken on this matter and that instead, La Verite now faces the threat of complete suppression.

On behalf of the rights of free speech and free press, we wish to renew our request to your government that in accord with its democratic declarations, it immediately grant full freedom of publication and circulation to La Verite.

SWP HOLDS FERGUSON MEETING DESPITE HAGUE INTIMIDATION

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

JERSEY CITY, N. J., March 1.—The Jersey City Branch of the Socialist Workers Party held its first open mass meeting here to protest the murder of Charles and Alfonso Ferguson, the wounding of Joseph Ferguson and the jailing of Richard Ferguson in the Freeport case.

Western Electric Strikers Await Phone Tie-Up Aid

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

KEARNY, N. J., March 2.—In the ninth week of their bitter strike against Western Electric, the Independent Western Electric Employees Association members continued mass picketing with the expectation that their national organization, the National Federation of Telephone Workers, will soon come to their aid with another nation-wide strike.

Meeting in Memphis, Tenn. last week-end, national leaders of the NFTW mapped plans for a nation-wide strike, scheduled for March 7, against the giant American Telephone and Telegraph trust.

Seventeen NFTW affiliates embracing 150,000 workers in 33 states will strike directly, while the remaining 100,000 members of the NFTW will respect the picket lines.

Thus, for the second time within seven weeks, the phone workers are scheduled to tie up national phone communication. This time, in addition to backing up the WEEA strikers, the NFTW will seek a \$10 per week "across the board" increase, a 40-hour week with a minimum of 65 cents per hour.

Yesterdays' negotiations with the AT&T broke up without agreement. The NFTW has not yet specified whether it would return to work in the event of government seizure of the phone industry.

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