

THE MILITANT

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Housing Crisis And The Veterans

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Issues Before UAW Delegates At Convention

By The Editors

During the week of March 23 the eyes of American labor will be focused on the Atlantic City convention of the CIO United Automobile workers, America's biggest and most dynamic union. Past UAW conventions have established milestones in the progress of the American labor movement. The forthcoming convention will prove no less momentous.

This convention meets against the background of America's greatest strike wave and of the significant wage victory which the auto workers have won in common with other large sectors of the CIO. The leading and decisive role in that victory has been played by the General Motors workers.

A Host Of Problems

It would be good if the UAW convention delegates could confine themselves to a celebration of the gains just won. But the auto workers, like the rest of labor, are already beset by a host of unresolved and new problems.

The strike wave revealed great strength in the CIO ranks generally and the UAW in particular. American labor has never before displayed on such a national scale its capacity for militant struggle.

But the strike wave also brought into sharp relief significant weaknesses and defects of union policies and leadership. Now new Big Business threats are menacing labor. These weaknesses will have to be remedied, the new threats will have to be countered, if the auto workers are to retain their gains and achieve greater advances.

This UAW convention will have the duty to analyze and judge, soberly and conscientiously, the weaknesses revealed by the strike wave. It will have to elaborate a program of action which will effectively promote the interests of the auto workers in the crucial period ahead.

Although the auto workers and the CIO have made significant gains, they have not achieved the gains which could and should have been won, given the real strength of organized industrial labor.

The Strike Strategy

It will suffice to demonstrate this by pointing out the most glaring weaknesses during the strike wave, and particularly those shown in the UAW's wage fight.

To begin with, there was the "one-at-a-time" strategy projected by the UAW and CIO leaders and their lack of any unified strategy. Each followed its own course without consideration for the needs of the other, while the corporations pursued a calculated and concerted offensive against the unions. Although the CIO leaders were forced eventually and reluctantly to spread the strikes, this was not done in a timely or concerted manner. That is the chief reason why General Motors was able to drag out the strike settlement.

The "one-at-a-time" strategy enabled the corporations to pit one union, or section of a union, against another. Wage settlements were made by some unions which under-

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American Seamen Defy Order To Scab On Filipino Strike

By Art Sharon

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, March 10—Delayed letters and clippings from Manila, P. I., have arrived here telling the hitherto censored story of the unsuccessful attempt last month of Army brass hats in the Philippines to force American merchant seamen on 40 ships in Manila harbor to scab on striking Filipino longshoremen.

Two thousand merchant seamen belonging to the CIO National Maritime Union, AFL Seafarers International Union, Independent Marine Firemen's Union, CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards, and other smaller unions, refused to be used as scabs by the army in its attempt to break the strike.

A clipping from the Manila Evening Standard, February 7, reports that, "The strike situation is expected to see a sensational development today due to a circular issued yesterday by Col. Cecil H. Davidson, AFWES-PAC (Army Forces Western Pacific) director of port operations, to all masters of ships in port directing them to have winch operators available from among their crew to assist the army in discharging and loading cargo."

"Col. Davidson reminded ship masters that merchant seamen

operating with the army in the field are subject to the Articles of War and any refusal to obey the lawful order, the subject refusing such order can and will be punished under the Articles of War."

STORMY REACTION

The direct order from the labor-hating brass hats was to no avail. The seamen stood solid in

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Fund Drive Gets Good Start

By Evelyn Atwood

The three-month campaign for a \$15,000 Militant Sustaining Fund got off to a flying start on March 15 with more than \$800 already contributed, reported Justine Lang, Campaign Director, Rochester, New York, was the first branch of the Socialist Workers Party to complete its quota.

DEPENDS ON WORKERS

America's best and fastest-growing labor paper, The Militant, is appealing to its many thousands of enthusiastic readers to help maintain the paper by sending in their personal contributions to the \$15,000 Sustaining Fund.

"The Militant is wholly dependent upon its worker readers for support," it was pointed

HEROIC GM STRIKERS WIN AFTER 113-DAY STRUGGLE

A Tribute To A Real Fighter



Wall Street Continues Drive For New War; Hurls Reactionary Barrage At Soviet Union

By Charles Carsten

The drive of Anglo-American imperialism to prepare public opinion for the Third World War continues unabated. Last week spokesmen for the Anglo-American imperialists made several additional significant moves. Tom Connally, chairman of the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee, converted his report on the recent General Assembly

of the United Nations Organization into an attack on the Soviet Union. Winston Churchill repeated his denunciation of the Kremlin and again offered "the powerful and faithful friendship" of the British Empire to Wall Street in its offensive against the Soviet Union.

General Marshall, one of the leading spokesmen for the American military caste, returning from China, stated in his first public utterance that the situation in Manchuria is "extremely critical."

Under cover of this furious war-mongering campaign, Wall Street agents are attempting to ram a series of reactionary measures through Congress. They are pressing for military control of atomic energy, assuring continuous mass production of the atom bomb for prospective use against the Soviet Union. In order to maintain its colossal

army machine, the War Department is demanding an extension of the draft law and the establishment of universal peacetime military training. Representatives of Big Business are pushing for extension of the arbitrary wartime powers of the government.

Regardless of the outcome of the present stage of the crisis, it is clear that a new realignment of forces on a world scale is taking place. The first steps are being taken for a decisive showdown with the USSR. The world has no sooner emerged from the second horribly devastating conflict in a generation than the peoples are confronted with forces driving headlong toward World War III.

Stalin's speech in reply to the war-mongering campaign of the imperialists made no mention of "the safeguards" of "enduring peace" he had promised would follow World War II.

What happened to the coal-

ition of "peace-loving" nations that he said would emerge after the crushing of the Axis? It is being replaced by a bloc against the Soviet Union.

Stalin made no reference to the United Nations Organization. The Stalinists spread the illusion that the UNO would be the "bulwark of peace." But it is clear that the United Nations Organization is nothing but an instrument of Anglo-American imperialism and a cover for its anti-Soviet campaign.

Stalin warned Churchill about the consequences of a Third World War and menaced the imperialist powers with the "growing power" of the Com-

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Paris Trotskyist Meeting Raided By Gouin Police

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, March 10—On Tuesday, March 6 at 11 a.m., in the Tenth District here, 60 police agents and several inspectors, armed with machine guns and pistols, mobilized to arrest 28 participants in a conference called by the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (Trotskyist) to discuss the international situation.

Among those present were PCI militants, friends, sympathizers and journalists from various countries, including the United States, France, Belgium, England, Holland, Ireland, Switzerland, Greece and refugees from Spain.

Like a band of dangerous gangsters, this group was forced to march between a double file of police with drawn pistols to the Commissariat of the Fourth District.

Upon arrival at the Commissariat, however, nobody knew what to do next with a group of people who were "guilty" only of being present at a meeting called by a political party. The regime of arbitrary arrests was presumably abolished with the

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GM Delegates Conference Votes To Accept Agreement

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

DETROIT, Mar. 16—After battling without let-up for 113 days on the picket lines, the heroic 175,000 General Motors strikers on March 13 finally forced the multi-billion dollar corporation to

terms.

Ford Council Opposes Several Contract Clauses

By Roy Weston

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Mar. 15 — The National Ford Council of the CIO United Auto Workers at its three-day meeting here this week to discuss ratification of the proposed Ford Motor-UAW contract, referred certain objectionable clauses back to the union's national negotiating committee. But the leaders were successful in showing through approval of the dangerous "company security" clause which has evoked widespread disapproval among UAW members.

The council, on the opening day of the conference, March 11, rejected by a vote of 507 to 296 the production-standards ("speed-up") clause of the contract and then unanimously instructed the national negotiation committee to renegotiate this and other non-approved clauses.

Joseph Eccles, president of the Council, had sought a second roll-call vote on the production clause, stating that it meant a "showdown" for acceptance or rejection of the entire contract. Herbert Hindmarsh, of Highland Park Local 400, then moved the resolution providing referral of any rejected clauses to the national committee for possible renegotiation. The contract will then be submitted to the Ford workers nationally for a final vote on ratification.

Richard T. Leonard, UAW (Continued on Page 2)

The GM auto workers, who have spearheaded the whole wage fight of American labor and for 16 weeks have borne the brunt of Big Business's savage resistance, early Thursday morning wrenched from the arrogant GM corporation an agreement which includes an 18½-cent an hour wage increase, plus correction of wage inequalities in local plants and other concessions. At the same time, the corporation was forced to retreat from its demand for "company security."

Admittedly the wage gains which the GM workers have secured fall short of what they justly demanded and which their great battle should have won. That is in no way due to the manner in which the GM workers fought, but rather to the weaknesses in strategy of the top UAW and CIO leaders.

SIGNIFICANT GAINS

The agreement both with respect to wages and the other concessions must be viewed as a significant even though partial victory.

Especially heartening is the fact that the GM workers were able to hold out solidly for more than 16 weeks and have emerged from this grueling combat with their ranks intact, united and full of fight.

This was reflected here yesterday by the 200 local CIO United Auto Workers delegates at the GM Delegates Conference, meeting to consider the terms of the contract recommended by the UAW leaders.

The delegates voted by a great majority to recommend to the

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IN THE NEWS

Heroes' "Reward"

On March 13 the Veterans Administration in Washington reported that unemployment among returned veterans is nearing 1,500,000. In the week ending March 2, GI unemployment compensation, \$20 a week each, was paid to 1,433,173 veterans.

Labor Got Stuck

William H. Davis, former head of the War Labor Board and an author of the Little Steel formula, stated in an interview on March 7 that the WLB had been like a cactus and "anyone who tried to lean on us got stuck."

Splitting the Atomists

"Army brass hats are blocking the return here of Dr. Nils Bohr, Danish Nobel Prize winner and father of modern atomic science. The Army also turned thumbs down on a visit by Joliot-Curie, Madame Curie's son, another atomic scientist, holding it bad policy for American scientists to talk to foreign ones." (Drew Pearson in N. Y. Daily Mirror, March 7.)

Beastly Manners

"This part of Mr. Churchill's speech is a mixture of the elements of libel with the elements of rudeness and lack of tact." (Stalin's reply to Churchill's Missouri speech.)

'Good Neighbor' Policy

Gen. George Marshall, who is being spoken of as next Secretary of State to replace Byrnes, during the early days of World War II proposed a directive for the immediate seizure by U. S. armed forces of bases in Brazil and Ecuador. He drafted a subsequent order to the State Department, later issued under Roosevelt's name, for the retention of permanent peacetime military bases in the two South American countries — whether they agreed or not.

Salute To GM Strikers!

Hats off to the valiant General Motors strikers!

In the longest and bitterest labor struggle in American history, after 113 days of hardship and battle, the GM workers have once again brought to its knees the most powerful industrial corporation in the world.

For courageous endurance, for unshakable unity, for inspiring loyalty to the cause of those who toil, the record of the GM workers in this strike stands unsurpassed in the annals of American labor.

The men and women who fought out this historic battle to its triumphant conclusion were actuated not alone by their own interests. They knew they were the advance guard, the shock troops, of all American labor.

They knew they were spearheading the wage fight of the whole labor movement and that they would have to take the brunt of the savage resistance of American Big Business.

Not for a moment did they falter. They held their ground in defiance of all the pressure and calumny that Big Business and its agents hurled at them. They drew their belts tighter week after week — and grimly held on.

By their example, they inspired millions of other industrial workers to hit the picket lines and to wrest for themselves the greatest single wage gains ever attained by the American workers.

It became the special objective of the anti-labor corporate interests to break the GM strike, or to force the strikers back to work on onerous terms. The American plutocracy wanted to "make an example" of the GM strikers, humble them, take revenge upon them because their battle had cleared the way for wage concessions throughout industry.

But Big Business failed. It had to beat a retreat. General Motors, which had flung one arrogant demand after another at the strikers, which had poured millions into its drive to undermine the strike, had to come to terms.

Let every worker who will receive the benefits of substantial wage boosts ranging up to 18½ cents an hour give tribute to those most responsible — the heroic GM workers.

They saw their duty and they did not fail. Thanks to them American labor today stands a whole head taller.

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Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

It was sort of funny when we came back to work. We walked up onto the furnaces as if we owned them and took our time about getting to work.



The bosses eyed us, but we either ignored them or else just grinned back at them insolently... "Well, all right!" Tom grinned. "Let's go!"

nipped the company's union-busting plans in the bud. "Remember how we all agreed before the strike that we weren't just fighting the wage dispute? We said we were battling for the very preservation of the union—and we were. Where would the union be if we'd lost that strike?"

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

According to an ancient legend, there was a ghost ship that haunted the oceans of the world and never came to port. With full sails and no man to be seen on her decks she would come into sight once in a while, evoking terror and wonder in the mariners who saw her.



The Flying Dutchman, she was called. Every man who spoke of her did so with solemn voice. For each had his theory as to the reason for her tragic fate. What could be more tragic to a sailor's mind than to be doomed to sail forever and never make port?

long. Every week one of them is finally allowed to come back to port. Last week the S.S. Edwin Markham sailed into San Francisco, a "Flying Dutchman" that got off comparatively light. She sailed aimlessly about for only six months. Her crew was justly indignant at their experience.

However, the seamen of 1945 and 1946 are Dutchmen. Unlike the "Flying Dutchman" of Dutchmen. Unlike the "Flying Dutchman" of the fable, which never saw port, these modern ships I'm going to tell you about are sometimes anchored for months in little lagoons of south Pacific islands, but finally do get home.

The Edwin Markham was finally allowed to dump its cargo after months of wandering about. She then proceeded to Manila where she took on "officers' club furniture, expensive sedans for generals" and other officers' luxury items.

Vets Housing Crisis By John Fredericks

Worker veterans are returning home to the worst housing crisis in the nation's history. Throughout the country veterans are desperately seeking any kind of shelter for themselves and their families.

Under pressure from the banks and real estate interests, the Truman administration has failed to take any effective measures to alleviate the veterans' housing plight. The extent of the housing shortage was indicated by Edmond B. Butler, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, who reported that while dwelling construction has been at a virtual standstill, the population of the country has increased by eight millions since 1940.

was drafted originally to provide \$600,000,000 as subsidies for building material manufacturers and provide only 2,700,000 homes. Yet even this incorrectly-conceived, inadequate bill was declaimed in Congress. In its present form it is a bare skeleton, stripped of its provisions for subsidies, regulation of ceiling prices on existing homes, and authority to investigate gouging practices for the building industry.

Ten Million Needed A conservative estimate of the need for new housing could be placed at ten million dwelling units. New York City alone needs 785,000 new dwellings, according to the admission of Mayor O'Dwyer.

State and local authorities have proposed as their solution, old barracks and Quonset huts built on swampy, undesirable sites. In New York City, veterans are feeling so strongly about the situation that they are talking about a "March on Washington" and even threatening to occupy unused "townhouses" vacated by the rich during their winter vacations.

CANTON, OHIO Public Meeting MONDAY APRIL 1 "American Workers Need A Labor Party" Speaker: GRACE CARLSON Sachsenheim Club 114 Harrison NW (corner Tusc.) Admission free 8 p. m.

For Full-Scale Program The government must immediately undertake a full-scale building program to provide ten million new dwelling units at low rentals within the reach of every worker and veteran. The costs of this program should not be passed along to the worker in the form of increased taxation but rather should be borne by taxation of the war profiteers, who have grown bloated out of the misery of the workers.

UMW Negotiators Indict Coal Operators For Million Casualties In Mine Disasters

Murder For Profits



Rescue workers removing the bodies of miners killed in the Havaco Coal Mine disaster at Welch, West Virginia, on January 17. A frightful explosion caused by the mine owners' criminal neglect of safety measures killed 13 coal miners and injured 38.

Every ton of coal mined in the United States is "smeared with the blood" of the mine workers, was the charge which the AFL United Mine Workers hurled at the soft coal operators at the opening of new contract negotiations on March 12 in Washington. "The 'murder for profit' of tens of thousands of miners which The Militant recently exposed in connection with the horrible mine disasters at Pineville, Kentucky, and Welsh, West Virginia, was the chief theme of the union spokesmen during the first three days of negotiations. A major demand of the miners is for adequate safety measures and inspection in the mines and a union fund from the operators' profits to provide decent medical care, compensation and welfare for miners and their families."

Flint Chevrolet Local Asks UAW To Launch Labor Party Drive

FLINT, Mich., March 14—At a regular membership meeting of Chevrolet Local 659 UAW-CIO this week a resolution was passed without a dissenting vote, calling for the establishment of a National Labor Party. The resolution, organized 15 million strong on the economic field, has no organization of its own on the political field.

U. S. SEAMEN IN PHILIPPINES DEFY ORDER TO SCAB STRIKE (Continued from Page 1)

their opposition to the strike-breaking order. Six seamen were arrested by the army and charged with refusal to obey a "lawful order under the Articles of War." The arrests and arrogant provocations by the military brass drew a stormy reaction from the merchant seamen in the harbor. A Seamen's Strike and Sympathy Committee was organized and funds were immediately collected for the defense of the arrested men and also to aid the strikers.

single man amongst the two thousand merchant seamen in the harbor answered the appeal. The army officials capitulated to the strikers and agreed finally to pay a 50 per cent increase in wages and to grant some other demands. But the longshoremen refused to go back to work until all other unions in Manila that had come out in sympathy and support got an increase too. When this was done they returned to work victorious, thanks in no small measure to the splendid demonstration of international labor solidarity of the American merchant seamen.

GI'S PROTEST ORDER It also heartened the GIs who were forced to scab, but who actually did very little work in a kind of passive demonstration of sympathy for the strike. The GIs in turn organized a Soldiers Committee for Democratic Rights to Protest Forced Scabbing.

The six merchant seamen that were about to be railroaded to an army concentration camp in the Philippines were finally released after appeals to Washington were made by the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific in San Francisco.

SWP Pushes FEPC Petition In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, March 12 — The Socialist Workers Party today issued a call to all members and sympathizers to redouble their efforts in obtaining signatures for the petition to plate an FEPC measure on the ballot in the coming California State elections. The party has scheduled three full mobilizations of all branches in the Los Angeles area for the last week of the campaign which ends on March 25. This is in response to a report from the CIO that the campaign is lagging dangerously behind.

UAW Delegates And Visitors! Visit Pioneer Book Stall

2227 Boardwalk, Atlantic City Near Convention Hall Look over our books and pamphlets on the labor movement and socialism —written to meet the workers' problems —priced to meet the workers' pocketbooks Here is a partial list of what you will find: American Workers Need a Labor Party—by Joseph Hansen .15 Jobs For All—A Fighting Program for Labor—by Art Preis .10 Trade Union Problems—by Farrell Dobbs .10 Fascism—What It Is, How To Fight It—by Leon Trotsky .15 A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow—by Charles Jackson .10 Socialism on Trial—by James P. Cannon .10 The Struggle for Negro Equality—by J. Saunders and A. Parker .10 Negroes in the Post-War World—by Albert Parker .10 Fascism and Big Business—by Daniel Guerin .1.00 Your Standard of Living—by C. Charles .05 Wartime Crimes of Big Business—by George Breitman .05 20% Discount on Books to UAW Delegates! PIONEER PUBLISHERS 116 University Place New York 3, New York

Deal With Chiang Wins French Foothold In North Indo-China

By combining duplicity with armed force French imperialists have apparently been able to gain a foothold in northern Indo-China. The Viet Namh Republic, backed by the overwhelming majority of the Annamites, had kept the French armies confined to the southern part of the country. In the north the Republic was tacitly supported by 100,000 Chinese troops. The French tried to persuade the Chinese government to withdraw its armies from north Indo-China and "cease protecting" the Viet Namh government. On February 28, the French concluded a deal with Chiang Kai-shek whereby the French government agreed to "end their extraterritorial rights in China" in exchange for "withdrawal of Chinese troops from northern Indo-China." The calculating French colonial despots then promised Ho Chi Minh president of the Viet Namh Republic, "recognition" of the Republic provided Viet Namh would remain within the "French Union" and under "French control," and permit the landing of French troops in northern Indo-China. This is the same cynical stratagem that the Dutch imperialists are attempting on the Japanese. In exchange for "recognition" as a "republic" within the empire, the imperialists demand the "right" to land armed forces. Vice-Admiral Philippe-Marie Aubouyeau, charged with executing the French landing in northern Indo-China, according to a March 11 dispatch to the Christian Science Monitor, boasted "the most powerful naval concentration she ever stationed at one single point in her empire since the war started." "We shall need all these warships," admitted the Admiral "to reestablish our sovereignty in Chinese occupied northern Indo-China..." "Although the French and Chinese governments appear in agreement in regard to their respective positions in this country," he confessed, "it is obvious that our reoccupation of northern Indo-China might be hampered by 'local incidents'." Likelihood of such armed clashes was confirmed by the well-informed Christian Science Monitor correspondent, who reported: "Highest ranking French administrators and military leaders at Saigon recently became convinced that the entry of their forces into northern Indo-China never could be accomplished against joint opposition by Chinese and Annamites." "Therefore it was necessary for the French 'to split' the union between the Chinese occupying authorities and the Viet Namh government at Hanoi." In spite of former declaration that Viet Namh would not permit the landing of French troops, president of the Republic, Ho Chi Minh said the French forces would be welcomed. "The agreement with the French," he declared, would be "submitted for approval by the Annamite people through a referendum." The first French forces have landed at Haiphong. But, the Christian Science Monitor correspondent reports, "there still remains the possibility of an aftermath."