

THE MILITANT

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Nation-wide Struggle Against Rising Prices

— See Page 2 —

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401

PRICE FIVE CENTS

'NEED IMMEDIATE WAGE RAISES'-CIO

A Call To Action

An Editorial

The original OPA, as Leon Henderson put it last week, is a "dead pigeon." The new OPA being prepared by the present Congress will be even less effective at controlling prices than the old OPA.

The price index has now zoomed to the highest point since the beginning of the depression, and it is still going up. Prices will continue to rise under the new OPA because everyone in Washington is agreed on the need for ending price control — either all at once or gradually.

The struggle for effective price control must continue and grow greater. But that is not enough.

Working class families have already taken a terrific beating since June 30. Their standard of living has been slashed by as much as 25 per cent in the last few weeks.

Only a successful struggle for wage raises will compensate the workers for the rise in the cost of living since June 30.

That struggle must begin at once. Whoever stands in its way does not want to really protect workers against the scourge of inflation. Whoever delays that struggle helps the profiteers in further gouging the working people.

Wage raises can compensate the workers for the unrestrained price rises of recent weeks.

But what about August, what about September?

Contrary to the propaganda of the capitalist press, workers do not like to go out on strike every two or three months.

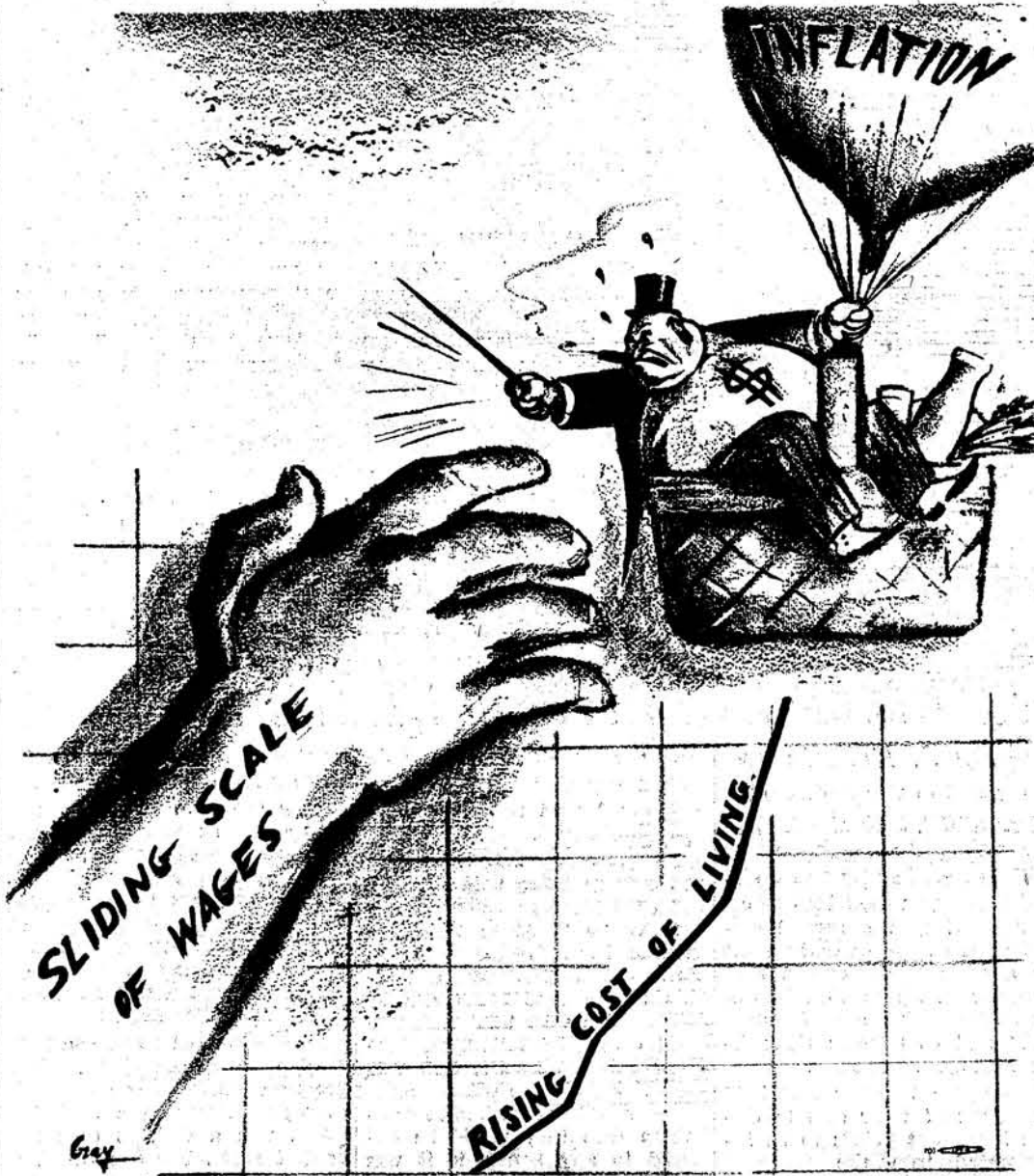
Yet that is what they will be compelled to do — unless they work out some device for keeping their wages abreast of price rises. Unless they adopt the principle of the sliding scale of wages and write it into their contracts.

If they do that, then every time prices go up, wages will automatically go up too. If they do that, the profiteering corporations will not be so eager to extort new price rises.

Since this problem affects the entire working class, every international and local union should demand the immediate convocation of a United Labor Conference — representing the CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods and independent unions — to plan joint action to put this program into effect.

Inflation is here, and now is the time to act. Every union must demand united labor action for the immediate reopening of contract negotiations, wage raises to meet price rises since the last contracts were signed, and a sliding scale of wages to protect the workers against future jumps in the cost of living.

How To Get That Basket



Board Fails To Present Program To Win Increases

Immediate wage increases are needed to offset rises in living costs, declared the CIO Executive Board meeting in Washington on July 18. The CIO leaders did not indicate how or when these necessary wage raises were to be secured. Instead, they appealed to President Truman to call an immediate conference of labor and industry with two aims:

To give "full and official recognition" to the demand and need for wage raises. And to meet "the crisis created by the drive to cripple and

destroy price control" through "adequate guarantees for a stabilized national economy."

President Philip Murray told reporters that the CIO had abandoned hope for a workable OPA or even that the OPA could administer any bill effectively.

Nevertheless, the CIO addressed "a final plea" to Congress for effective price legislation.

Other steps taken by the CIO Board included support for a nationwide buyers' strike and a demand for immediate increases in pensions, social security payments and other fixed incomes.

The CIO statement denounced members of Congress who, "fear-

Meat Packers Demand "Cost Of Living Bonus"

By Barbara Bruce (Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 20

The CIO United Packinghouse Workers will fight for a cost of living bonus to meet rising prices, a guaranteed annual wage, \$1 per hour minimum, elimination of wage differentials, and improvements in working conditions when negotiations with the "Big Four" packers begin.

The first negotiations with Swift & Co., are scheduled to open in Chicago July 24. Negotiations with Cudahy, Armour and Wilson will follow soon after.

Ralph Helstein, UPWA president, recently announced that the union will insist upon making all negotiation meetings open to the public. This was also emphasized here last Thursday, in a statement to the press made by Joe Ollman, UPWA Director of District 2. Ollman said that "the packers have not indicated that they are willing to agree" to the union demand for meetings open "to the farmers, the public and the press."

Higher wages are necessary, the union states, "in the face of rising costs... recent layoffs, and drastic reduction in take-home pay caused by shorter hours and wage cuts." According to the July 15 Armour Local 4 Bulletin, issued in South St. Paul, the company is "refusing to settle grievances, working some groups over eight hours while other workers are still laid off."

See Editorial 'Labor's Needs Today' Page 4

ing exposure of their aims by an outright termination of price control laws... have sought to perpetrate a hoax on the American people by pretending a continuance of price control while so limiting its power and effect as to result in no effective price control whatsoever." It also requested a presidential veto of unsatisfactory price legislation.

Murray was extremely vague about the plans of the CIO leadership. He did not indicate how much of a wage raise they would seek. Nor would he discuss what the CIO would do if the proposed labor-industry conference were not held. He even dodged questions about CIO policy if

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Paris "Peace" Conference Is Step To World War III

By Ralph Graham

On July 29 representatives of the governments of 21 nations are due to meet in Paris to pass on "peace treaties" to be concluded by the victorious Allied powers with Italy, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Finland, the defeated satellites of German imperialism. Although designated as a "peace conference," the

Paris gathering will prove to be nothing else but a fresh link in the chain of preparations for a third world war, in the same way that the Versailles "peace" conference led inevitably to the Second World War.

The terms of the treaties to be forced on the Axis satellites have already been substantially decided by the "Big Four" Council of Foreign Ministers. The Paris conference is needed merely to rubber-stamp these terms and to give to their subsequent enforcement the authority of "democratic" approval.

The type of treaty which the imperialists and the Kremlin gang seek to impose on the vanquished is sufficiently indicated in the robber decisions made by the "Big Four" with regard to Italy.

CARVE UP COUNTRY

In addition to stripping Italy of its colonial possessions in Africa (which are now under the control and domination of Britain), the "Big Four" used the carving knife on the defeated country itself. To Greece go the Dodecanese Islands, Yugoslavia, whose government is a puppet of the Kremlin, is to get the Dalmatian Islands, Zara, Fiume and most of Istria. The Piedmontese area of Briga and Tenda is to go to France. The port of Trieste is to be "international-

ized" under authority of the Security Council of the United Nations. The Italian navy and merchant fleet are to be divided among the victors. Italy is to pay an indemnity of \$100,000,000 to the Soviet Union.

The Atlantic Charter promised that there would be no territorial transfers that did not accord with the "freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned." But these promises, like pie-crusts, were made to be broken.

NOT CONSULTED

Neither the imperialists nor the Kremlin have so much as suggested consulting the natives of the Italian colonies as to their desires and aspirations. Nor are the people in the territories being sliced off from Italy being asked to indicate their wishes. In fact, when the people of Trieste protested against the decision of the "Big Four" to "internationalize" their city, an American warship trained its big guns on them and Allied troops broke up their demonstrations.

The decisions of the "Big Four" with regard to Italy bear no resemblance whatever to genuine peace-making. By establishing new artificial frontiers, by dividing instead of unifying, by imposing robber indemnities, the economic recovery of Europe will be retarded and new national hatreds engendered. Thus the seeds of another war are being planted by the imperialist "peace-makers" and the Kremlin gang.

Meetings of the "Big Four," preceding the Paris gathering of July 29, were marked by con-

(Continued on Page 8)

New OPA Bill Puts Virtual End To All Price Controls

The new OPA—as worked out by the House-Senate conferees and approved by administration leaders—could more aptly be named the "OPR," Office of Price Rises, because granting price rises and ending all forms of price control will be its main job. The old OPA never effectively controlled or tried to control prices, but it pretended to; the new agency makes hardly any pretences.

Under the new measure, which extends OPA for one year, all prices will remain uncontrolled until August 20. Ceilings can then be restored on livestock, milk, grain, cottonseed, soybeans and their edible products if a three-man Decontrol Board, independent of the OPA, does not decide in the meantime to end all control of these products.

Poultry, eggs, petroleum, tobacco and their products would be exempt for an indefinite period, that is, permanently. UNLESS the Decontrol Board decided to "recontrol" them.

The OPA itself is given authority on various grounds to raise ceilings on practically all items formerly under control.

Authority over farm products is transferred from the OPA to the Secretary of Agriculture, friend of the big food corporations, who will be able to order OPA to raise ceilings or end all semblance of control over farm products.

The OPA is also directed to end ceilings on any product if its current supply equals demand.

About the only price kept at June 30 levels will be rent, control of which would be restored to OPA.

It is perfectly clear from all this that if the consumers want prices controlled at even the June 30 level, they will have to organize committees to fix, control and police prices themselves.

IN THE NEWS

No Difference

Two Hollywood movies, "Destination Tokyo" and "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," have finally been withdrawn from Berlin by U. S. officials, after German newspaper writers protested that both glorified war. The critics complained that it's too hard to explain to their readers "why Allied war pictures are different" from Hitler films banned by the U. S.

Past Imperfect

The War Shipping Administration, which handed out subsidies to the ship owners, can't explain what happened to \$8,000,000,000 (billions) which a government auditor says "has not been properly accounted for." The WSA now admits, says Associated Press, July 17, that "there may have been some technical imperfections in its bookkeeping."

Sixty Million Jobs

"BOSTON, July 16 — The Massachusetts Division of Employment Security reported today the payment of an all-time high of \$58,404,855 in unemployment benefits in the first six months of this year. About 62 per cent... went to war veterans as readjustment allowances. The remaining 38 per cent, however, constituted a new civilian peak."

Evictions Fought In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, July 20. — Militant rent-strikers in Philadelphia have already halted a threatened furniture-sale and forced consideration of a rent-control bill by the City Council. The strike, which began July 15, is still spreading. Backed by all CIO unions in Philadelphia, it is spearheaded by the Tenants Association Against Rent Profiteering and the CIO United Electrical Workers. Strikers pay previous rents, refusing to add on the increases, which have ranged from 40 to 80%.

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SWP Protests Freeport White wash Hearings

NEW YORK, July 19—The New York State Committee of the Socialist Workers Party yesterday protested against the closed hearings which have so far marked the "public" investigation into the Jim Crow murder of the Ferguson brothers who were killed by a Freeport, New York cop last February. The SWP statement, submitted to State Investigator Lawrence S. Greenbaum, who is conducting the investigation, follows:

The New York State Committee of the Socialist Workers Party hereby enters a vigorous protest against the procedure instituted by you in the current hearing on the Ferguson Case. The procedure you have adopted is a mockery of a public investigation. By refusing to per-

mit cross-examination and development of testimony by the Defense Counsel you are following what is a pre-conceived purpose which can only be prejudicial to the interests of the people of the State of New York and particularly the Negro people.

Further, by arbitrarily changing all evidence and testimony through preliminary and private discussion with you behind closed doors you are deliberately hindering the full development of all the facts in the case.

By your refusal to permit the public participation of all interested organizations in the proceedings you are thwarting the widespread and established public desire of the people of New York for a full and complete investigation of the Ferguson case. By the same token, such proced-

ure can only be considered a repetition of the Nassau County Grand Jury's action without even the benefit of cross-examination by the Defense Counsel.

Unless the procedure is drastically changed so as to permit (a) cross examination of witnesses and further development of testimony by the Defense Counsel and (b) public participation of all interested organizations in the hearing and (c) an investigation of racial discrimination and Jim Crow practices in Nassau County, this hearing must be considered a shoddy and frantic attempt by a discredited and corrupt political machine to maintain itself in office by making a burlesque performance substitute for a genuine public investigation.

BUFFALO WORKERS PUSH FIGHT ON PRICE RISES

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 18—More than 200 members of trade unions, veteran and consumer groups met at a conference tonight to organize a protest demonstration against inflation. Called under the auspices of the Buffalo Emergency Citizens Committee to Save the OPA, the Conference decided upon a demonstration to be held at Lafayette Square in the heart of Buffalo on July 25 with Walter Reuther as chief speaker.

The Committee in charge of the Conference presented the meeting with a cut-and-dried program demanding price control and advocating a buyers' strike. The chairman, Canon Merry of St. Paul's Cathedral, and most of the Committee seated on the platform, used bureaucratic methods to prevent the audience from voting on other matters brought before the Conference. They announced that any proposals made would be turned over later to the Committee for their final consideration.

When Frank Vohs, President of Bell Local 501, called on the chairman to read to the body the resolution he had given him prior to the meeting, it somehow developed that this resolution had become lost. This resolution, which had been adopted by the Buffalo CIO Council representing 150,000 workers in this area, called for raising of wages and salaries to meet the skyrocketing price increases.

Vohs procured another copy of the resolution and read it to the body, which was composed overwhelmingly of trade unionists. The chairman attempted to rule it out of order on the flimsy grounds that the conference had been called to effect price controls, not to get wage raises.

While the sentiment of the majority of those present was clearly in favor of adopting the resolution as an indispensable part of the fight against inflation, no vote was taken on it. Stalinists on the platform, together with the chairman and one or two other trade union officials led a barrage against it, creating such an atmosphere that it appeared the Conference might be split.

The workers present sensed the situation and, wanting to maintain united action even though they didn't agree with the program outlined by the Committee, did not press for a vote. However, they did express their disgust at the undemocratic procedure with loud boos.

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100,000 WORKERS IN DETROIT PROTEST SKYROCKETING RISE IN COST OF LIVING

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, July 16—Answering the call of the United Automobile Workers for a nationwide protest against rising prices, more than 100,000 workers jammed Cadillac Square and flowed into the adjoining streets this afternoon in the largest mass rally in Detroit's history. Although the demonstration was called for 5 p.m., every inch of available space in Cadillac Square was filled an hour before scheduled.

This rally was unique in that every section of labor was represented both in the crowd and on the speakers' platform. The UAW-CIO naturally predominated in this auto city but there was a huge outpouring of workers from the other CIO unions, from the AFL, Railroad Brotherhood, Mechanics Educational Society, Foremen's Association, not to mention more than 40 civic and veteran groups.

Also participating in the demonstration was the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, whose members carried placards featuring the SWP's program for the fight against rising prices.

For more than two hours before the meeting was called there was a solid line of marchers from both the east and the west converging on Cadillac Square, snarling all traffic for blocks around.

POLICE HOSTILE

Despite the threats of the bosses to discipline workers who quit their plants before closing time, tens of thousands of workers downed tools at 2 p.m. to take their place in the line of march.

Thirty thousand Chrysler workers filed out of their shops to assume their position at the head of the parade. Nine thousand Briggs workers joined them. Workers from Budd Local 308 UAW-CIO, Packard Local 190 UAW, Chevrolet Gear and Axle Local 235 and scores of other East Side Locals followed suit, gathering at Eastern Market to form a solid parade phalanx into Cadillac Square.

There was a similar line of West Side workers led by the River Rouge Ford Local 600 contingent which started out from Roosevelt Square.

Tens of thousands were kept from Cadillac Square by the hostile police, who closed off various cross streets in the immediate vicinity. The capitalist press

Cannery Local Seeks Sliding Scale Of Wages

(Special to The Militant)

SAN DIEGO, Calif., July 17—The regular meeting here last night of the Cannery Workers, members of the Cannery Workers and Fishermen's Union, AFL, adopted the following three-point program to combat the rising cost of living: 1. An immediate 30 per cent wage increase to counteract the rise in the cost of living since the end of the OPA.

2. Renegotiation of the wage clause—a Rising Scale of Wages to meet a Rising Cost of Living. Each two and one-half per cent increase in the cost of living shall be automatically followed by a two and one-half per cent wage increase. 3. A union price control committee was organized to work with other unions and organizations to fight against price increases.

The companies concerned have been informed of the decision of the membership, and negotiations must begin within 30 days, with all increases retroactive to the date of notification.

On the recommendation of Secretary-Treasurer Lester Ballinger, the membership agreed that this program should be negotiated on a coast-wide basis, if possible.

had been playing down the demonstration, using every device to prevent a large attendance. The keynote of the rally emphasized by every speaker was a buyers' strike to force prices down. However, the workers who have very little to spend outside of bare necessities greeted these remarks with scant enthusiasm. Only when UAW President Walter Reuther made the specific proposal of a one-week meat strike beginning tomorrow did the workers respond.

Loud applause also marked UAW Vice-President Leonard's specific proposal not to pay any rent increases until Congress passed on the issue, despite the 15 per cent rent boost authorized and approved by Governor Kelly. But the most enthusiasm was shown when UAW Secretary-Treasurer George Addes hinted that the auto union at its next Executive Board meeting would ask for a wage increase unless prices were stabilized at the level existing at the expiration of the OPA.

Aside from the slogans carried by the Socialist Workers Party, the only placards calling for a wage increase were borne by Plymouth Local 51 of the UAW: "We Want A Wage Increase Now." Although practically every speaker mentioned political action as a weapon to beat inflation and demanded the ousting of the present congressional representatives of Big Business, not one said how this was to be achieved.

On this point Matthew Smith, president of MESA, uttered some fiery words: "It is about time that the common people take over things and run them for a while and let the landed gentry hold protest meetings." But neither he nor any else called for the launching of an independent party of labor.

The prevailing slogans of the rally were: "United We Fight" and "We Are Not Buying Till Prices Stop Flying." The Socialist Workers Party placards stood out in the great mass of signs that appeared at the rally. Among the SWP slogans were: "For A Labor Party Now!" "For Automatic Wage Increases To Meet Price Increases." "For A United National Labor Conference To Fight The Anti-Labor Drive."

As part of the mass demonstration, several hundred workers picketed the Hudson Department Store with signs reading: "Hudson Charges The Highest Prices—Pays The Lowest Wages." Many stores were closed down by the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees before 5 p.m.

The workers remained at Cadillac Square to the very end of the rally even where it meant losing time and even staying away entirely from the night shift. For instance, the Briggs Corporation announced that 59.9 per cent of the night shift workers who were due to report at 7 p.m. were absent.

A great number of workers were heard to complain about the failure of their leaders to declare a 24-hour holiday. It was a strong sentiment among the workers that this rally should be followed by others in the near future with a complete shutdown of plants for a full day.

Our Sunday afternoon "Militant Discussion Group" will be discontinued for the summer months. Watch The Militant for notice of Pittsburgh meetings. Visit our headquarters, 141 S. Highland.

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Detroit Workers Rally Against High Prices



This is only part of the huge crowd of over 100,000 workers who thronged to Detroit's Cadillac Square on July 16, in the rally called by the CIO United Auto Workers, AFL, veteran and consumer groups supported the demonstration. —Federated Pictures

CIO Veterans Fight For Bonus And Rent Control In Michigan

By J. Roberts

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, July 19—A two-day veterans' conference was held in Lansing by the UAW and Michigan CIO last week to demand that a special session of the state legislature act on a state bonus and a rent control law. About 75 veterans, representing large and small UAW and CIO locals throughout Michigan, attended.

The union veterans first held a meeting of their own to discuss important points to be incorporated into the proposed bill. It was decided that each veteran should receive \$10 for each month served on state-side duty and \$15 for each month or major fraction thereof abroad. As the bill was originally drawn up, GI's who served between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1945, would have

been eligible for the bonus. As finally passed, the bill provides a bonus for all time served up to June 30, 1946. The veterans were interested not only in being paid a bonus but even more in knowing who was to be taxed to raise the estimated \$270,000,000 to pay it. Amvets had circulated a petition asking that the bonus be paid from a sales tax. This method of payment was unanimously rejected by the CIO veterans. In fact, one witness after another told the legislative committee that they would be opposed to any bonus, if it was paid out of a sales tax.

Instead, the veterans proposed that Michigan amend its constitution so that money to pay the bonus could be raised from a tax on corporations and on individual incomes of \$5,000 and up. In plain language the veterans told the law makers that they

wanted the bonus paid for by those people who had made the profits out of the war.

The bill as passed puts the question of paying the bonus on the ballot for the November election. It proposes that the state be bonded to the extent of \$270,000,000 to pay it. The method of raising the money through taxation will be determined at a later date.

The bonus bill was passed almost without opposition. But the rent control law as passed, even according to the capitalist press, was a dud. It does not control rents. For one thing, it provides a flat 15 per cent increase in rents. On top of this, so many loopholes are left that "control" does not exist.

This visit to the legislative halls of Michigan opened the eyes of many of the veterans present to the need for electing candidates who will represent them. Looking down upon this body of men, one veteran said it looked like a gathering from an old people's home. The average age must be over sixty.

Not only are they old men, but the overwhelming majority of the legislators come from rural areas or small towns. This, in spite of the fact that over half of the state population is in Detroit and nearby cities.

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4,000 Attend UAW Protest In Chicago

By Howard Smith

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 16—Over 4,000 UAW members poured into Ashland Auditorium at 3 p.m. today in response to the call issued by the Policy Committee of the International Executive Board. Day-shift workers downed tools two hours before the shift ended to be present at the demonstration. Night-shift workers who participated in the demonstration punched in two hours late.

Among the supporting organizations represented at the demonstration in addition to the UAW were the Tenants League, United Negro and Allied Veterans, Emergency Committee for Rent Control, and the American Veterans Committee.

Joseph Mattson, UAW Regional Director, outlined the United Auto Worker's three-point program and announced that meetings were being held concurrently in all cities in UAW Region 4, including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Racine and Milwaukee. He reaffirmed Walter Reuther's declaration at a Cicero Stadium meeting of Electromotive Local 719 last Sunday: "The UAW will reopen a fight for wage increases if we do not succeed in rolling back prices."

ONLY BEGINNING
The membership was given no opportunity to discuss program. Postcards addressed to President Truman urging "the renewal of OPA as it was before June 30" and "the veto of the present compromise bill" were passed around. The rank-and-file were also asked to repeat a pledge "not to buy anything but the bare necessities" while we "hold on to our money until prices are reduced."

The motion which received the biggest ovation requested that the local UAW union presidents meet the next day to consider further steps to be taken to carry out the fight against inflation. This response reflected the general feeling of the workers present that this meeting was important only as a beginning and that the action thus far undertaken was by no means adequate.

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TRADE UNION NOTES

Last week's CIO Executive Board revealed that the Brewery Workers Union, with 65,000 members, has affiliated with the CIO.

The Curran group and the Stalinists, who are now at loggerheads over control of the National Maritime Union, split about even in the NMU elections, which were marked by an exposure of Stalinist stuffing of ballot-boxes in the best Tammany Hall style.

Evidence of handwriting experts showed that one person had marked 64 Boston ballots for Frank Jones, Stalinist candidate for treasurer. When these votes and 42 challenged in Corpus Christi, Texas, were thrown out, the Curran candidate, M. Hedley Stone, was elected by a majority of 60 votes.

Joseph Curran and his lieutenant, vice-president Jack Lawrenson, were both re-elected. On the Stalinist side, Joseph Stack was elected vice-president, and Howard McKenzie and Ferdinand C. Smith were re-elected as vice-president and secretary.

Both AFL and CIO unions have had to protest Army interference with union activities at the Oak Ridge atomic bomb plants. Intimidation and firing of unionists, restrictions on activities of union organizers, refusal to permit unionists to distribute literature at plant gates are some of the anti-labor acts charged to the brass hats.

"The Army at Oak Ridge has violated every principle of the four freedoms and every concept of a free government," says James F. Barrett, coordinator of the AFL's Atomic Trade and Labor Council. "Oak Ridge has

been turned into a concentration camp, and the iron heel of dictatorship presses as heavily upon the rights of people supposed to be free as that felt in any concentration camp in any county in the world."

The CIO's Atomic Workers Organizing Committee has also protested to Secretary of War Patterson against the firing of Oak Ridge workers.

Such protests led to the announcement of a slight modification in Army regulations, permitting distribution of Union literature without previous censorship by the Army, but requiring special army passes for organizers before they could distribute such literature even outside plant gates.

Further attacks by the Army on union members came to light with the firing of five CIO members of the United Public Workers of America at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland last week.

The brass hats refused to explain the reason for this act, asserting only that it was carried out under the provisions of Public Law No. 808, permitting discharges "in the interest of national defense." The War Department defended its use of this deliberately vague law by claiming that "only a few dozen" people have been discharged under it, and that the firing of the five had "no connection whatever with their union activities." All five are officers of Local 250 of the United Public Workers.

The national president of the union, Abram Flaxer, described the discharges as "an obvious union-busting device."

The CIO's drive to organize the South proceeds slowly in its initial stages, but it is making definite progress. Director Van A. Bittner, reported this month that the CIO had won NLRB elections in 25 plants scattered throughout the south. Most of these are small plants, but they indicate an important and encouraging trend.

The expulsion from the Bay City Labor Council of Al Yates, Communist Party member, is the first step in the red-baiting drive initiated by the leaders of the California Federation of Labor. One of the resolutions introduced at the recent convention of the state federation had charged Yates and Herbert Sorrell, leader of the Conference of Studio Unions in Hollywood, with membership in the Communist Party. It demanded investigations and expulsions if they were found to be CP members.

At the hearing before the Executive Board of the Central Labor Council, Yates frankly admitted being a member of the CP. He added that he felt the red-baiting campaign in the federation was opposed to the best interests of the workers.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20—A full fledged battle is developing here between consumers and retailers over the issue of skyrocketing prices. The growing resistance of consumers to high prices made this week one of the dull-est shopping weeks since the end of the war.

It is estimated that the sale of meat and dairy products have dropped as much as 40 per cent in some stores. The average drop throughout the city was about 25 per cent. The refrigerator cases of Philadelphia stores were full of butter this week for the first time in many years. Receipts for the first four days of this week totaled 1,358,681 pounds as compared with 607,181 received during the last week of OPA ceilings.

The Evening Bulletin, largest evening newspaper in the city, admitted that the end of the shortage came as a result of OPA's action in raising the butter ceiling by 11c and Congress' refusal to enact authority for continued butter ceilings.

CONSUMER ACTIONS
Direct consumer action has forced dealers to lower their prices in many cases. Buyers' strikes and picket lines are making their appearance all over the city.

The residents of the Passyunk housing project forced a market to bring its prices down to OPA ceilings after two days of picketing. Housewives formed themselves into the Passyunk Shoppers' League and cut the market's business down to 30 customers in one day.

The buyers' strike forced dealers throughout the city to reduce their prices on perishables

such as meat, cheese, butter, fresh fruits and vegetables. This was particularly evident in the case of butter. One center city store charged 78c per pound at 8 a.m. They were forced to lower the price to 75c later. Still later the same day the price was lowered to 73c.

Neighborhood stores were selling butter at 69c a pound, 4c over the OPA ceiling and 21c less than 10 days ago.

PICKET STORES
Independent food stores and chain supermarkets were picketed yesterday and 5,000 handbills were distributed to shoppers urging them to take a "holiday from the high cost of living." In front of one store a half-dozen children carried signs protesting against seven cent ice cream cones and the five cent per quart increase in the cost of milk since June 1.

Herbert Moyer, chairman of the CIO Ceiling Committee, announced that virtually all sales of milk during lunch hour had been halted in Philadelphia industrial plants as a result of a buyers' strike. There are 350 CIO plants in Philadelphia which employ 175,000 men and women. An estimated 20,000 pints of milk are sold daily in these plants.

10,000 workers employed at the huge Baldwin Locomotive Works, Eddystone, Pa., forced management to cut the price of milk in its cafeterias as a result of a buyers' boycott.

CIO Board Cites Need For Raises

(Continued from Page 1)

such a conference were held. A conference of this kind was held last winter. It produced no results benefiting the labor movement, and the CIO was compelled to call numerous strikes to secure even the most modest wage raises. Asked last week if that was the kind of conference he wanted now, Murray said, "God forbid." But he did not say how the proposed conference would or could differ in essence from the last year's fiasco.

An ominous note was introduced, however, when Murray added to the reporters that the CIO leaders, while not yet ready to give up the strike weapon, might consider renewing the strike pledge at the proposed conference. If labor gave up the right to strike, it would be completely at the mercy of the profiteers, just as it was during the war.

PHILADELPHIA, July 20—Over 5,000 workers of UE Westinghouse Local 601 answered their union's call for solidarity with the striking Trafford laundry workers by quitting early and marching to a mass meeting at the Turtle Creek High stadium yesterday afternoon.

The Trafford foundry and micarta workers struck when the company arbitrarily slashed the incentive rates without following contract procedure. Immediately 1,500 workers responded by closing down the Trafford plant on July 8.

Speakers at the mass meeting pointed out that this was not an isolated instance of company provocation, but a deliberate attempt to smash the union. Time and time again throughout the 16,000-man plant, the company has conducted a guerrilla warfare, searching for weak spots. Chief steward Michael Fitzpatrick pointed out how the company has been down grading returning servicemen, many of whom had years of seniority.

RESOLUTION PASSED
The Trafford workers voted to return to work at the rates prior to the company's changes, while throughout the entire demonstration workers voiced their threat of a slowdown unless the company changes its insolent attitude. This was echoed from the speakers' rostrum. A resolution was passed unanimously calling for new wage demands unless prices are controlled.

Local 601 was the scene of a bitter 119-day strike last winter when the company unsuccessfully used every device from red-baiting to injunctions and state police to break the strike.

Ask Your Shopmate To Subscribe to The Militant

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Ask Your

Where is the Soviet Union Going?

Why Workers Should Defend The USSR

By Ernest Germain

The brutality with which Stalin operates in the Soviet buffer zone in Eastern Europe provides countless imperialist agents with a convenient pretext to unleash their anti-Soviet agitation, the moral preparation for the third world war. The sole aim of all these gentlemen is to reintroduce capitalism in Russia; their hypocritical lamentations about the "freedom of the peoples," about "democracy" against "pillaging," are only despicable formulas veiling the real demand, the colonization of Russia by Wall Street.

If these gentlemen were really concerned about "freedom of the peoples," they would strive for the immediate independence of India, for the withdrawal of imperialist troops from Indo-China, Indonesia, Germany and Italy. As touches their horror of applying terror against "innocent people," they clearly and noisily showed their real attitude by their frantic applause when the atomic bomb blasted Hiroshima and Nagasaki from the map of the world.

"IMPERIALISM"

Even in the ranks of the revolutionary movement, the barbaric methods with which Stalin treats the occupied countries have been advanced as sufficient ground for changing our attitude toward the USSR. We are forced to conclude that comrades holding such views have hitherto nursed illusions about the nature of the bureaucracy.

It has invariably employed the most brutal methods to achieve its aims. The forced collectivization in Russia, for example, certainly took more victims than all the bureaucratic measures in all the occupied countries. However, in the past we were never guided in determining our attitude toward the USSR by moral or subjective factors, but solely by sociological analysis, by the class criteria. We must proceed the same way today.

This is why we must decisively reject all attempts to identify Soviet expansionism with imperialism, the policy of expansion of finance capital. Imperialism has the following very specific features: export of capital; super-exploitation of colonial masses; expropriation of small artisans and small farmers; imperialist policy is a barrier to the development of the productive forces.

Soviet expansionism is characterized by absolutely different features: nationalization of heavy industries; agrarian reform; pillaging of a part of the industrial equipment. To the extent that this policy has durable effects, they will result in a development of the productive forces.

While imperialism in the colonies rests on the most reactionary social forces, primarily on the large landed proprietors, the bureaucracy in the occupied countries is forced to direct its blows principally against these forces, and lean, even if hesitantly, on the independent action of the masses with the aim of limiting it, holding it back and eventually crushing it.

This was clearly demonstrated not only in Poland and Czechoslovakia but also recently in Berlin when the Soviet High Command, within the framework of its policy of blackmailing imperialism, supported a large popular anti-Allied demonstration.

DIFFERENT ENDS

If the policy of the bureaucracy in the occupied countries, while employing identical methods, nevertheless arrives at ends diametrically opposed to those pursued by imperialism, it is because Soviet society is a society diametrically opposed to that of decaying capitalism.

When we surveyed the internal evolution of Russia since the war, we noted that all the theories

claiming that we are confronted with a new exploiting society and that the bureaucracy in Russia constitutes a new exploiting class, are unable to explain the zigzags and the many contradictory features in the internal policy of the bureaucracy, principally the recent "left turn."

We have shown that these zigzags fundamentally confirm the analysis of Trotsky, according to which the bureaucracy does not constitute a new class having well-defined interests, but a Bonapartist caste, a parasitic growth upon the proletariat. This caste—while constantly trying to play off the polar tendencies against each other, the pro-capitalist tendency against the proletarian—is forced in the end to defend the collective ownership of the means of production, the source of all its privileges. We have also shown that contrary to these theories of a new exploiting class, the danger which threatens Soviet society is really that of capitalist restoration.

WHAT DEFENSE MEANS

For all these reasons we conclude that fundamentally Russia remains a degenerated workers' state. An attack by an imperialist power against the USSR would aim to transform Russia into an imperialist colony. The effects of such an attack, even if partially successful, would be, as the conquests of Hitler clearly demonstrated, to throw Russia back several centuries, to throw the Russian masses back to a level of exploitation surpassing anything hitherto known in the capitalist world. Against such an attack the world proletariat and the Russian proletariat are obliged to defend the USSR to the hilt in order to preserve the remaining conquests of the October Revolution.

But this policy of defense of the Soviet Union against imperialism does not at all mean the slightest apology, justification, or silence about the crimes of Stalin. We defend the Soviet Union by carrying on throughout the world the revolutionary class struggle against our own capitalists; the Russian proletariat combines the policy of defending the USSR with the policy of waging an implacable struggle against the bureaucracy, which constitutes in Russia the most dangerous objective ally of world capitalism.

As for the occupied countries, we believe that the discredit thrown on the Soviet Union by the barbarous methods of Stalin and the demoralization of the proletariat which results from them, far outweigh the strategic "advantages" of this policy. For this reason we demand the "immediate withdrawal of the Red Army" from these territories, connecting up this slogan with our entire struggle in these territories which, proceeding from the reforms introduced since the Russian occupation, must consist of achieving the abolition of capitalism and the creation of a federation of independent Soviet Republics.

All over the world our policy of defense of the Soviet Union, far from "objectively supporting" Stalinism, delivers mortal blows to it, for this policy is identical with our general strategy, that of the world proletarian revolution.

(The above is the final in a series of six articles analyzing trends in the Soviet Union since the end of the war. This series was translated from the French by John Garrow.)

Growing Unrest Of Italian Workers Flares In Militant General Strikes

August 'Fourth International' Features Works Of Trotsky

The August issue of Fourth International, now on sale, is dedicated to Leon Trotsky, who was slain by a hired assassin of Stalin on August 21, 1940. It features hitherto unpublished documents by Trotsky, special photographs, and articles describing Trotsky's struggle to build the world movement of the Fourth International. Moreover, important contributions on problems facing the workers everywhere today, give testimony to the living power of Trotskyism which survives all blows.

Trotskyism lives and grows, John G. Wright points out in "Trotsky's Struggle for the Fourth International," because "Trotsky saw that the world party of the working class is first of all a closely knit system of ideas, that is to say, a program." This program of international socialism has developed consistently since the first days of the Left Opposition in the Communist Party. Today, Trotskyist parties throughout the world are in the forefront of the workers' struggles.

Trotsky's previously unpublished article, "Nationalized Industry and Workers' Management," illustrates his method of examining a national problem, in this case Mexican expropriation of oil lands, as the framework

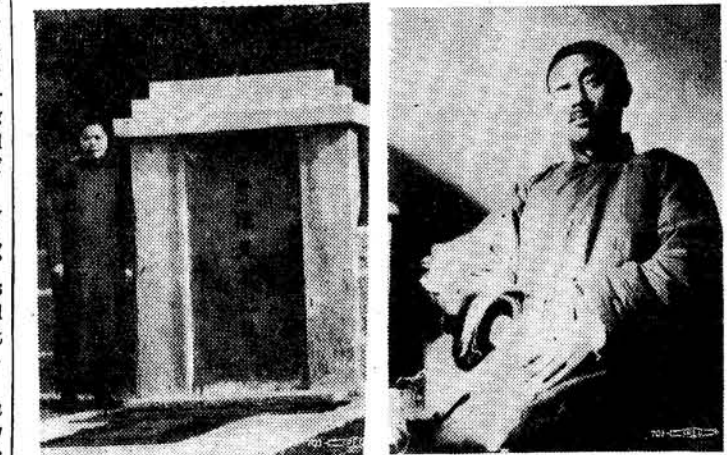
Hawaiian Labor In Political Fight

Hawaiian workers are preparing to put up a strong fight in the territorial elections this October, in an effort to break the control that sugar monopolists have exercised over their lives for nearly 100 years. This control has been so complete that some bosses even decide how many children workers' wives can bear.

For the first time, the workers will contest the elections as a united group, organized in the CIO Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. In 1944, political action committees started by the ILWU overthrew plantation-run machines in two counties. This year, they are aiming for a majority in the territorial legislature.

Outside Honolulu, in the plantation and ranching districts, the so-called "Big Five" monopolists have exercised control over every phase of life. The Big Five are five agencies which handle the island's sugar.

However, these five firms are so closely connected with nearly all other business in Hawaii that the whole tightly-knit group is popularly included in the title. This "ruling class" is confined to the white population, which is only a small percentage of the total. —CIO News, July 15



Comrade Chen Tu-hsiu

These pictures, just received from China, show (left) the widow of Chen Tu-hsiu (right), renowned Chinese Trotskyist leader, standing beside the latter's grave in the village of Kiangtsin, Szechwan, where he died on May 24, 1942 at the age of 64.

The late Comrade Chen was not only a world revolutionary figure, but also an illustrious scholar held in the highest esteem by the Chinese people. Renouncing an easy academic life as a professor at the Peking National University, he plunged into the revolutionary struggle and became one of the founders of the Chinese Communist Party in 1920, thereafter playing a leading role in the Chinese revolution of 1925-27 which went down to defeat because of the disastrous policy foisted on the youthful Chinese party by the Stalin-Bukharin clique in Moscow.

In 1930, together with several other leading members, Comrade Chen was expelled from the party as a Left Oppositionist. He took part in launching the Chinese Trotskyist movement and was active in it, as an underground revolutionary fighter, until his arrest by the Kuomintang in 1932.

Comrade Chen spent the next five years in prison at Nanking, having been sentenced to a 13-year term on a charge of "endangering the state." In 1937, when the Japanese armies were approaching Nanking, he was released together with other political prisoners. Imprisonment had seriously undermined his health and he remained a sickly man for the rest of his life.

A biographical article on Comrade Chen Tu-hsiu, sketching his life as a revolutionist and a scholar, was written by Li Fu-jen on the occasion of his death and appeared in the August 1942 issue of the Fourth International.

Egyptians Revolting Against British Rule



Picture taken during the demonstrations last March against British domination of Egypt (See "The Militant" March 16.) Great throngs of Egyptians took possession of the Cairo streets, shouting, "Down with Bevin!" and "Down with England!"

At present the Egyptian government has launched a wave of terror against the masses. Eleven educational, scientific and other intellectual organizations have been banned. Thousands of Egyptians and refugees from the Balkan countries have been arrested. The purge is linked with the military alliance now being consummated between King Farouk and London. According to the July 16 "Christian Science Monitor," Farouk's "rule and that of the wealthy Egyptian upper classes are increasingly threatened by social revolutionary forces whose activities are reported in a dispatch from Cairo on this page.

Trotskyists Spur Fight For Freedom Of Egypt

(Special to The Militant)

CAIRO, July 10—While the Egyptian government is carrying on protracted negotiations with the British, the workers, peasants and students are taking the struggle for independence onto the streets. In this the Egyptian Trotskyists are playing an increasing and leading role.

On February 9, the day on which the police fired on demonstrations in Cairo and Alexandria, killing 27, the Trotskyists in Cairo issued a leaflet calling on the students not to remain within the walls of the University but to quit the capitalist districts and to go to where the workers are. The leaflet concluded:

"Students and workers! Unite as the specter of reaction haunts the country. You students alone cannot overcome the police. Go to the workers and you will find enough power to meet the police. Without a swift link with the workers our Revolution will lose its popular basis. Don't appear before the Royal Palace but to the factories, to the workers, the true representatives of the people and thus encourage them to continue their heroic deeds."

On the same day the police, infuriated by the activities of the Trotskyists, made a city-wide search, arresting three students and a worker who were distributing leaflets.

In Cairo also the students succeeded in joining forces with the workers and creating a Joint Committee of Students and Workers in which the Trotskyists are active. It marked the beginning of a new era in the history of our movement in Egypt.

As the Trotskyist journal in Egypt is banned, it has been decided to continue with the issue

WIDE RESPONSE

This call met with immediate response, the students making the slogan "Towards the workers" their own. In Alexandria 3,000 students marched to the workers' districts where they

of leaflets. The second leaflet accused the King of responsibility for the death of those who were shot by the police:

"Students and workers, this is the most evident case that capitalism and imperialism are our most deadly enemies. The King and his degenerated class know that their days have gone and want to keep you down by force, but they will never do so. You are bold enough and in the end you and the workers will be victorious."

CLARION CALL

While the Egyptian ruling class and the representatives of British imperialism continue to bargain behind closed doors, the demonstrations on the street go unabated.

The slogan, "Long Live Workers and Students" has become the clarion call of the toilers and the intellectuals and even of the little children in the streets. The toiling classes now clearly know that the coming revolution will be a proletarian revolution and not a capitalist revolution. The revolution has been abandoned by the nationalist capitalists.

In the streets only students and workers lead the demonstrations. On the walls of Cairo and Alexandria you can read in English and Arabic "Join the Revolution-

Mounting unrest in Italy was registered July 18 by a general strike in the great industrial centers of Milan and Turin. The strikes were so effective that Premier Alcide de Gasperi termed it a "national emergency." He called out the Army, Navy and police.

According to Arnaldo Cortesi of the N. Y. Times, "workers occupied several factories and commercial establishments, ejecting owners and managerial staffs." Cortesi added that "In more than one place the workers were well armed and prepared to resist any attempt to evict them by force."

Associated Press, however, quoted de Gasperi as "denying that armed Turin workers had occupied factories."

Demands of the strikers included a bonus of 2,000 lire a person. (About \$9.)

Almost all the newspapers in Italy were closed down when 100,000 mechanical employees stopped work. Workers in private printing shops, paper factories and related industries joined the printers. They demanded standardization of wages throughout the country at the highest levels prevailing in Milan and Turin.

The metalworkers were reported as insisting on increased wages and continuation of an arrangement that forbids employers from laying off any hands.

NEW STRIKES

The general strike at Turin was "settled" on terms not reported by the press. But new strikes broke out again throughout Italy on July 20. In Florence thousands of unemployed demonstrated, stopping traffic and forcing stores to close down.

The strike wave was set off by the steadily worsening standard of living under Allied domination. The July 25 World Report declares that taking 1939 as an index of 100, prices have shot up in Italy to 3,200! But the 1939 prices under Mussolini already meant starvation for the masses.

Although two years have passed since the downfall of Mussolini, the economic and social crisis in Italy is reaching hitherto unimagined depths.

The July 21 N. Y. Times declares that the "left wing unions and parties are losing their control of the workers." The Times believes that this means these organizations "will be forced to adopt a more extreme policy to regain their lost prestige."

But the militant actions of the working class indicate that they are not waiting for the Stalinist and Socialist fakery to recoup their prestige. The workers are demonstrating in action that they are beginning to see through these fakery and are seeking a program that will truly express their interests and solve their problems. Only the Italian Trotskyists offer that program.

ary Communist Party" (Middle East Section, Fourth International). The activities of the Trotskyists are gaining them new adherents every day. Their increased prestige and leadership in the struggle of the workers and students is the best guarantee of final victory.

Fate Of The Jews Under Capitalism

By Dan Shelton

The Palestine pogrom, supplemented by the Kielce pogrom, depicts the true nature of Jewish "liberation" at the hands of the victorious Allies. Terror, decimation, and murder continue to be the lot of Jewry under decaying capitalism.

Forty-one Jews were killed in the bloody Kielce riots in Poland, equalling the worst pre-Hitler pogroms. Giving the lie to glib Allied military men who invariably dismiss the continued anti-Semitism in Europe as Jewish "inventions," the Kielce bestialities are the latest and cruellest in a series of pogroms that have taken place in the past year in Poland and other European countries.

In Palestine, the British have recently unleashed a fascist-like terror against Jewry and its military arm, the Hagana. Despite the hermetic censorship immediately clamped on Palestine, shocking news has come of tortures, beatings and indiscriminate killings of women and children, as well as of the openly anti-Semitic conduct of the British troops.

"Enlightened" British colonial rule barred its true face in mass assaults on Jewish settlements, in mass arrests in the cities, where whole blocks were roped off, in bloody encounters with Jewish resisters, and finally, in the utilization of infamous concentration camps at Latrun and Athlit. Mounting waves of arrests and raids on cities and the agricultural communes reached their climax two years ago, when battle-equipped Brit-

Arrayed against the British is the Jewish resistance movement, under the leadership of the Hagana. Originally the military defense arm of the Jewish labor movement, the Hagana has expanded into an all-embracing, strictly disciplined, heavily armed and tightly knit mass movement, numbering not less than 80,000 members.

With its branches and its ammunition depots in every Jewish communal settlement, with roots in every city block and every union, the Hagana represents the real striking force in Palestine today! Composed mainly of workers and commune farmers, Hagana nevertheless carried out in its program the chauvinist and class-collaboration policies of Zionism.

Hagana's struggle up to now has not been anti-imperialist but rather a struggle for continued Jewish immigration. Its numerous raids on British military installations, munition depots, etc., were designed to harass the British efforts to keep illegal immigrants out. This is also evidenced by Hagana's burning of government immigration and identification records.

BRITISH AIMS
Britain's aims in Palestine are clearer than ever before. The British treaty offered to Egypt "grants" sham independence, which will continue Egypt's economic subjugation. A partial withdrawal of British troops to appease the Egyptian nationalists is just so much window-dressing for Britain's determination to hold on to Egypt, the key

to the Suez Canal and hence to India.

The troops to be withdrawn from Egypt will be shifted to the other side of the Suez Canal—that is, to Palestine, which is the focal point in Britain's "life line" to India. A veritable armed camp is being built up in Palestine and England's military might is being concentrated there.

Never was the filmsiness of the Zionist project of an "independent" Palestine "Jewish state" so fully revealed as it is in the light of British imperialist conduct in and plans for Palestine today.

(Next week: Another article on this subject.)

U.S. Imperialism In The Philippines

Fifteen hundred Philippine army soldiers with full U. S. Army equipment were dispatched last week to Central Luzon's Pampanga province in President Roxas' latest and most ambitious effort to smash the Huk-balahaps guerrilla forces in that area. For their part, the Huk-balahaps are conducting an extensive recruiting campaign and are now reported to have armed and organized into guerrilla bands over 10,000 men. Wall Street puppet Roxas' opposition to the revolutionary character of the guerrilla movement. The large estates have been confiscated and the land given to the peasants wherever the Huk-balahaps win control.

International Notes

Mexico

Mexico's presidential election was held on July 7 and by last week the slow-moving election machinery had released sufficient returns for the Institutional Revolutionary Party to claim sweeping victory for its candidate Miguel Aleman. Aleman had a 5-to-1 lead over Ezequiel Padilla, candidate of the Mexican Democratic Party.

Neither the victory of Aleman nor Padilla could mean much change in the miserable status of the Mexican workers and peasants, however, for both parties are subservient to American imperialism. In an election day statement, Lucha Obrera, organ of the Mexican section of the Fourth International, said:

The capitalist parties that are today fighting for power are only contesting for the right to be the lackeys of imperialism. The working class must completely reject these parties. All the struggles of the people must be centered around the slogan: For

the formation of a revolutionary workers' party."

Ecuador

Ecuadorian President Velasco Ibarra is using \$6,000,000 worth of U. S. Lend-Lease military equipment to smash democratic and working class opposition to his reactionary regime. New York Herald Tribune correspondent James Newman cabled from that country on June 28 that "American tanks, guns and other military equipment is being used . . . to suppress democratic opposition."

He reports that on April 2 the newspaper office of a democratic paper was wrecked by police using American guns. On April 3 troops in American-built tanks attacked Quito University students who were on a protest sit-down strike. On April 4 the workers of a textile plant, who were out on strike, were attacked by troops using American equipment. Thousands have been arrested.

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Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

Who Runs The USA?

The capitalist politicians claim that America is a "democracy." Particularly around election time, in phrases carefully hand-tooled by their ghost-writers, they insist that the people of the United States really run the country. What are the facts?

In his series of articles now running in *The Militant*, Art Preis points out that during World War II wealth and economic power was greatly concentrated in the hands of the giant monopolies. These monopolies, he continues, own "most of America's industries, transport, raw materials, food processing and distribution, financial institutions" and the press and radio. The monopolies in turn "are controlled by a tiny oligarchy of America's sixty richest families."

Basing himself on the report of the Senate Small Business Committee on Economic Concentration and World War II, Preis shows that "250 giant corporations own two-thirds of manufacturing production facilities in America today." He demonstrates beyond question that "just 31 of these corporations own a total of 18.2 billion dollars of facilities—30 per cent of the nation's productive plant and equipment."

And then he underlines the most significant fact of all—that five financial groups, the "Morgan-First National, Mellon, Rockefeller, du Pont and the Cleveland group" own these 31 corporations.

In other words, the entire economic life of this vast country is completely dominated by a bare handful of colossal rich individuals. But the power of this ruling clique is by no means confined to the economic field. It extends throughout the entire mechanism that largely shapes public opinion—the big newspapers, magazines, the radio and pulpit. This power finds its most finished expression in the political field.

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are political instruments of this ruling clique. Funds pour impartially from America's sixty richest families into both political machines. The political strategists of this oligarchy determine the platforms of both Republicans and Democrats.

Thus the entire officialdom in Washington constitutes nothing but a general committee representing the political interests of the giant monopolies. Senators, representatives, judges, administrators, executives, ambassadors, brass hats are all agents of the rich.

In view of these facts, how can America be said to be controlled in reality by the people? If the trade unions, for instance, with some 15,000,000 members do not have a single voice in Congress, how can their will be reflected in the government?

If the people of America are to exercise their right to run the country, then they must begin to organize on the political field. It is the manifest duty of the labor movement to organize its own independent Labor Party to fight 365 days of the year for labor's political interests.

Let this election mark the beginning of a serious attempt to fight the monopolists on the political field. Put labor on the political map. Organize an independent labor party!

Labor's Needs Today

The CIO Executive Board meeting in Washington last week gave little leadership to the American workers in their struggle against inflation.

Murray and the other CIO leaders conceded the need for immediate wage increases to make up for recent price rises. But they gave the workers no program of action to achieve these wage raises. In fact, they did not address themselves to the workers on this question at all.

Their eyes were turned toward Truman—the same Truman who broke the rail strike when the railroad workers tried to win justified wage raises. All they had to offer was an appeal to Truman for still another of those labor-employer conferences which have never advanced the cause of labor by one inch.

While reluctant to discuss the plans of the CIO leaders, Murray gave a hint of the lines along which they were thinking when he told reporters that they would be willing to consider signing a new no-strike pledge at the conference.

This casual announcement is more significant than a dozen resolutions. It indicates that Murray and Co., while admitting the need for wage raises, are not prepared to lead a

fight to get them. It indicates that they are trying to work out a deal with Truman. In return for some paltry and temporary concessions, they are willing to compel the workers to give up the chief economic weapon at their disposal for the protection of their living standards.

What labor needs today is not statements about the need for wage raises to meet increased living costs. Urgently needed is a serious and militant struggle against the profiteering employers and the government to secure such wage raises.

What labor needs today is not talk of surrendering the strike weapon, but preparations to use that weapon against the dire effects of inflation.

The kind of conference needed now is not another meeting with employers and government officials, but a conference representing the entire labor movement. This United Labor Conference should plan and coordinate a fighting campaign for wage raises, for a sliding scale of wages to offset future price rises, and for effective price controls.

Withdraw The Troops

In distant Trieste—a port at the head of the Adriatic Sea—American soldiers still face death 14 months after V-E Day. On June 30, seven were injured when a hand grenade was hurled at them. Again on July 17 an American soldier was killed and another injured by machine gun fire.

Some 600 American soldiers were reported patrolling Trieste streets on July 18 in full battle equipment "with rifles and machine-guns cocked."

These bloody incidents occurred when Allied authorities decided to oppose a general strike and demonstrations of more than 100,000 Trieste citizens protesting the Paris Conference decisions. Trieste clearly manifested its resentment over the "Big Four" deciding its fate without so much as a pretense of consulting the people on their wishes. In the game of power politics, Trieste is a pawn by virtue of the bayonets of American soldiers.

The same dangers face American troops on the other side of the world in China. There 20,000 marines are still stationed, ostensibly to guard certain railway lines. But Washington and London have additional objectives in China besides guarding particular investments of the Anglo-American capitalists. In the raging civil war, Wall Street and the City are backing the hated reactionary regime of dictator Chiang Kai-shek.

Seven marines were "kidnapped" July 15 near the village of Ksinanchang on the railroad that leads to Mukden. This is only the latest of a series of similar incidents.

The American troops held in China long ago registered their wish to return home. Many of their letters protesting being held in China have been placed in the Congressional Record.

The Chinese people have similarly indicated in no uncertain terms that they want American troops withdrawn. A number of protest demonstrations have been held, some of them involving great masses of people in the principal cities.

Yet Washington, far from responding to these demands, is moving deeper and deeper into the Chinese civil war. Wall Street entered World War II for the sake of profits, colonies, and the strengthening of its world power. To withdraw the troops would weaken Wall Street's foreign position and by the same token weaken it at home in its battle against the American working class.

Thus the labor movement has every interest in backing up the American boys held overseas and the masses of people abroad menaced by American bayonets.

Withdraw the troops!

Georgia "Democracy"

In the Georgia primary elections for Governor on July 18, the overwhelming popular vote of the Negroes and poor whites rejected the "white supremacist" candidate, Eugene Talmadge. But against the will of the majority, Talmadge was nominated. In this one-party state, his nomination means that Talmadge will automatically be elected Governor of the State of Georgia.

The mechanics of Georgia elections reveal how the Southern Bourbons defy the will of the people and maintain their reactionary, minority rule. Elections are based upon the "unit" system, set up by the big Southern planters, bankers and landholders to disfranchise the Negroes.

Under this system, heavily populated districts can have no more than six unit votes. But each county, no matter how small, has at least two unit votes. Thus, Fulton County, with about 400,000 population, can be outvoted by four tiny counties with a total population of 20,000.

Moreover, this rigged-up electoral system is backed up by the "white supremacists" with intimidation and force. Talmadge openly warned the Negroes to stay away from the polls. In the segregated polls, mainly in the urban centers, white plug-uglies challenged the Negroes and purged their names from the electoral lists. Large numbers were disqualified. Talmadge brazenly campaigned to "save Georgia for the white man."

Despite all this, some 100,000 courageous Negroes voted for the first time in the state's history. But after his election Talmadge triumphantly proclaimed: "No Negro will vote in Georgia for the next four years!"

The victory of Talmadge can only serve to strengthen the forces of reaction, mounting today in this country. Talmadge, the Bibbos, Rankins and others spewing forth their race-hate from public rostrums, are also leaders and organizers of lynch murders and atrocities. Talmadge openly campaigned for the support of the reviving Ku Klux Klan. His election gives the "green light" to this native fascist-minded organization.

The ideas represented by the Talmadge regime of oppression and terror foisted upon the poor people of Georgia are labeled "democracy" by the Southern Bourbons. Hitler called these ideas "Nazism."



But Ethelbert, don't you want to have a pretty smile when you grow up, so you can be president some day?

Workers' BOOKSHELF

ONLY VICTORIOUS SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONS CAN PREVENT THE THIRD WORLD WAR. Pioneer Publishers, 1946, 32 pages, 10 cents.

Contained in this pamphlet is the full text of the Manifesto of the Fourth International to the workers, the exploited and the oppressed colonial peoples of the entire world. The Manifesto is one of the two main political documents issued by the International Conference of the Fourth International held in Belgium in April 1946, attended by delegates from all the principal European sections, from the western Hemisphere and colonial countries.

"The crisis of humanity has become a life-and-death question in the deepest and most literal sense of the words," the Manifesto states. It traces the degeneration and bankruptcy of capitalist society through the first and second imperialist world wars.

Capitalism has already imposed a frightful toll of tens of millions dead, hundreds of millions in starvation, disease and misery, astronomical state debts and inflation. Worst of all, the Manifesto warns, "Make no mistake about it... the third world war is on the way... mankind faces the threat of atomic self-destruction."

An important section of the Manifesto is devoted to explaining the basic antagonism in the world today—of world imperialism headed by Wall St. vs. the Soviet Union. The role of the monstrous Stalinist bureaucracy, primarily responsible for a quarter of a century of grave defeats for the working class of the world, is analyzed. The present revolutionary situation is carefully appraised.

Congressmen At Work

Farmer's Demands Are Plowed Under

The plight of small independent farmers finds faint reflection in Congress. The skyrocketing prices of plows, harrows, disks, binders, balers and other farm machinery makes it increasingly difficult to replace equipment worn out during the war. On the other hand, the small producer gets very little benefit from the zooming prices of food products. The giant farms and ranches operated by the banks together with the monopolies that process farm products get the bulk of the profits gouged from the consumers.

However, the main political grievances of this layer of farmers can be gathered from the remarks of Congressmen from farm areas. What these farmers want can be outlined as follows:

1. Rural electrification. The harnessing of the rivers benefits farmers in two ways. It removes the scourge of floods. It provides cheap power. Farmers in this day and age want to junk the old coal-oil lantern, antiquated battery radios, hand-operated cream separators and washing machines. They want modern conveniences such as city dwellers enjoy—electric refrigerators, vacuum sweepers and electric stoves.

Only the government is capable of providing electricity at the low rates required. But the power trust throws millions of dollars into its fight against government projects. These profiteers understand that the cost of government electricity becomes a yardstick to measure their enormous profits and thus inspire the city populace to de-

Only the Fourth International has survived the test of war and reaction, the Manifesto emphasizes. The Second International "disappeared without a trace."

The Third International, after being corroded by years of betrayal, was merely traded out of existence by Stalin in exchange for Wall Street's Lend-Lease. But "neither Stalin, nor Hitler, nor the 'democratic' imperialists were able to suppress the onward march of the Fourth International."

The program of the Manifesto is internationalist to the core. In its Call to Action, it concretizes what must be done.

Pioneer Publishers is to be commended for making this important programmatic document available to the American working class in the most crucial period of its history. It should be carefully read by every thinking American worker.

Reviewed by Larissa Reed

THE STREET, by Ann Petri, Houghton Mifflin Co., 436 pp., \$2.50.

This is a sharp and vivid picture of living death in America's black ghetto. To Negro readers it can only serve as a dismal reminder of endless brutality and suffocating poverty—the punishment for having been born a Negro in America. To the average white reader this book rips open the skillfully designed propaganda picture and reveals the horrible Jim-Crow sore on the body of modern American society.

The Street is life in Harlem. It is the story of a young woman and her small son who attempt to build a decent life against overwhelming odds. The ending of this story is as brutal and grim as the day-to-day life of millions.

Reviewed by Bill Morgan

Lutie Johnson, an intelligent hardworking and ambitious young woman, tries to beat the system that broke her father and made a wreck of her marriage. Confronted at every step by discrimination, she is finally driven to despair and defeat. First there is the tenement with its everlasting dirt and tiny, box-like rooms alternately steaming with heat or bitter cold according to the season. Continuously mean and drab in cheap paint and dim lights, poorly furnished with bare essentials, the tenements of Harlem are like prison cells. Through thin partitions, the silent suffering and audible weeping, cursing and moaning of one becomes the common burden of all.

The only escape possible is the corner beer parlor. Like an oasis in a desert the saloon attracts all who have the price of a beer or who hope to borrow the price...

The hopes and fears, the efforts and defeats of all are graphically made to live as we watch Lutie Johnson try to squeeze her small wages to fit the cost of living, higher than in white neighborhoods. Lutie sees the men of Harlem driven to demoralization because they cannot support their wives or themselves on dishwashing jobs, porter jobs or other menial work. Lutie finally sees her small son caught in the trap of petty theft and embezzled in the complicated machinery of the law—the white man's law.

In a frantic effort to save her son, Lutie becomes involved in a sordid murder and is forced to run away, to the same conditions in Chicago. Only endless fear, pain and death will end the story.

Reviewed by Bill Morgan

British Labor Party's Nationalization Policy

By Ajit Roy

The publication of the list of the new Directors of the Bank of England has caused great satisfaction in the City. A reading of the list of names makes it clear that nationalization has not brought with it any basic change in the character of the Bank.

The same men who ran it in the past, are to continue to run it in the future. Apart from Mr. George Gibson, one of the safest of the trade union bureaucrats, the membership of the new Board is derived entirely from the top layer of City financiers and Big Business representatives, who are the real rulers of the country.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the *Financial Times* writes gleefully: "Thirteen of the sixteen members (plus the Governor and the Deputy-Governor) were in office before the Act was passed. The Bank, in fact, has predominantly a 'City' directorate. The Government as 'owner' has clearly wished to act 'correctly.' It can only be hoped that all future administrations will have the same desire."

The same policy of appeasing Big Business is manifest in the Investment (Control and Guarantees) Bill, which is about to become law.

In the Election Manifesto of the Labor Leaders, published in the pamphlet *Let Us Face The Future*, we were told that the Labor Government would maintain "a firm public hand on industry in order to get jobs for all." All private investments were to be controlled in the interest of the nation. Very little now is heard of even these meager promises.

Face-Saving Device

The new Investment Bill is a mere face-saving device, which does not control investment at all. Under its provisions all borrowing for investment purposes above the minimum of 50,000 pounds has to receive the sanction of the Government, acting under the advice of two committees—the Capital Issues Committee, and the National Investment Council.

It is sufficient to point out that seven-eighths of the total investment of the country does not take place through borrowing at all, but is made by giant combines and monopolies out of their immense profits and financial reserves.

In 1938, the total private investment amounted to some 615,000,000 pounds. Out of this, only 70,000,000 pounds was raised by borrowing from the City. The rest and the greater part, was made by the Big Combines out of their own immense resources.

Take the case of the Prudential Insurance Co. At the end of 1944, its total funds amounted to 420,674,000 pounds, bringing in an annual profit of 60,000,000 pounds. There is nothing in the present Bill to enable the Government to control even a farthing of these huge funds. There can be no talk of controlling investments until the Government is ready to seize and take control of the revenues and reserves of the monopolies and combines. But this the Labor leaders refuse to do.

Let us look again at the composition of the National Investment Council, which is to advise the Chancellor on all matters concerning investments and industrial developments. Of the nine persons appointed, seven are company directors, holding between them fifty directorships. Is it any wonder that even the Tories should mock at the Labor leaders for their cowardice?

Flouted By Big Business

While the Labor leaders are humiliating the Labor movement by going down on their knees to appease Big Business, the latter are openly flouting the Government and its directives. In his December Budget, Dr. Dalton refunded 20 per cent of the Excess Profits Tax to the capitalists with the plea that the refunded money was to be spent in modernizing and re-equipping industry, and not in paying extra dividends to the shareholders.

But no sooner were these huge sums refunded than dividends began to soar. Led by Woolworth's which increased its dividend from 45 to 55 per cent, a large number of leading firms have begun to pay super-dividends. An analysis of the dividend list over the past few weeks, shows that between one-third and one-half of the companies are paying more.

Reynolds News, commenting on this tendency, wrote:

"Dividends are soaring. And the City is wondering if it is a plot to increase the difficulties of the Labor Government. While Big Business is stoutly opposing wage increases as liable to raise purchasing power and thus cause inflation, it is busily handing out vast increases in purchasing power to company shareholders."

Bolshevik Method In 1917

The subservience of the Labor Government to Big Business is clearly demonstrated when one compares the measures taken by the Bolsheviks in 1917 with the present methods of nationalization. We print below, the Decree "On Nationalization of the Banks" issued by the Central Executive Committee of the Supreme Soviet in 1917:

"In the interest of the regular organization of the national economy, of a thorough eradication of bank speculation and the complete emancipation of the workers, peasants, and the whole laboring population from the exploitation of banking capital, and with a view to the establishment of a single national bank of the Russian Republic which shall serve the real interests of the people and the poorer classes, the Central Executive Committee resolves:

1. The banking business is declared a state monopoly.
2. All existing private joint-stock banks and banking offices are merged in the State Bank.
3. The assets and liabilities of the liquidated establishments are taken over by the State Bank.
4. The order of the merger of private banks in the State Bank is to be determined by a special decree.
5. The temporary administration of the affairs of the private banks is entrusted to the board of the State Bank.
6. The interests of the small depositors will be safeguarded.

These measures, which offer the only solution to the chaos and anarchy of British industry, could be carried out by a genuine workers' government in one day. And with the present relationship of class forces, any attempt on the part of the capitalist class to resist, could be easily defeated by the working class.

The measures taken by the Labor lackeys, who are dependent upon the bourgeoisie, cannot solve anything. It is the task of Communist workers ruthlessly to expose the fraudulent character of Labor's nationalization program and to fight for the Bolshevik solution.

(Condensed from the April-May issue of *Workers International News*, British Trotskyist theoretical magazine.)

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.

In Tribute to Antoinette Konikow

A DEATH:
A living force has gone out of the world. Antoinette Konikow is dead. A successful life is ended. And our hearts expand in gratitude to Antoinette Konikow as we look into the faces of all who knew her value to the world anxiously asking, "Who can take her place? Who can take up her work unfinished but flowering always toward new triumphs?" We can best honor the memory of this high souled woman not by mourning but by rejoicing in her successful life. Here is one who lived as we all aspire to live: a life of consistent devotion, of real service. Our hearts are full of gratitude to her, who are determined to walk in the road she walked, the road of the revolutionary struggle.



'I Don't Want to Miss A Copy,' Says Reader

Please excuse my tardy renewal. I was under the impression that I had renewed my subs last November. I do not want to miss any copies these eventful days. It is gratifying to note the growing strength of The Fourth International. We are proud of Labor Challenge (semi-monthly newspaper of the Canadian Trotskyists). It was started on a shoestring and confidence that the workers would support it.

B. P. J. Canada

Packinghouse Workers Need Wage Boost To Buy Meat They Prepare

Only a few days ago, the American Meat Institute, official spokesman for the big meat packers, admitted that 83 per cent of all meat sales in 12 cities scattered throughout the nation have been at over ceiling prices for many months. In New York City, meat prices were 262 per cent higher than those set by OPA long before price control was "officially" ended. Purchases on which the survey was based, were made by women at regular retail stores, the Institute reported.

With the cost of living rising ever higher, the 16 cent per hour wage increase won by packinghouse workers' unions in a nationwide strike last January has been wiped out. The union is now presenting new demands which include a cost of living bonus. Militant workers in packing plants all over the country are determined to win some of the juicy profits being channeled up by packing employers, and some of the juicy steaks, chops and roasts which are unavailable to them now because prices are out of their reach.

B. B. St. Paul, Minn.

What Workers Can Do About Rising Prices

In May I took two coats to a cleaner who promised to have them ready in two weeks. They weren't ready then, or two weeks later, or the next time. When I finally managed to get them, he charged me \$1.39 each for cleaning — though the price had been \$1.09 when he took them in nearly two months before. Every move you make you have to pay more.

Even if the workers called a buyers' strike, what would prevent the middle class from buying the same meat, butter, and eggs, which they can afford? You go to a store and ask for meat: the price of steak, \$1.45, is too high for my pocketbook, so I don't buy it. But what happens? The woman standing next to me buys three or four pounds of it! The main thing to do is strike for higher wages to meet the cost of living. I'm in favor of that.

Landlords are so greedy they give notice in the middle of the month, though the state says a tenant's entitled to 30 days' notice. If you move (if it's possible!) you have to give the landlord 30 days' notice, or he takes it to court. What happens? Under this rotten capitalist system, the court rules with the landlord. So what is the worker to do?

Last week there was a piece in the Detroit Free Press reporting that a flying squad had moved someone's personal belongings back into a house. It was the first case resulting from the rent increase. The squad men were arrested and fined, and nothing more has been published on the case. The capitalist press will not make much of it because the man moved back in. Why doesn't the government provide homes for the workers and veterans? They tax us high enough.

E. Brent Detroit, Mich.

Hammond 'Militant' Readers Enthusiastic

Several Socialist Workers Party members recently went out to secure renewals of Militant subscriptions in two Negro neighborhoods in Hammond. The genuine hospitality with which we were received was commented on by all of us. One subscriber escorted our comrade to the home of friends who also took out subscriptions, and invited her to return with some Pioneer pamphlets.

Another man visited, who is prominent in the community as a fighter for the rights of his people, was very enthusiastic over The Militant. After renewing his sub, he asked if we accepted contributions to finance our paper, and before we could even say "yes," he offered us \$5, with a promise to help us all he could.

L. Simms Hammond, Ill.

TO THE MEN OF ENGLAND (1819)

Men of England, wherefore plough
For the lords who lay ye low?
Wherefore weave with toil and care
The rich robes your tyrants wear?

Wherefore feed, and cloth, and save
From the cradle to the grave,
Those ungrateful drones who would
Drain your sweat—nay, drink your blood?

Wherefore, Bees of England, forge
Many a weapon, chain and scourge,
That these stingless drones may spoil
The forced produce of your toil?

Have ye leisure, comfort, calm,
Shelter, food, love's gentle balm?
Or what is it ye buy so dear
With your pain and with your fear?

The seed ye sow, another reaps;
The wealth ye find, another keeps;
The robes ye weave, another wears;
The arms ye forge, another bears.

Sow seed—but let no tyrant reap;
Find wealth—let no impostor heap,
Weave robes—let not the idle wear;
Forge arms—in your defense to bear.

Percy Bysshe Shelley



Labor, veteran and consumer groups in Indianapolis marched through the streets demanding action on soaring rents. "Higher Rents Mean Fewer Groceries," one sign reads. "We Bought the Governor a Mansion, We Can't Afford a Shack," reads another.

Soldier Describes Solidarity Of Workers' Rally In Detroit

I am a soldier on furlough who was fortunate to be able to witness and participate in the tremendous mass rally of the Detroit labor movement in defense of labor's living standards on July 16. I was, of course, struck with the enormous power of the Detroit workers, and especially with the pride they take in their organizations. Some incidents that occurred which show this pride will, I believe, be of interest to readers of The Militant.

Two elderly Jewish women in the crowd behind me were joyful at the sight of the huge masses of workers, carrying the banners of their unions and demonstrating in defense of their own interests. One turned to the other and said something in Jewish which I can only translate crudely to mean: "Well, we have lived to see it!" They inquired of a tall woman standing next to them about the banner she carried. She replied that it was the banner of the Women's Auxiliary of one of the Ford locals. "We fought a long time for that," she said. "I was in the hospital three times."

References by the speakers to the power of the union movement invariably brought enthusiastic response from the work-

SWP Program Against Inflation Is Forum Topic

AKRON, Ohio, July 20—A successful public forum on the subject of "A Wage Program to Meet Inflation," was held by the Akron Branch of the Socialist Workers Party last Monday evening.

The SWP program to meet the runaway inflationary trend in prices by demanding a sliding scale of wages was enthusiastically approved by the audience. The highlight of the meeting was provided by a worker who described the inflation in Germany, Italy and France, where he was serving with the army until a few months ago.

"The working class people do not receive the Red Cross and UNRRA food," he stated. "The food and clothing is sold at very high prices and only the rich can afford to buy."

He described how he and other soldiers helped feed many small children in Germany who waited near the soldiers' chow line. "I would get in line and have my mess kit filled. Then I went over to the kids and gave them what was in it. After they emptied it, I would wash it out and get in line again. Sometimes I would go through the line three times."

After a full discussion of the causes of inflation and the need for a program to fight it, two workers joined the party.

Pioneer Notes

The following letter from Holland to Pioneer Publishers illustrates how anxious foreign workers are to obtain Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyist literature and to what lengths they will go to get it.

"I would like to order some pamphlets and books. But there is a snag. I can't pay for them, as the Dutch government does not allow me to pay anything in dollar value, by strict control. As I can't see any other means to pay you, I herewith enclose some Dutch stamps (some dating from the occupation by the Germans, others from after liberation), hoping that you will be able to find a philatelist willing to pay for them."

"I will be happy to hear from you any suggestions for other means of payment, and will gladly receive further news about your publications." Then he lists his selections.

Pioneer is not collecting stamps and has no idea of the value of the Dutch collection, but under the circumstances we were glad to fill the order.

A friend has recently begun to make occasional small cash contributions to Pioneer. Although essentially self-sustaining, Pioneer is a non-profit organization. Such contributions help to finance new publications, help to maintain the policy of low prices and help to send literature where it might not otherwise be available.

St. Paul SWP Holds Strawberry Festival

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Almost 200 friends of the Socialist Workers Party turned out July 4 for tenth annual Strawberry Festival of the St. Paul Branch.

Ranging in age from 80-year-old Martin Soderberg, fighter in the ranks of the socialist movement from his earliest youth, to the two-month-old Schultz twins—Vincent and Raymond—adults and children enjoyed the afternoon. The St. Paul Branch was glad to welcome many out-of-town guests, some from as far off as Seattle.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Buffalo SWP Reports New High In Sub Work

Buffalo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party is hitting a new high in its campaign for subs. Sam Stone reports: "Enclosed are 36 subs. The Plant Team obtained 13 subs and the City Team 23 this week. Comrade Kaminsky is leading the Plant Team with 39 subs and Comrade Drello the City Team with 29. To date we have obtained 213 subs—since June 10! And one more week to go!"

Boston Local of the Socialist Workers Party is doing a bang-up job on subs. Larry Turner writes: "In the last three weeks Boston has sent in 66 subs. Of these, 51 were renewals. Alongside these, we obtained 15 new subscribers. Our percentage of renewals runs about 40 which is much better than our previous record for this section of the country. This renewal work has proved that workers are drawing closer to the party. We believe that at last we are on the verge of 'breaking out of our shell.'"

Jos. C. Rudatis of Pittsburgh, Pa., sent us \$1 with this welcome note: "A friend of mine gave me a copy of your paper and I like it. I presume that this \$1 will pay for a year."

Pete Morgan of Bronx Branch, Socialist Workers Party, decided while visiting in Stamford, Conn., Sunday to call on a few subscribers for renewals. He brought back three. "It wasn't a hard job," he said. "I just asked them if they wouldn't like to continue getting The Militant."

Spade work done by Kent Darrow in Long Leaf, La., is bearing fruit. Kent gave some copies of The Militant to workers on a mill picket line and told them about the paper. Today we received a six-month sub from Long Leaf.

Fred Martin of the Milwaukee Branch sent in 17 subs. "The two new subs were obtained very easily," he writes. "We cut out the list of 12 CIO pickets who were arrested here recently at a steel plant and are approaching them for subs. Such workers have tasted personally of the class conflict and thus are very receptive to The Militant. Nearly all of the 12 have subscribed so far."

Newark's sub campaign continues at good speed. Dorothy Lessing sent in another 27 subs and reports: "We have 10 days to go on our one-month campaign. We have definite answers from 129 of our readers. Sixty-four renewed their subs. This average is running pretty high and we will make every effort to maintain it."

Dick Clark tells how the comrades of St. Louis Branch are getting their subs: "... just plenty of walking and plenty of visits. However, we have introduced two new methods. A friend in a factory gave us the names and addresses of some fellows he thought would be interested in The Militant. We sent them some copies and then interviewed them—with good results. We have also gotten names and addresses of peoples we have met at meetings such as those against Gerald L. K. Smith. We send them the paper and later go around for subs—with good results. But a person cannot get nearly as many subs in these ways as by the old house-to-house method."

Minneapolis Branch is specializing in one-year subs. During the week A. Field sent in six one-year subscriptions.

Subscriptions are coming in steadily from Seattle. This week Clara Kaya mailed us 19 subs.

Jerry Kirk of Flint Branch reports that during a very successful distribution "the best response came from those workers who had seen The Militant on the picket line. And we received payments for two subscriptions obtained during the UAW strike."

NEWARK Open House

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Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Every Sunday: Beach Party at Brighton Beach between Bay 7-8 (take BMT to Ocean Pkwy).
Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., at 116 University Place. Dancing, refreshments follow.

Brooklyn: Class on "Struggle for Negro Equality." Instructor: Harry Robinson. Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Brooklyn headquarters, SWP, 635 Fulton Street. Dancing, refreshments.

Queens — Open forums every Wednesday at Odd Fellows Temple, 160th St. and 90th Ave., 8 p.m.
PHILADELPHIA. — Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p.m. 1303-05 W. Girard, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Thursday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 318 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Educationals by Youth and SWP speakers.
Subscribe to "Young Militant," published semi-monthly, for truth of youth's struggles.
Watch this column for further announcements of youth activities.

World War II And The Monopolies:

How War Strengthened Monopoly

By Art Preis

Just 250 giant corporations out of a total of 75,000 manufacturing corporations now control more than two-thirds of all usable industrial facilities in the United States.

"It is clear that during the war these large companies have come to dominate not only American manufacturing but the entire economy as a whole," is the conclusion of the Senate Small Business Committee's study, "Economic Concentration and World War II."

How was this increase in concentration of wealth and economic domination achieved during World War II?

This, says the Senate Committee's report, was "due largely to the distribution of the great bulk of the war contracts to a small number of great firms. It was the distribution of the nearly 200 billion dollars of prime supply contracts which was the key to the control of productive resources during the war."

"Companies obtaining prime contracts secured thereby the instruments of economic power," say the reports.

They received vast amounts of government funds "in the form of substantial profits" for goods whose "sale was assured." They received priorities for most of the raw materials and supplies. "They were granted the power of determining how much . . . should be passed down to subcontractors, who and how many the subcontractors should be, and how much of the allocations each should receive."

In addition, a company with prime contracts had the right "of expanding its own facilities under the extremely favorable amortization and carry-back provisions provided by the tax laws." It was the few companies receiving most of the contracts "which operated most of the Government-owned facilities built during the war, and these companies generally obtained options to buy the plants after the war."

Who Got The Contracts?

Who got these prime contracts? The report says: "From June 1940 through September 1944 prime contract awards amounting to \$175,000,000,000 (billions) were made to 18,539 corporations. NO LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THIS VAST AMOUNT (\$117,000,000,000) WENT TO THE TOP 100 CORPORATIONS."

These top 100 companies by September 1944 held "75 per cent of the prime contracts outstanding" on that date.

One company, General Motors, with \$13,812,700,



000 (billions) in war contracts, obtained 7.9 per cent of the total.

The top ten corporations together got 30 per cent of all prime contracts; the next ten, 12 per cent; the third ten, 7 per cent.

JUST THESE 30 "GIANTS AMONG GIANTS" GOT APPROXIMATELY 50 PER CENT OF ALL WAR CONTRACTS!

But the ownership and control of these 100 top corporations — the "Who's Who" of the dominating corporations in every industry, steel, auto, oil, chemicals, aircraft, rubber, etc. — is in turn vested in a mere handful of "financial interest groups," as the report calls them.

"Eight more or less clearly defined large interest groups" — the Morgans, Rockefellers, du Ponts, Mellons, Kuhn-Loeb's and the Chicago, Boston and Cleveland banking combines — actually control the bulk of the giant corporations and their assets, says the report.

It is this tiny oligarchy of just eight families and financial combines who actually determined the policies of the war, controlled war production and received the overwhelming bulk of the war profits and loot.

What did the top 100 companies who got most

of the war contracts secure in terms of permanent economic gains?

The report states: "The Nation's manufacturing facilities in existence in 1939 had cost about 40 billion dollars to build. To this capacity there was added by June 1945 about 26 billion dollars of new plants and equipment. Roughly two-thirds of this 26-billion-dollar plant expansion was provided directly from Federal funds. . . . About \$20,000,000,000 of the \$26,000,000,000 wartime plant is usable for the production of peacetime products."

Of the government-built wartime facilities, "Big Business, having received the great bulk of the prime contracts, also operated nearly all of these facilities. The concentration that existed in the operation of these facilities actually exceeded the concentration of prime contract awards."

Not less than 83.4 per cent of the value of the privately-operated, publicly-financed facilities were operated by just 168 corporations.

These corporations have the options to buy these facilities, under most generous provisions of amortization through tax deductions in a period of from three to five years. And, anyway, points out

War & Monopolies

How Big Is Big Business?

Big Business grew bigger during the war, is the conclusion of the Senate Small Business Committee's report, "Economic Concentration and World War II."

45 transportation corporations owned 92 per cent of all transportation facilities in the United States.

40 public-utility corporations owned more than 80 per cent of all public utilities.

20 banks held 27 per cent of all loans and investments.

17 life-insurance companies controlled 81.5 per cent of all life insurance assets.

200 non-financial corporations owned 55 per cent of all assets of such corporations in the U. S.

One-tenth of 1 per cent of all corporations owned 52 per cent of total corporate assets.

One-tenth of 1 per cent of all corporations secured 50 per cent of total corporate net income.

Less than 4 per cent of all manufacturing corporations secured 84 per cent of all manufacturing net profits.

1.1 per cent of all manufacturing firms employed 500 or more workers and accounted for 48 per cent of total manufacturing employment.

the report, only "Big Business has the money to buy" these facilities.

Control of Research

But there was one other very significant lever of economic power on which the top giant corporations got an even stronger hold during World War II — scientific research and development.

The federal government during the war awarded contracts for scientific industrial research amounting to nearly one billion dollars. Just 68 corporations secured 66 per cent of these funds. The top ten alone obtained 37.1 per cent of the total.

"This means," the reports concludes, "that the large corporations which carried on the great bulk of the federally financed wartime industrial research will have control, through patents, of the commercial applications of that research."

Thus, by grabbing up most of the war contracts, most of the government-financed facilities, and most of the federal funds for research, the giant corporations enormously strengthened their monopoly stranglehold on America during World War II.

Wages, Prices And Profits

High Productivity Doesn't Raise Wages

By Warren Creel

We have seen that prices are not controlled by the employer's free choice, nor are prices directly controlled by wages. As proof of this, we saw that during the war prices went up much more than wages. So the employers' margin between wage costs and prices became even bigger. In spite of this generous margin the capitalists raise prices still more.

What about the margin before the war? The chart Figure 1 shows how much the workers got in wages, for all industrial workers in the United States, from 1919 to 1938. It is taken from page 17 of the report on Productivity, Wages and National Income, by the Brookings Institute, a conservative capitalist statistical source.

In Figure 1 the index line 100 stands for the average level. The line of dashes shows changes in weekly money wages, which went up in booms and down in depressions as we might expect. The dotted line shows how the cost of living went up and down at about the same times.

The solid line shows real weekly earnings. This means real wages, wages measured by what they will buy in food, clothing, etc., when money wages changed, real wages changed less, because the cost of living also was changing. In the main, there was very little change in the amount of real goods that a worker got for a week's work.

Productivity and Real Weekly Earnings in Manufacturing, 1919 to 1938 (1923-25=100)

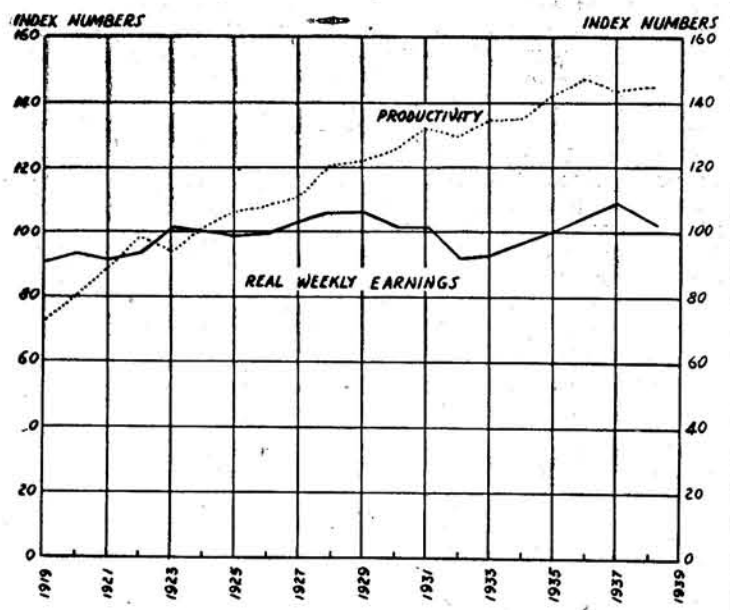


Figure 1

During this same time, what about the workers' output? Figure 2 is drawn by combining two charts, both on page 53 of the same Brookings report. It compares real weekly earnings with productivity. Between 1919 and 1938, as efficiency increased, the productivity of the average worker doubled, productivity went from an index of 72 to 144. By 1938 the average worker in industry was turning out twice as much in actual goods as in 1919; but he was getting no more in actual goods.

The difference between what the worker produces and what the worker gets is the employer's margin. Plainly, the capitalists were getting plenty of margin before the war started. They made their margin bigger during the

Weekly Earnings and Real Weekly Earnings Of Industrial Wage Earners, and Cost of Living, 1919-38 (1923-25=100)

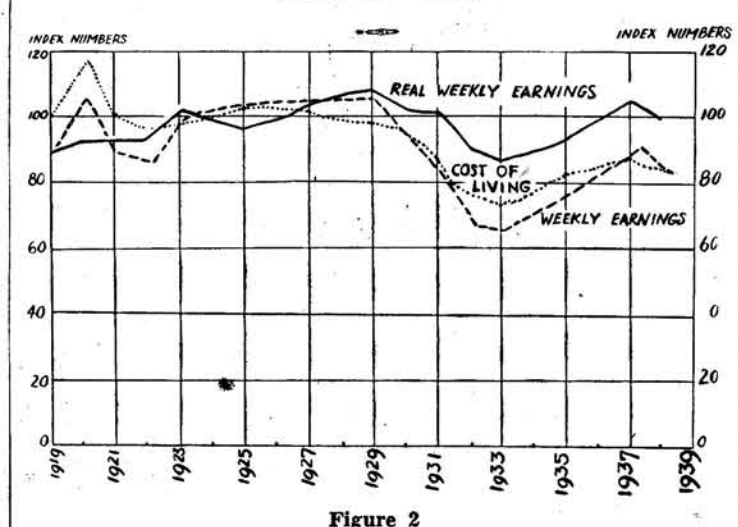


Figure 2

war. They are swelling their margin even more by price increases since the war.

Over the years, increases in productivity have not brought higher wages for workers. Increased productivity has only given an increased margin for the employers.

Next week: The Working Class Method in Economics.

AKRON CITY COUNCIL REFUSES TO LEGISLATE RENT CONTROLS

AKRON, Ohio, July 19 — Despite the presence of many representatives of labor and other organizations, the Akron City Council refused to enact any legislation to control rents at its meeting Tuesday. Instead, the Council passed a weak resolution asking merchants and landlords not to increase prices and rents exorbitantly. The resolution also advises consumers not to pay prices that have been raised too far and promises to establish a committee to study the situation, if prices and rents go up too much.

The Council action was a complete disappointment to the CIO leaders who were pressing for a city ordinance to freeze rents at the old OPA levels. Before the meeting the Council ducked the main issue by claiming it had no legal power to do this. Thereupon the Executive Secretary of the CIO Council, Paul Fessenden, insisted that they establish a rent control board similar to one which functioned effectively in 1940-41. The "city fathers" declined to do this.

The Council resolution was adopted without discussion or an opportunity for the representation of various organizations to be heard. Nevertheless plenty of time was devoted to debating the question of whether or not to move a certain traffic light.

Proponents of this measure came to the meeting with a large map of the area and made long speeches describing the advantages of having the traffic light in question a block away from where it is now. Opponents took the floor and explained why it should stay where it is. Finally, this burning question was referred back to a committee.

The consensus of opinion of the people who attended the meeting in the hopes that some kind of rent control measure would be adopted was "that we need a new Council in Akron."

HARLEM READERS

Complaints have reached us that many of our Harlem subscribers are not getting The Militant every week.

If you miss a single issue of The Militant, please let us know. If your friend is not getting his copy of the paper, ask him to notify us. We will check each complaint.

Wave Of Jim-Crow Terrorism Reaches New High In Chicago

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 20—The wave of terrorism against Negroes reached a new peak last week with two open assaults on Negroes by race-hating whites. Like the anti-Negro provocations of 1919, the assaults occurred on 43rd Street east of Cottage Grove.

A Negro, two white women and a white man, staff members of Friendship House, a Catholic institution, 309 East 43rd St., were attacked and beaten by well-dressed white men. This is the latest assault in the campaign against Negroes in the Jim-Crow restricted covenant areas in Chicago. Over 40 bombings, acts of vandalism and assaults have occurred since May 1, 1944.

The police arrested Edward Adams, Negro member of the group who were attacked, while only one white "suspect" was apprehended. Adams was released only after his friends from Friendship House appeared at the Hyde Park lockup and protested. He had been beaten beyond recognition. The white member of the terrorist gang was later released on bond.

According to the story of Miss Blanche M. Scholes, assistant director of Friendship House, the group went to the beach to cool off. Walking back, they were challenged by a white man, who yelled: "Nigger lover!"

The ruffian knocked down one of the white women, Miss Monica Smith, a registered nurse from Canada. After the initial assault the group proceeded, in the belief that the terrorists had gone their way. Then one of the women glanced back and saw two men running toward them. "One of the attackers grabbed Miss Betty Schneider from behind, yanking her hair and battering her into unconsciousness. Her face was badly bruised. Bill Flynn, white director of children's activities at the House, was beaten about the face and head.

Saving their main victim, the Negro youth, until the last, three of the gangsters dragged Edward Adams into a nearby alley and beat him into unconsciousness. The entire atrocity took place before a crowd of more than 50 "respectable" white people, who looked on with indifference and



How Much Is Three Hundred Billion?

By V. Grey

Suppose we were the rulers of our own destiny? Suppose we workers owned the world, and there had been no war in which we killed each other off like flies. What could we have done with the three hundred billion our Wall Street masters spent for war? What would we have produced if the factories were ours?

Remember that we American toilers produced all our food and clothing during the war period. And as if to prove that we could produce miracles besides, we made this three hundred billion dollars' worth of murder machinery as well. But that was not our fault. It was our masters' fault.

Three hundred billion changed into the things we need and want would change the face of the whole country-side. All the 15 million broken-down farm-houses in the country could be replaced with brand new modern homes at a cost of \$7,000 apiece. (This is more than an average farm is worth!) This would cost us about 105 billion.

In every city of 100,000 population or over (there are 99 of them) we could build 100 great modern apartment buildings or project-communities. But these would be no shabby tenements for the "poor." These would be like the apartments of the rich. For we could spend 10 million dollars on each of these projects.

We would make them complete with great green courtyards and playgrounds for children, swimming pools, fine restaurants and roof gardens. There would be plenty of room and all kinds of conveniences for the weary housewife. Thus we could royally house a good two-thirds of the country's population for 250 billion dollars. (Even with the present high cost of housing, all the houses and apartments in the country could hardly fetch that much today.)

With the people once housed decently, what about the 300 billion we could produce in the following four years? Get out your pencil and paper and see what you can do for the people with that!

Let us look at it from the standpoint of other needs. There are 3,000 small cities and towns throughout the country. We could set up a 3 million dollar hospital in each of them and endow each with a 2 million dollar fund to give free care to the patients. This, at a cost of only 15 billion!

We could set up great research laboratories to track down the cures for cancer and tuberculosis. The Rockefeller Foundation is the largest agency in the world for this activity at the present. At last reports its capital was 144 million dollars. Our foundation we could make at least a HUNDRED TIMES as good for only 14.4 billion dollars!

What Could We Have Had?

There are about 40 million families in the country. The great majority of these have no personal property to speak of. What could they have with all this wealth? Why, with Frigidaires at 250 dollars apiece, every single family could have one—at a cost of only 10 billion dollars. A 100 dollar vacuum cleaner and washing machine for everybody for only 8 billion more!

Many families have never owned a car. The vast majority have never had, and never expect to have a new one. Every one of the 40 million could have a brand new thousand dollar automobile—cost—only 40 billion dollars.

That is only a small idea of what we could have done—if only we, instead of the capitalists, had owned the productive equipment.

Now why cannot the capitalists produce these things for all the people? Their profits are made from production, as we have proved. How is it then that their factories were collecting rust before the war? Why didn't they produce all these fine things in the four years before the war began? Why won't they produce them in the four years ahead of us now the war is over?

It was under the capitalist system that factories were first built. It was under capitalism that mass production and cheap goods for all first began. Apartment houses, automobiles, Frigidaires and vacuum cleaners are the inventions and products of capitalism. How is it this same capitalism cannot give these things to the people in any quantity? What is making capitalism break down?

Next Week: Growth and Decay

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Fourth International

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Antoinette Konikow -- Our Symbol Of Dauntless Revolutionary Spirit

(The following is the text of an address delivered at the Antoinette Konikow Memorial Meeting in New York on July 14.)

By Edith Konikow

My mother would have approved of this meeting. For she was, above all, a practical revolutionist and party builder. She believed that every single event that could possibly bring our program closer to more people should be utilized for that purpose. She never missed an opportunity to do just this—writing letters to the bourgeois press, to authors of books and articles protesting against their inaccuracies and misrepresentations, and always presenting the Trotskyist position. And that is how she would have wanted a memorial meeting for herself to be conducted by the Socialist Workers Party.

She understood her role as a symbol of uncompromising revolutionary spirit and accepted that estimate from the party not as any personal glorification but as another tribute to the power of our ideas. She said to me once:

"Our movement can lift people out of all their pettiness,—can make them tower above the meanness and sordidness of their lives under this degrading system. Where else but in a movement such as ours could a person with my meager abilities have been given such wonderful opportunities to develop, to speak, to write, to teach and to learn to know the greatest minds and personalities of our generation."

She often spoke of the great joy it was for her to meet comrades Trotsky and Natalia and how that personal meeting with the man whose ideas had shaped her life for so long had seemed like a fulfillment of the whole purpose of her life.

Friend, Teacher and Comrade

Comrade Konikow was my mother—and she was a remarkably wonderful mother—but she was much more than that. She was my dearest friend, my inspirer and patient teacher, and my comrade. And having said that, I realize that I am not at all unique because she was all of that to so many others. Many more than just her two children knew her as "mother;" her friends numbered by the hundreds in the most diverse spheres of life; and there are many in this room and all over the country, and yes—even across the ocean—who learned their first ABC's of Socialism and the rudiments of speaking and organization from her. Comrade Konikow was a professional woman, an intellectual. But she never felt that this hindered her from working in a proletarian party. She thought that intellectuals could be invaluable if they utilized their special abilities in helping



ANTOINETTE KONIKOW

to build a workers' movement.

She took particular pride in those members who stemmed from the working class and developed into fine speakers and organizers. Many of those who caught the spark from her and determined to lead the arduous life of the professional revolutionist were a source of never-ending joy to her, especially when they did some party job well—whether it was a splendid organizing job in a branch in the sticks, or a fine speech or article. Many a time she would say with a little glow of justifiable pride: "He is one of my boys."

One of my mother's regrets was that she was not born a little later—about fifty years or so! She often told me and others about how fortunate we were to work and live in a fighting party such as ours, in contrast with her own experiences in the American Socialist movement.

Tony was always a sort of nuisance to the stodgy members of the Socialist Party. Most of them were pretty well fixed financially and liked to take life easy. To be sure, they made anni-

versary speeches about socialism, but otherwise spent most of their time playing cards, acquiring "culture," entertaining each other. When elections came around, they got a little busy hustling the vote. She used to annoy them about running classes, about speaking at trade unions and other organizations, with plans to organize women's clubs, Socialist Sunday schools for children, and so on.

As she was always pretty persistent they usually let her go ahead and do what she wanted as long as she didn't expect them to stir too much. But then she would go even further, suggesting that the members themselves take part in study classes and discussion groups. And this really brought them down on her in all their wrath. This seemed utterly ridiculous to them. Weren't we all Socialists? they said. They were all convinced. Why should they go on studying or teaching socialism?

All the things that mama wanted in a party when she was young and full of energy in the old Socialist Party she recognized eagerly in the Socialist Workers Party today: A FIGHTING MILITANT SPIRIT; A COMBINATION OF PRACTICAL WORK WITH CONSTANT THEORETICAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE MEMBERS. No wonder she envied all of us who could develop and function in such a living, fighting party.

There is one thing I would like to ask. Never permit the memory of my mother, our comrade Antoinette Konikow, to be transformed into a spiritless holy image, even if a revolutionary one. That would be unfair to her glorious memory. Many of you knew her personally and I think you will understand what I mean. But for those who did not, I would like to explain.

A Great Human Being

Comrade Konikow was a greater revolutionist because she was a great human being. She was warm and real, kept both her feet on the ground; people responded to her as they did because she was genuinely one of them. She was a truly independent woman when that was a difficult thing to be, but never unwomanly. She was always gracious and charming and loved beauty in everything—clothes, music, art, nature. She was curious about everything, and always anxious to learn.

Her range in reading was phenomenal: From detective stories and best sellers through Freud and the psychoanalysts to heavy tomes on economics and dialectics. She loved people and was tolerant and sympathetic, though she could be pretty ruthless when the occasion warranted. She was never afraid to state her opinion on anything, nor to admit that she did not know. In that case she would say that she would like to discuss it later that she was unfamiliar with the subject

and would acquaint herself with it.

She lived a very full life. She often said, a thrilling life. She loved, suffered, laughed a lot, cried a little, did some foolish things, made mistakes, had the blues, lost her temper—just like all of us do. She was just a perfectly normal swell woman with this one important addition: Years ago when she was seventeen, a student in Zurich, she caught a bug. That was the vision of a world free of oppression, misery and hypocrisy. This hope of the future Socialist World became the essence of her life. It got into the very marrow of her bones, and grew and grew along with her.

She never for a moment lost sight of that goal; nor did she ever expect to sit by and have others achieve it for her. She knew that whatever was worth having was worth working and fighting and sacrificing and living for, and if necessary, dying for.

She was often irked at the hours she had to waste making a living as a physician, but she never felt that any party work she ever did, however trivial, was time wasted. She enjoyed every phase of the revolutionary struggle and hated to miss a single meeting or discussion. And in these last years when her health was poor it was often an effort for her to attend meetings.

One of my last talks with her touched the arrangements for her attending our coming convention. Since her hearing was failing, she planned to obtain a hearing device and to spend the summer acclimating herself to it so that she would not miss a single word of any speech at the convention. My mother couldn't bear to miss anything.

"Our Day Will Come"

I would like to read you a little excerpt from a letter which she wrote me not so long ago. I think it expresses her spirit better than any closing I could make—

"It's no fun to get old. I haven't got used to my position of retired old age yet. This quiet life seems better for my health but I don't like it. Still, dull and monotonous as my life is, I want to live. There are too many exciting events happening every day and I would like to know what will happen next. I lived to see Hitler and Mussolini fall—who knows, perhaps I will be fortunate enough to see the murderer Stalin tumbled down from his throne and exposed for the tyrant he is. Surely the next few years have great things in store for us. To think that in spite of the years of persecution and isolation, the Italian working class is still able to lift its voice—this makes one very proud and renews our faith and optimism. OUR DAY WILL COME, THOUGH WE WILL HAVE MANY A LONG AND BITTER STRUGGLE TO GO THROUGH FIRST."

Cop Gouges Out Both Eyes Of Negro Veteran

NEW YORK—"The boy's eyes are completely hopeless," pronounced the noted eye specialist who examined Isaac Woodward, Jr. Woodward, a 27 year old Negro veteran now in this city, was not blinded during his three and a half years service, most of which was in New Guinea and the Philippines. For his part in the great "war for democracy," Woodward earned sergeant stripes and a battle star.

But Woodward's crime was to be born a Negro. The same "democracy" which sent him off to fight Wall Street's war of plunder rewarded him upon his return by gouging out both eyes—a permanent reminder that he was nothing but a Jim-Crow slave of Wall Street's government.

While he was still in uniform, three hours after his honorable discharge on February 13, both his eyes were gouged out by the end of a billy stick wielded by a South Carolina policeman.

The incident which led up to the bestiality is a familiar one. It is the old story of a Jim-Crow bus in Atlanta, Ga., and a Negro veteran bound for Winnsboro, S. C., to meet his wife and family. Woodward obediently sat in the Jim-Crow section of the bus.

About an hour out of Atlanta, Woodward asked the Greyhound driver, who had stopped at a small drug store, if he could go to the restroom. The driver cursed him but let him go. An hour later, when the bus came to a stop in Aiken, South Carolina, the driver called the

To Our Readers

The column "The Negro Struggle" which appears in this space each week, will be resumed on Charles Jackson's return from his vacation.

police and charged Woodward with creating a disturbance.

Woodward never got a chance to explain the truth. The policeman struck him across the head with his club, mauled him and dragged him off to police headquarters, where he was knocked unconscious. When Woodward returned to consciousness, the "guardian of the law" finished the job by gouging out both his eyes. Already blinded, he was led to the judge who legally robbed him of \$44 (all that Woodward had in his pocket). Then followed a two-month stretch in a Columbia, S. C. veterans hospital.

The capitalist press remains silent. The War Department dodges the issue. Veterans' Administration doctors advise Woodward to join a school for the blind. Once again capitalism in the U.S. has asserted its "white supremacy" over 13,000,000 Negro people through barbarous Jim-Crow methods.

BUFFALO CIO INTERVENES IN SINGLETON FRAMEUP

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 17—The Civil Liberties Committee of the Buffalo CIO Council last night was instructed to investigate the circumstances which led to the placing of manslaughter charges against Mrs. Rose Singleton, wife of James Singleton, a member of United Steel Workers Local 2601.

According to the report of the case made to the council, the Singletons were preparing to retire on the night of July 6, at their home at 280 Seneca St., when they heard a disturbance in the street below. Looking out of the window, they saw a dozen or more white people unmercifully beating one colored man. Mr. Singleton descended the stairs in his undershirt to plead for him but was immediately set upon also. His wife, fearful for his life since the crowd was shouting, "Kill the god-damned nigger!" took a razor from the bathroom and rushed down to his defense. In the struggle to protect her husband and herself as the crowd turned on her, one of the white attackers was

slashed and later died in the hospital.

Mrs. Singleton was arrested and charged with manslaughter in the first degree and is now in jail in spite of her protests that she acted only in the defense of her husband and herself.

The outcome of the investigation of the council's Civil Liberties Committee will determine further steps taken by Buffalo labor in Mrs. Singleton's defense.

William Kitt, Socialist Workers Party organizer in Western New York State and candidate for State Comptroller in the forthcoming elections, announced that the SWP is taking an active interest in the case. Further developments will be reported in subsequent issues of The Militant.

Subscribe To The Militant Use Coupon On Page 2

Why Dewey Commission Probed Moscow Trials

By Joseph Hansen

(Ninth in a series on the Moscow Trials and their significance.) One of Stalin's principal aims in the Moscow frame-up trials was to throw political mud on Leon Trotsky and his son Sedov while organizing their murder. Stalin had at his disposal the resources of a totalitarian state—unlimited funds, and a secret police (the GPU, now the NKVD). On top of this, Stalin had the services of the various sections of the Third International.

In face of the flood of filth poured on Trotsky in the Moscow trials, Trotsky's position might have appeared completely hopeless. But Trotsky was a fighter. He had gone through a hard school. In his past were exile and prison under the Czar, persecution and expulsion from France for advocating socialism in the First World War, condemnation in absentia by the Kaiser's government for the same reason, expulsion from monarchist Spain, imprisonment by the British in a Canadian concentration camp, imprisonment by the Kerensky government on the frame-up charge hurled at Lenin and the other Bolshevik leaders, of being an agent of the Kaiser. Trotsky had learned from personal experience that in the long run, truth breaks through the worst lies.

Armed only with his pen and the support of a small devoted group of disciples, he fought back with all his energy against the powerful Stalinist slander and murder machine.

One of Trotsky's loyal followers, Walter Held, had predicted after the first Moscow trial that the Kremlin would exert "pressure" against the Norwegian government and "menace" it by linking "plotters" against the Soviet Union with Trotsky in Norway. The Norwegian government, representing the shipowners, was sensitive to such pressure, from one of the big customers for maritime products.

QUICK PRESSURE This pressure quickly became evident. A group of Norwegian fascists raided Trotsky's home. In the subsequent trial, the Norwegian authorities began to hound Trotsky instead of the fascists. At the same time, the Norwegian Stalinists denounced Trotsky, as a "fascist."

Placed under house arrest, Trotsky observed: "Stalin and Mr. Quisling . . . collaborated to have me interned." Censoring all out-going and in-coming mail, the Norwegian government effectively silenced Trotsky, for something like four months. The authorities did not specifically tell Trotsky he could



CHRISTIAN RAKOVSKY

Revolutionary socialist since 1889. Leon Trotsky's comrade-in-arms for 35 years. Member of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party. Chairman of the Council of the People's Commissariat of Ukraine. Soviet ambassador to England and France.

As one of the leaders of the Left Opposition, Rakovsky was expelled from the Communist Party by Stalin and exiled to Siberia, despite his age. Rakovsky held out until 1934 before capitulating to Stalin.

Four years later, Stalin framed him in the third Moscow Trial and sentenced the old Bolshevik to 20 years in prison.

not defend himself. They simply confiscated the manuscripts he wrote. In The Crimes of Stalin Trotsky observed: "If I at least had known that all literary work was forbidden, including the legitimate work of defending myself, I would have temporarily laid down my arms and read Hegel—he was there on the shelf!"

But the Norwegian government was not that frank. Its excuse for interning Trotsky was his article on French politics published in New York by The Nation! This article—claimed the fellow-officials of Tyrgve Lie, now head of the United Nations—proved that Trotsky had broken his pledge not to intervene in Norwegian politics.

Meanwhile the Kremlin insisted on Trotsky's expulsion from

NUREMBERG SILENCE EXPOSES MOSCOW TRIALS AS FRAMEUP

The Nuremberg trial started eight months ago, on November 20, 1945. Yet to this day the Stalinist prosecution has kept a tongue-tied silence on the principal charge leveled by Prosecutor Vyshinsky and the GPU frame-up machine in the Moscow Trials. The Stalinists maintained, it will be recalled, that Trotsky made a treasonous deal with the Nazis as part of their plot to invade the Soviet Union. Rudolph Hess, now in the prisoners' dock at Nuremberg, was named as the contact man between Trotsky and Hitler.

Last January the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International, challenged the Nuremberg Court on these slanderous charges which had been leveled in the Moscow Trials. The Nuremberg court remained silent.

Shortly thereafter a large group of well-known political and literary figures in Britain headed by H. G. Wells and a number of members of Parliament requested that a representative of Natalia Trotsky, the widow of Leon Trotsky, be permitted to examine Hess, and that any documents relating to the alleged conspiracy between Trotsky and the Nazi leaders—if such documents exist—be produced at Nuremberg. The court remained silent.

Then in the United States a petition signed by more than a hundred American political figures, trade unionists, clergymen, professors and writers, headed by Norman Thomas, James T. Farrell, and Matthew Woll, requested investigation of the alleged complicity of Trotsky and the other Bolshevik leaders with the Nazis in the preparation of a war against the Soviet Union. The court remained silent.

The demand to investigate the charges of the Moscow frameups at Nuremberg was taken up in a number of other countries. Finally last May, Albert Gold-



VYSHINSKY

man, speaking as the attorney of Natalia Trotsky, demanded the right to "cross-examine any witness who testifies on this question and to examine any documents that might be produced by the Russians in support of their frame-up." Natalia Trotsky held that the findings of the Dewey Commission were conclusive but for the benefit of those still doubtful was the Nazi defendants, especially Hess, examined and to ask the governments now in control of Germany to search the Nazi archives for any documents dealing with the alleged conspiracy. The court has not yet broken its silence.

This silence, however, is only added confirmation of the findings of the Commission of Inquiry headed by John Dewey. This Commission proved in 1937 that Leon Trotsky and son Sedov were NOT GUILTY of the Stalinist charge of having plotted with the Nazis against the Soviet Union.

self and where the accuser must present evidence. Not having a shred of evidence, Stalin feared lest extradition hearings only further expose his frame-up.

Trotsky and his wife Natalia were finally granted asylum by Mexico. They arrived at Tampico Jan. 9, 1937.

The entire world was anxious to hear Trotsky's explanation of the frame-up of Lenin's former comrades. Yet the Kremlin

slud-slinging machine had done its utmost to silence Trotsky and deny a hearing to Trotsky who with his son Sedov, was in reality the principal defendant at the Moscow trials.

DEWEY COMMISSION

The Kremlin, however, was not all-powerful. A group of outstanding liberals set up an International Commission of Inquiry to investigate the charges. This Commission was headed by John Dewey, the eminent philosopher and teacher, and one of the veterans of American liberalism. Figures like Carlo Tresca, an outstanding leader of the anarchist movement and one of the men most hated by Mussolini, participated. Otto Ruhle, who stood side by side in the Reichstag with Karl Liebknecht in fighting German imperialism in the First World War, was another member. Ruhle was a refugee in Mexico from the Nazi regime.

In carrying out its investigation the Commission selected as its legal advisor John Finerty, world-famous in the defense of Tom Mooney and of Sacco and Vanzetti.

A sub-commission was sent to Mexico to hear Trotsky's defense, to question him and to study the evidence at his disposal. This sub-commission invited the Communist Party of Mexico to participate as well as the Mexican trade unions, with the right to ask any questions and to check any assertions. Stalin's line, however, was to label the Commission as a "whitewash" outfit and refuse to get anywhere near its investigation. Stalin knew only too well what the slightest amount of factual material would do to his frame-ups.

Requests to the Soviet embassy in the United States, to the Friends of the Soviet Union and

Correction

In last week's installment on the Moscow frame-up trials the following sentence appears: "Trotsky from his Norway exile demanded the prosecutor should cross-examine Pyatakov on his alleged airplane trip." This should have read: "Trotsky from his Mexico exile demanded the prosecutor should cross-examine Pyatakov on his alleged airplane trip."

to the Communist Party of the USA to participate in the inquiry had already been turned down in accordance with the Kremlin's line.

The Stalinists however pursued a hands-off policy only in public. Under cover they raised heaven and earth trying to block the work of the Commission. All kinds of pressure was put on the members of the Commission to halt their investigation. But all the threats and cajolery proved useless. The Commission proceeded with its impartial investigation.

(Next week—What the Commission Discovered.)

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AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Wed., 7:30-9:30.

ALLEN TOWN - BETHLEHEM — Open meeting every Thursday, 8 p. m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Public Forums—First Sunday each month, 8:15 p. m.

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CHICAGO — Visit SWP, 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted), open 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Friday, 8:30 p. m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Pk.)

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LOS ANGELES—Visit Militant Publishing Assn., 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p. m. Phone Richmond 4644. Every Friday, 8 p. m.—Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon.

SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

MILWAUKEE — Visit the Milwaukee SWP branch, 424 E. Wells St., evenings from 7:30 Sat. night—Open house.

MINNEAPOLIS—Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily.

NEWARK—Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30. Reading room and office open Mondays to Thursdays, 4 to 10 p. m. Tues., 7:30—Basic Training class.

NEW YORK—CITY HQ., 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149. Sat., 4:30 p. m., Tues., 7:30, rehearsal of Militant chorus.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St., Rm. 23. MO. 2-1866.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101. Reading room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p. m.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433. Mon. Class — "Program of SWP," 7 p. m.

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P. O. Box 1351

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p. m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

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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, Tuesday, Friday.

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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 4:30 p. m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

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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, Monday to Thursday.

Diary Of A Steel Worker

A Vanishing Species Of Foremen

By Theodore Kovalesky

It has been thousands of years since the age of the dinosaur has crumbled down into oblivion. With the dead past are buried the strange forms of life that flourished in it. Today only the game laws have kept the bison from extinction. But there are no game laws to protect Ezra Bagget and his kind. Old Bagget is extinct, and his species is rapidly fading into extinction; for today has no place for Bagget and his kind.



It was Cramer who told us yesterday on the furnace. He said, "Ezra Bagget died last week." Jimmy said, "I didn't think that old man ever was going to die."

"He sure hated the union," Tom remarked. "Yeah, he did," Jimmy said slowly, "but still, in a lot of ways that old man wasn't so bad."

Cramer was on his way out the door of the shanty. Over his shoulder he said, "Bagget knew blast furnaces. They've had damn few men around here knew as much about blast furnaces."

That was true. Whatever you might think of the old man, you'd have to admit that he was a genius around a blast furnace. He knew furnaces inside out. He knew what they could do, and he knew their tricks. He could spot a burned tuyere when nobody else would dream there was anything bad, rolling and heaving, slipping, filling up the blowpipes with cinder, Ezra Bagget could get it back in shape better and sooner than anyone else. He might have gone far in the company, but he had his code that stood in his way; what was right was right, and neither the superintendent nor the devil could tell him anything different.

Ezra Bagget was born in Tennessee many years ago, no one seems to know just how many. He worked in steel mills almost since his childhood, and about the year 1900 he came to the great steel plants of the north. All the boys in our department remember him as a tall, gaunt old man with white hair, a large nose, and a querulous, nasal voice. Even the old timers remember him as an old man.

He was the sort of foreman that went with the industry of the past. He knew his work thoroughly and excelled at it. And he felt his responsibility. I remember once, three or four years ago on Number Two Furnace, we had a very wet tapping hole. Johnny Crummit, the keeper, was starting to slide the oxygen pipe into the hole when Old Man Bagget quietly took it out of his hand and burned out the hole himself. Suddenly the iron blew out with a terrible roar. Bagget came loping away from the trough with a badly burned left hand, swearing and complaining. But he had done his duty as he had seen it. It was very dangerous to burn out such a hole. Therefore, he reasoned, he had to do it himself. He was responsible for the safety of his men.

"His men!" I guess that was the key to Bagget's whole system of thinking. He was the boss. The company had put him there, because he was the most capable man for the job, and on the job he was king. As he saw it, he was good and just, and, being such, it was no more than right that he should be stern.

The union baffled and offended him. It seemed immoral that "his" men should be able to talk back to him, to tell him what they should or should not do. If one of his own children had said to him, "No, pa, I won't go to the store for you. It's against the contract," it would have shocked him no more than our grievance procedure.

But, as I said, the times have changed. The foremen we have today know only a fraction of what Bagget knew about furnaces. They are chosen to fit a new mold. They understand the union better than the old man did, so they can fight harder against it. They haven't the strict code that Ezra Bagget lived by and tried to make others live by, and his honesty.

For all the old man's bad points, and they were many, I think all of us were a little bit sorry to see him retire and leave "his" furnaces and "his" men to the new type of boss.

The Dread Beriberi

By Grace Carlson

So many stories of the horrors of war have been reported in the press that newspaper readers are becoming callous to accounts of suffering and death — especially in far corners of the earth. But the recent report from Japan that the war caused a 300 per cent increase in the number of cases of the dread beriberi is shocking news to those of us who believe that unnecessary suffering and death should be ended in Japan, as well as in the United States.



Beriberi is unnecessary. The 100,000 deaths which are caused every year by beriberi are unnecessary. The pain and suffering endured by another half million people who are made ill by beriberi each year are all unnecessary. But unnecessary or not, under the imperialist organization of the world, beriberi is the scourge of the Orient.

In his autobiography, *An American Doctor's Odyssey*, Dr. Victor Heiser gives a graphic account of his experiences with beriberi patients in the Far East:

"Beriberi caused a multiple neuritis affecting both the motor and the sensory nerves. The extremely painful inflammation brought about a partial and even complete loss of the use of the muscles supplied by these nerves, and particularly affected the heart. . . I remember the impression made upon me by the huge hospital for beriberi incurables at Singapore, where these poor people were crawling around on their hands, dragging their paralyzed legs behind them. The disease was too far advanced for a cure; it might easily have been prevented."

Beriberi is a food deficiency disease. It is caused by a lack of vitamin B-1 in the diet. The best sources of vitamin B-1 are lean meats, whole grain cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables. But millions of poverty-stricken Oriental peoples never eat such food. They live on fish and polished rice — and very inadequate amounts!

The plight of the mass of Far Eastern peoples is made still more difficult because of the vast amount of back-breaking labor that they do. It has been scientifically demonstrated that very active individuals need more vitamin B-1 than others. But the peoples of Japan, India, the Philippines and other Far Eastern countries who do more than their share of hard physical labor have far less than their share of the vitamin-rich food which could help them to carry their load.

The very name of the disease was coined by workers of Ceylon, who suffered under the whips of imperialist overlords. In Sinhalese, beriberi means "I cannot, I cannot."

I like to think that some day we'll change this cry of helpless despair to a triumphant "We can!"

On the Railroads

Questions And Answers On CCE

By Henry Adams

Last week, in discussing the disastrous effect of the craft division among railway labor, we mentioned the Consolidation Committee of Engineers as a significant move toward amalgamation by the ranks. The direct objective of the CCE is to unite two of the big operating unions — the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.



From a document put out by the Organizing Committee entitled "Questions and Answers on the Facts of the CCE," the following information is behind the Consolidation Committee?

Every member of the BLE and the BLFE who has signed an application to join this committee and is supporting it with their monthly contributions and moral efforts.

Who started this Consolidation Committee? Brother R. R. Walker, a locomotive engineer on the Erie R.R. and a member of the Mahoning Lodge No. 199 of the BLFE at Youngstown. How did he get interested in this movement?

Brother Walker was a general organizer for the BLFE for some time past and in his travels as organizer saw the futility of organizing the Rank and File into a labor organization that was working at odds with another labor organization when both the organizations in like service should be fighting their cause shoulder to shoulder.

Is he connected with the Grand Lodge? No, he is not. His resignation from his position with the Grand Lodge was accepted by International President Robertson, March 30, 1945. This move sponsored by either Grand Lodge? Positively not. The Grand Lodges are not in accord with this organization because the basic principle of this movement (the election of all Grand Lodge Officers by referendum ballot) is lost to those who by virtue of their high office dominate conventions.

How long will it take this Committee to bring Consolidation? This rests entirely with YOU — the sooner the membership gets behind this movement so that the force of this movement is felt in FACT — the sooner the Grand Lodge will act on it in EARNEST.

"Suffer, Little Children"

By Ruth Benson

Once upon a time the workers were told that all their sufferings would make their children's lives happier in the golden future. We were told to scrimp and save, no matter how hard it was, so our children could have a better education, a career, wealth and fame. We were told to slaughter our fellowmen in World War I and World War II, so that, at least for our children, their would be "freedom from fear and freedom from want."



But that's old-fashioned, according to one eminent psychiatrist who has been making a study of how to bring up our children. After all, capitalist promises are as fantastic as the Santa Claus tale. Children should be taught to suffer nobly as soon as they can stand on their two little feet.

Dr. Karl M. Bowman, professor of psychiatry at the University of California, says it's not only unwise but dangerous to shield little boys and girls. They "must be taught how to face the realities of an insecure world."

Parents, "should aim to develop (in children) personalities capable of dealing with all situations and able to bear the stress and strain." Away with sentimental notions about the joys of carefree childhood! Otherwise your children may be disillusioned when they grow up.

They might be bitter enough to insist on throwing out the capitalists who pay Bowman handsomely for his theories. The disappointed youth of the world might "think the government is responsible for everything," he wails. That might lead, horror of horrors, to "collectivism," or, as the workers call it, socialism.

Rather than face such a future, which would make all the dreams of childhood come true, Bowman wants to terrorize the youngsters early. Change every vision of happiness to a nightmare of expectation. Fill growing minds with knowledge of joblessness, poverty, sickness, and the imminent threat of wars fought with atom bombs, typhus and cholera.

Make all our children—begs Bowman—speak like the weary waif in bombed-out London, who was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up. His answer was just "Alive."

While They Talk About "Peace" At Paris, They Are Preparing War All Over The World

Washington's Blueprint Of The U. S. In An Atomic War

While the diplomats talk of "peace" in Paris, they prepare for war all over the world. War preparations, such as the Bikini atomic maneuvers, are of course described as "scientific experiments." But that does not change their nature in any way.

The reports of the Bikini demonstrations give only the faintest indication of the horrors of a Third World War. A more explicit picture is given in an article in the July 13 Saturday Evening Post, by Joseph and Stewart Alsop, entitled: "Your Flesh Should Creep."

This article tells about the cold-blooded, methodical preparations of the U.S. Army General Staff to utilize atomic explosives in the anticipated war. Their use, of course, will be disguised as "defense." When has any imperialist power entered a war of conquest and plunder except under the cloak of "defense?"

Some months ago, the authors state, the General Staff appointed a group of young soldier-experts to draw up a blueprint of the next war. The views of these experts, outlined in the article, now "represent the current thinking of the U.S. Army." Nightmarish as the conclusions of these military men are, the authors bluntly state that they are "not drawn from science fiction," but on the contrary, are "based on the serious, informed and expert thinking of very hard-headed, highly-trained men."

The military experts did not fail to approach the U.S. itself as a potential target. For they too admit that all the major powers will, within a brief period, possess atomic weapons.

The first illusion dismissed by these experts is that some new "miracle" of science might provide defense against atom bombs. Against any conceivable defense, many rockets will get through. "And only a few rockets will be enough to do the job when three atomic bombs can flatten Washington and ten can transform the vast megalopolis of New York into a heap of rubble."

Undisputed expert opinion holds that "a single fusillade of such atomic bombs will kill a third to one-half of the people of any great nation, and demolish an even higher percentage of its productive capacity."



FEVERISH RACE FOR NEW, MORE HORRIBLE WEAPONS

A German V-2 rocket blew up on July 19, five miles overhead, at White Sands, New Mexico. Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, who observed the accidental explosion, explained that the Army was experimenting with the rocket. According to Associated Press, Patterson admitted that "Development of rockets capable of carrying an atomic bomb half-way around the world was the goal of the Army's guided missile program."

On the same day an ominous report came from Oslo, Norway, that "two flying bombs were seen" over a lake 60 or 70 miles away. "The bombs were coming from the west at a very low height. . . They dived simultaneously without exploding almost into the middle of the lake. . ."

This is the second such report. On July 12 the Christian Science Monitor declared: "From Stockholm comes word that more 'rockets' or 'flying bombs' have unwittingly fallen in Sweden. Almost certainly they are experimental missiles from Russian bases on the Baltic, where Germany's Peenemunde station, which fathered the V-1 and V-2, was located."

These two coldly factual reports speak volumes about the postwar world. Instead of the "peace" promised by the Allied powers, the Second World War simply paved the way for a more frightful slaughter. The "peace" parleys at Paris in the light of the experiments with rockets, atom bombs and other weapons are seen to be nothing but camouflage. As the Staff Correspondent of the Monitor observes, "With the United States now planning 'Test Baker' — the underwater explosion — at Bikini for July 25, and the Russians experimenting with rockets, obviously it can be said that a small size 'armaments race' is on."

Paris "Peace" Conference Is A Step To World War III

(Continued from Page 1)

tinuous struggle between the Anglo-American imperialists and the Kremlin representatives both over the division of the spoils of war and the redrawing of the map of Europe. Both camps strove for economic and strategic advantages. Few questions were fully settled and differences will now be carried over to the Paris "peace" conference.

STALIN SUBMITS On every important issue Stalin was forced to submit to the decisions of the Anglo-American bloc. At the "peace" conference the struggle will continue and the ascendancy of the Anglo-American imperialists will again become manifest. The Kremlin strove to delay the calling of the conference, but in this too it was obliged to submit. The imperialists need this "representative" meeting, not only to reinforce their plans for Europe, but as an additional forum for anti-Soviet propaganda in preparation for the third world war.

The 21-nation gathering will be an utterly powerless affair. It will have the right to "discuss" and "make recommendations" — but no decisions. And naturally, any recommendations that are not to the liking of the "Big Four" can be blandly ignored.

The government representatives of the small nations may not like what the "Big Four" intend doing, but they will be unable to offer any effective resistance. If any of them should harbor the notion that they have been called in to decide anything, they will be quickly disillusioned.

ANTI-SOVIET BLOC Just as the Paris conference of Foreign Ministers (the "Big Four") resolved itself into a bloc of the Anglo-American imperialists against the Soviet Union, so the 21-nation "peace" conference will crystallize along the same lines.

By far the greater majority of the delegations will represent small states which revolve in the orbit of the big imperialist powers. These will be marshalled to vote for any recommendations which the imperialists want adopted. Against this array the Kremlin gang will be able to muster only a handful of its own satellites.

In whatever conflicts arise, the Soviet Union will be made to appear as the author of sinister designs, an obstructor of the majority will, and an obstacle to peace.

It should be borne in mind that the "peace" conference will deal only with the peripheral problems of Europe. Thus far, the "Big Four" have not got around to discussing a peace treaty for Germany, which is the heart of the European problem. Here the conflict between the imperialists and the Soviet Union is much sharper. The Anglo-American bloc seeks to "unify" Germany and bring the country within its own orbit. Stalin stubbornly opposes such a unification, knowing full well that a Germany unified under Anglo-American auspices will inevitably become a pawn and puppet in the hands of his imperialist adversaries.

Yet the international relationship of forces is such that Stalin is compelled to submit on every decisive point of difference. The only alternative is an open break with the imperialists, which would speed up the drive toward a war in which the Soviet Union would have to fight for its life under circumstances far less favorable than when Hitler attacked in 1941.

The Soviet Government under Lenin and Trotsky would have shunned all these imperialist conclaves as if they were a pla-

gue. It would have denounced the fraudulent "peace-making" at Paris and called upon the world working class to fight against the nefarious plans of the robber imperialists. It would have summoned the toilers in every land to the socialist revolution, which is the only guarantee of true peace. That is exactly what the Russian Bolsheviks did after the first world war.

STALIN SUBMITS On every important issue Stalin was forced to submit to the decisions of the Anglo-American bloc. At the "peace" conference the struggle will continue and the ascendancy of the Anglo-American imperialists will again become manifest. The Kremlin strove to delay the calling of the conference, but in this too it was obliged to submit. The imperialists need this "representative" meeting, not only to reinforce their plans for Europe, but as an additional forum for anti-Soviet propaganda in preparation for the third world war.

The 21-nation gathering will be an utterly powerless affair. It will have the right to "discuss" and "make recommendations" — but no decisions. And naturally, any recommendations that are not to the liking of the "Big Four" can be blandly ignored.

The government representatives of the small nations may not like what the "Big Four" intend doing, but they will be unable to offer any effective resistance. If any of them should harbor the notion that they have been called in to decide anything, they will be quickly disillusioned.

ANTI-SOVIET BLOC Just as the Paris conference of Foreign Ministers (the "Big Four") resolved itself into a bloc of the Anglo-American imperialists against the Soviet Union, so the 21-nation "peace" conference will crystallize along the same lines.

By far the greater majority of the delegations will represent small states which revolve in the orbit of the big imperialist powers. These will be marshalled to vote for any recommendations which the imperialists want adopted. Against this array the Kremlin gang will be able to muster only a handful of its own satellites.

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FRIGHTFUL WEAPONS

But the armaments race is not so small as the Monitor makes out. Besides the atomic bomb and rockets, U.S. imperialism is developing other frightful instruments of destruction in preparation for World War III. Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the N. Y. Times, declared July 17: "During the next ten years new and fearsome planes that will scrap even the mighty B-29's and the P-80 jet fighters will be coming out of the factories."

Already the Army Air Forces are experimenting with a new 11-ton "Amazon" bomb. It will be tried out on the Nazi submarine pens that resisted Allied bombing during the war. With armored heads and high-powered rocket assistance that boost the bomb's speed to the super-sonic velocity of 1,150 feet per second, the new "Amazon" is expected "to puncture the concrete structures and to produce a delayed explosion of terrific blast strength, sufficient to destroy any living being within."

PLOT EPIDEMICS However, according to Baldwin (July 14 N. Y. Times), "the atomic bomb and new gases represent only a part of the vast encyclopedia of destruction that the world's armies and navies are developing in laboratories and proving grounds."

Baldwin declares that "Two types of 'germ' attack are possible — an attack by attrition; that is, extended epidemics, initiated in the heart of an enemy country perhaps prior to the start of war, and swift, sudden attacks with lethal organisms accompanying perhaps mass bombing assaults."

"All sorts of strange new weapons are in the chrysalis of the laboratories," Baldwin coolly reports, "electric guns, sound 'guns', infra-red rays, etc."

Unions Support Defense Drive For Indonesians

Many trade unions, Negro and progressive organizations are rallying behind the Indonesia League of America's defense campaign in behalf of persecuted Indonesian residents and seamen in this country. The U.S. government threatens to deport almost 250 Indonesian seamen and residents, rounded up in New York and elsewhere during the past few months and now incarcerated in a San Francisco prison.

Local 9 of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees and Local 208 of the CIO United Optical Workers last week sent donations to back up their support of the campaign.

Among the organizations supporting the defense are the Socialist Workers Party, NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, Workers Defense League, Socialist Party, East & West Association, Negro Labor Committee, American Committee for a Free Palestine, League for Industrial Democracy and Liberal Party.

Also backing the campaign are India League of America, India Benevolent Association, One World Association, West Indies National Council and N. Y. Youth Council.

High tribute was paid to The Militant by the imprisoned Indonesian Seamen's group in a letter sent last week to John Adu, president of the Indonesia League.

"We extend our warm thanks to The Militant for the publication of the article concerning our welfare in the July 16 issue. We are pleased and inspired by the sincerity and frankness of Evelyn Atwood's presentation of our plight and struggle for fair treatment and justice."

To broaden the campaign for labor support, the Indonesia League will hold a public rally on August 16, the anniversary of the Indonesian Republic, at Labor Temple, New York. The list of prominent speakers will appear in coming issues of The Militant.

People Have Not Even Begun Recovery From World War II

By Evelyn Atwood

While the Paris Peace Conference prepares the groundwork for World War III, the peoples of the world are still staggering under the frightful consequences of World War II. The human mind is scarcely equipped to grasp the full import of this capitalist blight upon humanity.

Estimated military and civilian casualties in the war number 22 millions dead, 34 millions wounded, 25 millions dispossessed—a total of 81 millions. To build this mountain of corpses, cripples and homeless cost more than a trillion (a thousand billion) dollars. But even this figure does not include the billions upon billions in damaged cities, buildings, homes, factories and railroads.

HUMAN WRECKAGE Above all, these cold figures do not disclose the appalling toll in human wreckage, the effects on starving and stunted children, sustained not only through six long years of war, but ever since the mass slaughter temporarily subsided. Famine and disease stalk the entire globe, mounting in intensity as the second frightening winter of "peace" approaches.

In Europe alone, half of the 300 million persons exist on starvation levels. The masses are starving in Germany, Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Albania, Belgium, Greece. In Britain, a "victor" nation, food stocks have fallen to a new low level and even bread is rationed. In the Soviet Union, the demand for food is believed to be greater than admitted.

In India, 15 millions are directly threatened with starvation; in China 7 out of 27 millions are approaching or suffering starvation.

CHILD VICTIMS For countless masses in Europe and Asia there is no bread, no rice, no meat. In some countries they rely almost entirely upon the relief trickles from the UNRRA. In vast areas, rations have fallen to the starvation level of 950 calories — the same that was provided by the Nazis to the inmates of Buchenwald

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