

Milton Richardson On Plight Of The Veterans

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VOL. X — No. 43

PRICE-GOUGERS ROB THE WORKERS

SWP Fights N. Y. Ballot-Ban

Party To Appeal Judge's Ruling Barring Its Ticket From Ballot

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 19 — State Supreme Court Justice William H. Murray today did the bidding of Wall Street by ruling the Socialist Workers Party off the New York State ballot. His decision will be appealed to the Appellate Courts, the State Committee of the SWP announced today.

Murray's decision, depriving the SWP of its constitutional rights, was based on the most insignificant technicality. On petitions covering 57 signatures in Steuben County, Murray "discovered" that the notary's signature accompanying her stamp was absent. This "defect" was found sufficient to invalidate almost 25,000 signatures presented by the SWP, against which there was no complaint whatever.

In the same decision, Murray also threw the Socialist and Socialist Labor parties off the ballot. Here too he "discovered" similar fly-speck flaws.

Of the four parties originally challenged by Spencer Youngs, Democratic candidate for Comptroller, only the Communist (Stalinist) Party was permitted to remain on the ballot. This decision revealed that Judge Murray's rulings were based on the principle: Only those minority parties which support the candidates of Wall Street's Republican and Democratic parties are to be permitted a place on the ballot.

The Communist Party withdrew its candidates for Governor, U. S. Senator and Lieutenant-Governor last September and announced its support of the Democratic candidates. The CP slate consists only of candidates for Comptroller and Attorney-General. This slate is entered as a maneuver for the purpose of driving better bargains with Wall Street's major parties.

The Liberal Party was also permitted to remain on the ballot, because it supports the full state ticket of the Democratic Party. It was not challenged. Judge Murray threw out of court the challenge of Norman Thomas' Socialist Party against the right of the Socialist Workers Party to use the name "Socialist" as part of its ballot designation. He ruled that the question is "political and not one for judicial determination. Who are socialists and who are not involves many matters not within the purview of judicial action."

(More on New York ballot ban; Page 8).

Pittsburgh Power Union Ends Strike, Accepts Arbitration

(Special to The Militant)

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 21—After courageously resisting for four weeks a terrific strikebreaking offensive of the employers, press and government, the striking workers at a meeting here this afternoon voted 1,197 to 797 to end their strike and submit their demands for a 20 per cent wage increase and other improvements to arbitration.

The decision came on the eve of a scheduled hearing tomorrow by the anti-labor House Committee on Un-American Activities, which has summoned George Mueller, the union president, to face a quiz on alleged "communist" inspiration in the strike. Mueller, who agreed to go to Washington, denounced this move as an attempt to wave a red-herring at the strikers.

On entering their meeting hall today, the strikers were greeted by a bristling display of uniformed city police, the Allegheny County Sheriff and practically his whole staff of deputies who "supervised" the voting.

President Mueller reported the events of the strike up to date and urged arbitration. He explained that he had conferred with Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach in Washington and that Schwelienbach, although he did not commit himself, gave Mueller the feeling that the wage freeze



ELOISE GORDON Hits labor-haters in militant testimony at hearing of House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Charge Bilbo Took \$25,000 As War Gift

Senator Bilbo, notorious Negro-baiter from Mississippi, is being investigated by the Senate War Investigations Committee on charges of receiving a \$25,000 handout from a war contractor. No details of the charges have been made public by the Senate committee, which announced its investigation on Oct. 14. Senator Homer Ferguson, of Michigan, a member of the Senate Committee, said the charges against the poison-mouthed lynch-inciter from Mississippi are "serious" and "involve war profits and contractors." He said "revelations can be expected within two months."

No comment could be secured from the usually talkative Senator Bilbo at Jackson, Mississippi. His secretary told reporters Bilbo couldn't talk on the phone because of an operation for an "inflamed mouth."

Eloise Gordon Lashes Witch-Hunt Committee In Washington Hearing

Defends Power Strike Against Red-Baiters

By Joseph Hansen

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 21 — Eloise Gordon, Pittsburgh reporter for The Militant, today turned a hearing here of the House Committee on Un-American Activities into an offensive against the anti-labor, anti-Negro and anti-Semitic activities of the committee members themselves.

She was subpoenaed for questioning about the Pittsburgh power strike which members of the notorious witch-hunt committee had alleged was "communist"-inspired.

All reporters were barred from the star-chamber hearing conducted by Representative Wood, Negro-baiter from Georgia, and the committee's legal counsel, Ernie Adamson.

I was physically ejected from the hearing with the aid of a policeman summoned by Wood, after I refused to leave the hearing room and protested the outrageous action of the committee members in barring the hearing to public scrutiny.

PRESS BARRED

When Eloise and I entered the hearing room in the House Office Building at eleven this morning, it was crowded with reporters from many parts of the country. One of them said that this hearing was expected to be an "exceptional session." It was. But they didn't get to hear it.

Apparently afraid to hold a public session that would reveal how it conducts its hearings, Wood ordered an executive session barring all members of the press.

I protested against this because of the notorious record of the committee members in opposition to anti-lynch legislation. (Continued on Page 2)

Cost-Of-Living Bonus Won By Amalgamated

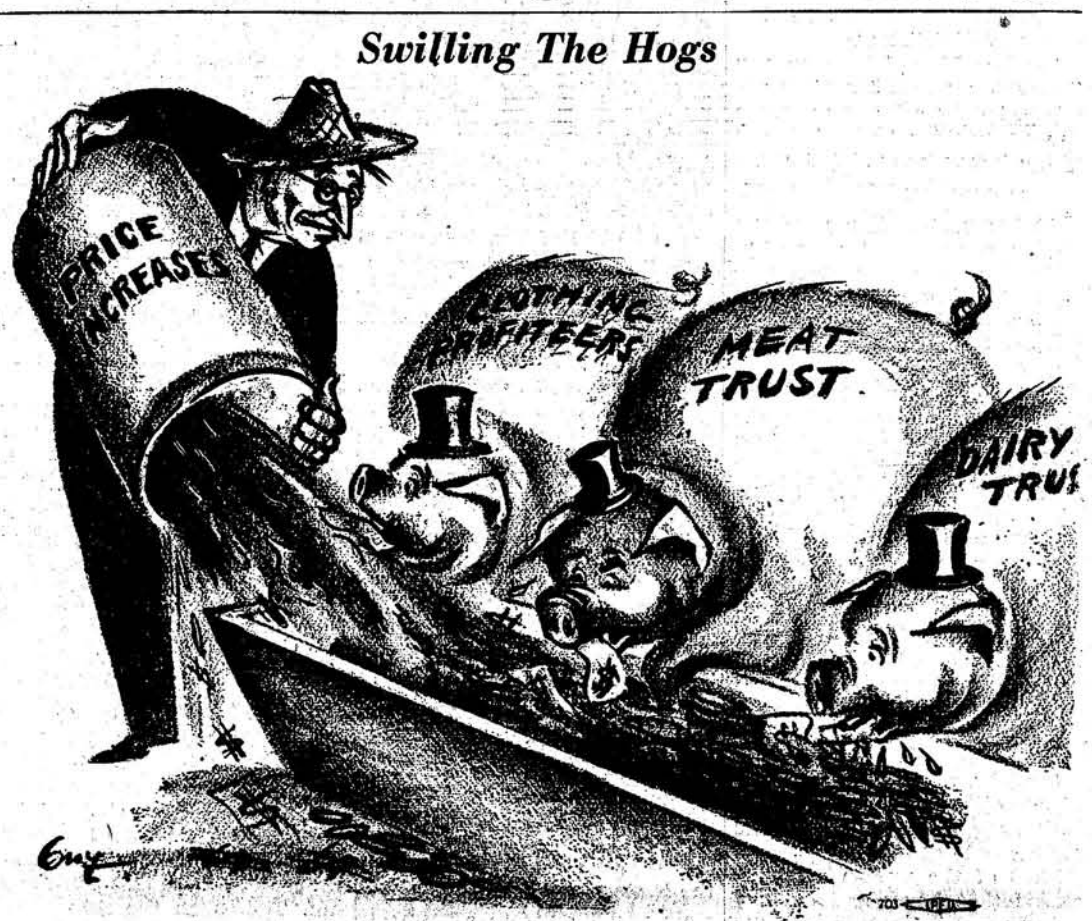
The principle of a cost-of-living bonus to compensate for the rising cost of living has been incorporated into contracts of the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers covering 250,000 workers. The bonus goes into effect starting Nov. 4.

150,000 workers in the men's and boys' clothing industry are to receive a \$5 a week cost-of-living bonus based on an estimated 10 to 11 per cent rise in the cost of living since last December when the last wage increases were granted. 75,000 cotton goods workers are to get a \$4 weekly bonus and 25,000 laundry workers are to get a flat 10 per cent general increase.

ADDITIONAL

The cost-of-living bonus is in addition to the established contractual wage rates. The question of additional increases to compensate for further living cost increases will be taken up in six months.

This is the first major union contract embodying the principle of upward wage adjustments based on the cost of living. Other unions, including the CIO packinghouse workers and the Chrysler Division of the CIO auto workers, have also demanded cost-of-living bonuses. The packinghouse union is now negotiating for regular cost-of-living bonuses periodically adjusted upward with the rise in living costs.



DEFEND LABOR'S LIVING STANDARDS! An Editorial

Big Business is hurling a ferocious assault against the living standards of the American people.

Truman's complete surrender to the profiteers on the issue of prices has signaled a tremendous intensification of the drive to slash the real wages of labor.

Prices are bounding up so fast that no cost-of-living index can keep up with them. And as prices shoot up, the corporations are raking in profits on a scale never known before. At the present rate, the monopolists are stealing billions of dollars more than they did even in the lush war years.

Nobody can honestly argue today that the soaring prices are due to the meager wage gains won last spring by a few million industrial workers. Actually, the weekly wages of the best-organized workers, the factory workers, have declined an average of 9 per cent in one year. Prices, according to the statement of the CIO Auto Workers, are expected to be 25 per cent higher in December than last January.

Big Business wants real wages to decline more and more. This means higher and higher profits. Wall Street and its government are now waging an offensive to side-track any struggle for higher wages and to disrupt the unions. That is the meaning of the all-out red-baiting drive and witch-hunt going on today.

For the workers whose standard of living is deteriorating daily, who cannot afford the most elementary necessities of life, higher wages are rapidly becoming a life-and-death question. It is a question not of this or that section of labor, but of the whole working class. American labor must face the stark fact: It is confronted with a fight for its very existence. It can defend itself only by a bold, united nation-wide struggle for higher wages to prevent the workers' living standards from dropping to coolie levels. There is only one way to immediately protect living standards from steadily mounting prices. That is by forcing the employers to grant escalator clauses in union contracts providing for automatic increases in wages, above the contract scale, in direct proportion to every rise in the cost-of-living. Flat hourly increases are not sufficient in themselves today. These increases can be wiped out almost overnight if there is not the additional protection of escalator clauses. The demand for the sliding scale of wages must become the slogan of the whole labor movement. The fight must be launched in united fashion. The crying need is for a National Conference of Labor, representing all the unions, to map out a joint program of action and resist the Big Business assault with the united power of the labor movement.

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Flat hourly increases are not sufficient in themselves today. These increases can be wiped out almost overnight if there is not the additional protection of escalator clauses. The demand for the sliding scale of wages must become the slogan of the whole labor movement. The fight must be launched in united fashion. The crying need is for a National Conference of Labor, representing all the unions, to map out a joint program of action and resist the Big Business assault with the united power of the labor movement.

A Letter To NMU President Curran

Joseph Curran, President, National Maritime Union, New York City.

Dear Sir and Brother: You have undoubtedly been informed of a brutal assault made on distributors of The Militant outside Manhattan Center on Monday, Oct. 14. Several of our distributors, including four women, were seriously injured by this attack. Blackjacks, brass knuckles and other lethal weapons were employed by the hoodlums to prevent the distribution of The Militant and to do bodily harm to the distributors. We have unimpeachable evidence that this assault was planned, organized and directed by members of the Communist (Stalinist) Party who belong to the National Maritime Union. The leading figure among the hoodlums was one Stanley Postek. Among the others associated with him in the assault were

two named Kinkaid and Whit-ham. These men are known to us, as they are to many members of your union, as members of the Communist Party.

This is not the first time that Postek has tried to block the distribution of The Militant at NMU meetings by brute force. Nor is this the first incident in which our distributors have been assaulted by this hoodlum Stalinist mob.

This is not a quarrel between the Socialist Workers Party and the National Maritime Union. We have no levance against the National Maritime Union, Mr. Curran, as a bona fide trade union organization. On the contrary, we have militantly defended it in the pages of The Militant, and we have in all our activities proclaimed our solidarity with the National Maritime Union in its struggle with the ship-owners and the government.

Nor is this, Mr. Curran, merely a factional struggle between the Stalinists and Trotskyists in which the National Maritime Union as a union has no interest.

What is involved in this incident are the most fundamental democratic rights in the labor movement: the right of free speech and free press. The fascist-like attack on these rights by Stalinist gangsters is no less threatening to the labor movement than fascist attacks made against workers by red-baiters, Ku Kluxers and other fascist elements in the pay of the employers.

The Stalinist gangsters are taking cover behind the protection of your union. This would not only be a blow to the National Maritime Union but to the labor movement as a whole. We are confident, Mr. Curran, that you will not countenance these fascist-like actions against

"Meat—For The Rich Only" Is Packing Trust Slogan

"Meat — For Millionaires Only!" That is the slogan of the meat packers and livestock speculators since Truman surrendered to their demands on Oct. 14.

Overnight, meat hoarded to force up prices suddenly appeared on butcher counters and flowed from hidden stocks in warehouses.

But it's not meat for the working people — at a dollar a pound for hamburger!

Truman broke the meat black market — you can now buy meat in big cities like New York at legal prices higher than the former black market extortions.

Meat, at prices 25 to 100 per cent higher than the former high OPA ceilings, is leading a general march upward of prices. The worker's dollar bill is fast shrinking to the size of a postage stamp. The Dun & Bradstreet index of wholesale prices on Oct. 15, the day after Truman's radio talk, hit \$6.15 for 31 basic foods, compared to \$5.40 the week before. This is a 50 per cent rise since a year ago — a 14 per cent spurt in one week.

And from Washington, immediately after Truman bowed to the meat trust, came the sinister threat of removal of rent ceilings or a big boost in rents.

A group of Senators, representing the big real estate interests, promptly announced they are going to introduce a bill to abandon rent control by March and boost rent ceilings 15 per cent in the meantime.

Removal of price ceilings on virtually all foods will not result in lower prices as supplies increase. The meat, dairy, baking and packaged foods trusts continue to withhold goods and maintain artificial scarcity. Their success in busting price ceilings has only whetted their appetites for higher prices and higher profits.

The monopoly profiteers' joy in anticipation of the biggest profits steal in history was promptly recorded on the Stock Exchange. After a steady slump in stock prices and heavy selling since last May, stocks ad-

UAW Executive Board Starts Move For Substantial Raises

A CIO United Automobile Workers campaign for "substantial wage adjustments" to meet the "continued sharp rise in the cost of living" was announced by the union's international executive board in a wage policy statement adopted at its Cleveland meeting on Oct. 20.

The statement charged that an "unholy alliance between big business and their political henchmen" has caused "complete destruction of effective control of the cost-of-living." "Under these circumstances," the UAW board states, "we have but one clear course—to demand a wage increase that will provide the workers and their families with a decent standard of living."

Immediate negotiations are scheduled first with the Chrysler corporation. The Chrysler contract contains a 60-day notice renegotiation clause. Notice was served two months ago.

Corporate Profits At 'Fantastic Levels'

What bounding profits have meant in terms of profits for the big corporations was shown in the CIO News, Oct. 14. It gave official government figures to prove that present profits are running far higher than the highest wartime take-in.

"Corporate profits by the fourth quarter of 1946 will be running at an annual rate of 25 to 50 per cent above the war years. Total corporate profits for the years 1942-45, after taxes, averaged \$9.5 billion. The best estimates available indicate that corporate profits, after taxes, will be at the fantastic level of almost \$14 billion by the fourth quarter of 1946."

George Clarke, Organizer, Local New York Socialist Workers Party Oct. 19, 1946.

Diary Of A Steel Worker

The Building With The Tower

By Theodore Kovalesky

You see the building from the bus on the way to the steel plant, and there's no telling what it used to be.



That's something about such neighborhoods—there are all sorts of things in them, and you don't know what they were for, because the neighborhoods used to be a lot different from what they are today.

The building squats solidly and rather sadly on the corner of Exchange and Farnob Streets.

Here and there between the shops you can

see dim halls with stairs leading up into the darkness toward the floors where the people live.

And sometimes you notice blank-faced, middle-aged women sitting in the windows staring down at the passing trucks, buses, and cars, staring out into the monotonous dirt and clamor of the streets.

It is a very solidly constructed building, or at least so it looks from the outside, and it will probably last for decades more.

When you see it, especially when you see the tower and the clocks with only half the big gilt numbers left on the black faces, you wonder what it used to be when the people with the beautiful horses and expensive carriages used to live nearby.

But you know one thing. You know that it wasn't an apartment house, that it wasn't built for a tenement. You know it wasn't intended for people to live in.

One Thing Hasn't Changed

By George Breitman

Times certainly have changed. The politician who once claimed that what this country needed was a good five-cent cigar would probably be up for investigation by the FBI as a subversive element if he raised such a radical demand today.



Let me cite an example which came later in the week than Monday but which is typical of the better-publicized speeches by the clergy:

The U. S. "had better pile up armaments sky high and make bigger and better bombs" to deal with nations that "deny the existence of God and repudiate the moral law," said the Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, president of Notre Dame University, in Oklahoma City on Oct. 17.

Any of you guys who deny the existence of God will get a dose of the atomic bomb, see? And if that doesn't show you the holy light, there's always germ warfare, see? The moral law or a taste of Hiroshima, bibbles or bombs—that's your choice, see?

Yes, the times and the customs are changing all right. But one thing hasn't changed at all, I notice. The ones who are talking tough are still not the ones who will have to do the fighting and dying when war comes.

A 'Spiritual' Way Of Life

By Ruth Benson

It's hard for most of us to be Pollyannas who see a bright side to homelessness, soaring prices, hunger and misery. But it's easy for Arthur Hays Sulzberger, wealthy publisher of the N. Y. Times, a newspaper known throughout the world as a mouthpiece of Wall Street.



Sulzberger talked to a conference of highly paid publishers in Boston last week. They listened rapidly while Sulzberger described the glorious blessings of capitalism.

"In this 'dear land'" he proclaimed with exultation, "freedom creates opportunity. Opportunity creates responsibility. We who, with responsibility, practice free enterprise, do far more than promote an atmosphere in which we forward an economic system. It is a complete way of life, including the spiritual."

Veterans' Problems Democracy And Hypocrisy

You might get the idea that the U. S. government's main concern in Europe is to build up democracy there, if you believed everything you read in the capitalist press.

"This government is resolved that the rights of religious, political and economic minorities shall be protected. In accord with other United Nations, this government is defending the rights of weaker peoples democratically to achieve, without outside interference, political stability, economic progress and social advancement."

Why does Acheson keep talking about opposing "outside interference" when this government supports the continued occupation of Greece by British troops and keeps sending supplies which are used in a monarchist-deflected civil war to repress the majority of the Greek people?

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Greece is an example of the "democracy" being fostered by U. S. and British imperialism. But it will be very difficult for the Greek masses to distinguish between it and the "new order" imposed on them by German imperialism.

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Only Parties Backing Wall St. Candidates Allowed To Stay On New York State Ballot

By George Clark

Judge Murray's decision barring the Socialist Workers Party from the New York State ballot was a foregone conclusion. We predicted it in The Militant from the first day the case opened in the Supreme Court chambers in Troy, New York.

The Democrats dealt every hand in this crooked game from the bottom of a deck of marked cards. This is plainly shown by all the facts surrounding this outrageous abuse of justice.

1. The Socialist Workers Party and the other minority parties entered the election campaign with two strikes against them. They were forced to adhere to one of the severest, most anti-democratic election laws in the United States.

2. The outlines of the conspiracy were clearly visible when the Democrats brought the SWP and the other minority parties into court after the Secretary of State had certified them for a place on the ballot.

3. The courtroom proceedings were a farce. Dozens of legitimate legal points made by defense attorneys were blandly dumped into the wastebasket by the judge.

4. The Socialist Workers Party was knocked off the ballot on the flimsiest pretext. The law requires 12,000 signatures in the state and 50 from each of the 62 counties.

5. Listening parties have been arranged in both headquarters for all of the radio speeches of the campaign.

C. K. Johnson, SWP campaign manager, announced that arrangements are now being made to have Grace Carlson speak over radio station KWLM at Willmar sometime during the last week of October.

Plans are under way to distribute the Special Election issue to the delegates to the State CIO Convention which meets in Duluth early in November.

As it goes into the home stretch, the Minnesota SWP election campaign gives evidence of developing real sweep and drive.

Walker Tour To Cover Major Cities In Ohio

(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, O., Oct. 20 — Malcolm Walker, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Governor, will begin a tour of the state on Oct. 23, winding up the day before election.

Walker will speak at election rallies in Cincinnati, Youngstown, Akron, Cleveland, Warren, Bellaire, Canton, Toledo, Port Clinton, Sandusky, Dayton, Columbus and in many other industrial and mining communities throughout Ohio.

Protest Court Decision

Protest Court Decision



Joseph Hansen, candidate for U. S. Senate, Farrell Dobbs, for Governor and Milton Richardson, for Lt.-Governor, are three of the five Socialist Workers Party candidates in the New York State election who will carry their fight to remain on the ballot to a higher court.

SWP Program Taken To All Of Minnesota Industrial Cities

By V. R. Dunne

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Oct. 19 — Thousands of copies of the Special Election Issue of The Militant were distributed in cities and towns throughout Minnesota today.

Prominently displayed on the banners was the slogan "Vote Labor!" Each sign listed the names of the SWP candidates: Grace Carlson for U. S. Senator, Warren Creel for 3rd District Congressman, Dorothy Schultz for 4th District Congressman.

The SWP campaigner handed out the election Militant in the downtown districts, crowded with Saturday afternoon shoppers.

To anyone acquainted with Minnesota politics, it is clear that the Trotskyist program has made a deep impression.

Rogalin Exposes KKK Whitewash

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Oct. 19 — The Los Angeles City Council this week combined with Mayor Fletcher Bowron and the Tenney-un-American Committee to issue a complete whitewash of Ku Klux Klan activity in Southern California.

Completely ignoring the statement presented by Cynthia Rogalin, SWP write-in candidate for State Senator, which presented a mass of detailed evidence against the KKK.

The Tenney Committee revealed that it had sent "spies" into the MFD, but had sent no one into either the Klan or Gerald L. K. Smith's organization.

Striking and colorful signs cover the windows of party headquarters in downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Quantities of election material and other party literature are being given out to the many interested workers who drop in at the headquarters.

OHIO Election Rallies Hear Malcolm Walker SWP Candidate for Governor IN TOLEDO SATURDAY, NOV. 2 108 Summit St. 8 p.m. IN AKRON MONDAY, NOV. 4 6 So. Howard 8 p.m. Admission Free

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Our Program:

- 1. Defend labor's standard of living! A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living! Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging! Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!

Join the Socialist Workers Party! SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 116 University Place New York 3, New York