

# THE MILITANT

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### Leon Trotsky Memorial Issue

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# 'PROBE' WILL NOT HALT PRICE-GOUGERS

## Atomic Bomb Threat Hurlled At USSR

### Tension Over Greece Mounts To New High

The tension between Washington and Moscow reached a new high this week when Secretary of Commerce, W. Averell Harriman hurled a thinly-veiled threat that the United States was prepared to use the atomic bomb against the Soviet Union.



HARRIMAN

Harriman is a member of America's wealthiest ruling families and one of the Wall Street group of Brain Trusters that is advising the Truman Administration.

### Editorial 'The Struggle in Greece'

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Only four days before, Senator Joseph H. Ball, one of the architects of the Taft-Hartley Slave Law and right-hand lieutenant of Re-

made in consultation with American officials eager to entrench American armed forces in this strategic area of the Mediterranean.

Meanwhile in the United Nations, acrimonious debate continued between the U. S. and Soviet delegations over Greece.

The capitalist press unanimously interpreted this as a threat to send U. S. troops to Greece and engage in full scale military action.

### Youngstown Unionist in Council Race Steel Local Endorses Own Labor Candidate

By Harry Frankel

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Aug. 16 — A rock has been heaved into the stagnant pool of Democratic-Republican politics here in the shape of an independent labor candidate for city council.

By running a Fourth Ward candidate, the labor movement is attacking the stronghold of the Democratic Party here in Mahoning County.

The incumbent Democratic councilman, Edgar T. Morley, who is seeking re-election, is a roll-turner at the Carnegie-Illinois McDonald Works.

Thus, labor's candidate Ausemher is opposing in this election an anti-CIO union-splitting Democrat and his own Republican foreman!

### "Investigating" the Price Conspiracy



### Marshall Presses Wal Street's War Aims at Conference in Brazil

By Joseph Hansen

The opening sessions of the Inter-American Conference at Petropolis, Brazil, quickly revealed how this gathering fits into Wall Street's preparations for World War III.

In a press interview the first day, Aug. 15, Secretary of State Marshall announced that his delegation of Democrats and Republicans would press for an agreement making it obligatory for all powers in the Western Hemisphere upon a two-thirds vote to carry out the short-of-shooting-war measures of the Chapultepec Act.

This means that if the United States, for instance, should become engaged in a war with the Soviet Union and pinned the label "aggressor" on the foe, then all the other countries in Latin America would be obligated to carry out at once the following measures:

Recall of chiefs of diplomatic missions; breaking of diplomatic relations; breaking of consular relations; breaking of postal, telegraphic, telephonic, radio-telephonic relations; interruption of economic, commercial and financial relations.

### DEMAND U.S. RECALL ARMS FROM DUTCH!

— An Editorial —

Last week The Militant printed the correspondence between James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and Norman Armour, Assistant Secretary of State, on the use of American arms by the Dutch imperialists against the Indonesian people.

Cannon demanded that President Truman recapture these arms under the provisions of the Lend-Lease Agreement. Armour, speaking in behalf of Truman and the State Department, baldly admitted the facts but rejected the demand.

Cannon thereupon responded as follows: "I cannot accept this argument. Involved here are not any 'general' propositions, but a SPECIFIC instance of a SPECIFIC and glaring violation of the terms of lend-lease and the avowed aims of the Atlantic Charter under which it was extended."

To date the State Department has not seen fit to respond to this demand. It is clear that Truman does not intend to recapture these arms if he can avoid doing so.

It is necessary to mobilize public opinion against the Truman Administration. Let every union body rally to the aid of the hard-pressed Indonesian people in their heroic struggle for independence.

## High Living Costs To Stay, Admits President Truman

By Art Preis

The Truman Administration, hoping to make political capital for 1948, has opened a noisy sham-battle on the price front.

The "call to arms" was sounded by Attorney General Clark two weeks ago when he announced that the Department of Justice intends to "probe" for any price-

### Profiteers Grab A Bigger Slice

Wages and salaries dropped from 70% of the national income in 1944 to 62% in the last quarter of 1946, while reported corporate net profits rose from 6% to 9% of the national income in the same period.

Whatever the results of these highly-publicized "probes" and suits, three decisive things they will not accomplish are apparent in advance:

1. They will not halt the profiteer-powered price spiral; 2. they will not halt monopoly fixing of high prices; 3. they will not send a single big corporation owner or executive to jail.

### SEES LITTLE RESULTS

Just two days after Clark's announcement for Truman himself to dispel any pipe-dreams about the promised price-conspiracy "investigations," he confided to his press conference on Aug. 14 that "he doubted that Department of Justice price investigation would actually bring many prices down."

At most, he admitted, it might "put the finger" on those charging higher prices "than warranted."

### RISES CONTINUE

While all this horse-play is going on, rising prices continue to strip the hides from the American workers and low-income consumers.

and long known — price-gouging practices of a few corporations. Some prosecutions may get a brief play in the headlines, spread the impression that Truman is "doing something" and then fade out into chicken-feed fines, against a couple of big outfits that aren't contributing enough to the Democratic Party campaign funds.

Some small-time price-chisellers may be given jail raps. Not Benjamin Fairless, head of U. S. Steel, of course.

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## Dutch Continue Slaughter Of Java Freedom-Fighters

The second anniversary of the Republic of Indonesia passed Aug. 17 with Java in flames as the Indonesian freedom fighters continued putting the torch to immense stores of rubber, oil and other products.

to prevent them from falling into the hands of imperialist Holland's armed forces.

In a grim speech on that day Lieut. Gen. Soedirman, Commander-in-Chief of the Republican Army, declared: "It is better for the country to become a sea of flames rather than a colony again."

Meanwhile, half way around the world, the Truman Administration coldbloodedly played the game of the Dutch despots. The State Department, backing Queen Wilhelmina in her attempt to keep the war on Indonesia out of the United Nations, tried to high-pressure the young Republic into accepting its "good offices" as a "mediator," thus by-passing the Security Council.

### ASK UN ARBITRATION

The Indonesian government accepted the proffer of Truman's "good offices," but asked that these "good offices" be used to get the United Nations Security Council to send an international arbitration commission to the East Indies.

This was sufficient for Washington to declare that the Indonesians had rejected the offer, and when the Indonesian government insisted on its position, the offer was withdrawn.

The Dutch colonial despots, unwilling to stand with blood dripping from their hands in the spotlight of publicity attending a United Nations hearing, hailed Truman's offer as an alternative agreeable to them.

### NMU Urges Boycott Of Ships Loading Dutch War Cargo

NEW YORK, Aug. 18—The national office of the CIO National Maritime Union announced yesterday that a unanimous decision had been reached to recommend to the organization's 90,000 members "that they boycott all vessels carrying war cargo designed to aid the Dutch in their war of aggression" on the Republic of Indonesia.

"Imperialist Dutch interests, backed by giant American corporations and an interventionist U. S. foreign policy," said the statement, "are waging murderous warfare against 70 million Indonesian people."

The resolution, which was sent to all United States ports, concluded: "We are confident our membership will not stand idly by but will join with all other maritime unions throughout the world in refusing to man or load ships whose cargoes will enable the Dutch to suppress and enslave the Indonesian people."

ver gained the Dutch imperialists additional precious time, which they have utilized to the utmost. Although they had agreed to issue a "cease fire" order on Aug. 4, they have methodically continued what they call "mopping up" operations.

"Mopping up," as reported in dispatches from Indonesia, consists of

strafing villages and highways in accordance with Nazi blitzkrieg tactics. And Dutch communiques boast of the capture of a number of towns and strategic points since the "cease fire" order was issued.

The cynicism of the Dutch despots can be judged from the lying affirmation of Dr. Eelco van Kieffens, Queen Wilhelmina's chief delegate to the United Nations, that "all we want is to end anarchy and chaos."

He made this accusation while theaters in the United States began running newsreels from Indonesia. The scenes of bombed villages show what the Dutch can accomplish with American planes and tanks. The long lines of starving Indonesian children, who look more like skeletons than living beings, rival any of the horror scenes ascribed to the Nazis.

### STRONG RESISTANCE

The Dutch capitalists, equipped with the most modern instruments of slaughter turned out by American factories, have made swift gains against the ill-armed Indonesians. But they have far from won the war they started.

The resistance of the Indonesian people, particularly as they begin hearing of acts of sympathy from the labor movement abroad, will stiffen and gain in strength.

### Indonesian League

Demonstration

Picture on Page 6

## Teamster Convention Held After 7 Years

By Della Rossa

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 14 — Fighting the dictatorial one-man rule of Daniel J. Tobin, general president for 41 years of the AFL Teamsters, opposition forces at the union's six-day fifteenth convention, which concluded its fourth day here today, have put up battles on the following issues:

1. For democratizing the convention rules. This was to lay the basis for a battle against giving Tobin the power to appoint an executive vice-president under his complete "supervision and orders" and "a crown prince" post designed to permit Tobin to name his successor.
2. Against increasing the per capita tax to the international from 30 to 40 cents to swell Tobin's \$17,000,000 treasury. Tobin was forced to yield before the overwhelming opposition of the convention to such an increase.
3. Against giving the General Executive Board power to amend constitutional provisions on membership, with special reference to owner-operators.
4. Against cutting the Secretary-Treasurer's salary from \$30,000 (same as Tobin's) to \$20,000. Delegates, who successfully opposed Tobin on this, argued such action would harm their own efforts to get wage raises.

### RULES WITH IRON HAND

In the main, Tobin has been able to run the convention with an iron hand. His conduct has been marked by frenzied red-baiting and steam-roller tactics.

to eliminate all militant local leaders by bureaucratic expulsions and appointment of dictator-receivers over a large percentage of the locals.

This convention of 2,400 delegates, representing a claimed 300,000 members, is the first in seven years. The next one is scheduled for 1952, and every four years thereafter.

Tobin's principal concern in the convention, as shown by his "Report," has been to get a bigger cut of the dues money and to tighten his bureaucratic grip on the union through additional undemocratic constitutional amendments.

### WILLING TO WEAKEN UNION

He demanded that "at this convention the laws of the International should be strengthened to the end that men who cause unlawful strikes, men who refuse to accept the advice and orders of their duly elected officers must be expelled from membership no matter what the cost, even if it has the tendency to weaken the union for the time being."

His report likewise rants against the militant membership, "the so-called mob or multitude, or ruffian and file who are always disturbing our meetings." He offered no fighting program to defend the interests of the membership, while complaining about the Taft-Hartley Law and whining "we were betrayed by men we helped to elect."

The first day of the convention (Continued on Page 5)









