

# THE MILITANT

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## Washington Shuffles Quislings in Greece

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## Labor-Negro Slate Wins In Dayton

### Independent Candidates Nominated In Primaries

A Labor-Negro coalition slate of independent candidates opposing both the Democratic and Republican machines in Dayton Ohio, on Aug. 25 swept to victory in the primary elections to nominate two candidates for the City Commission election next November.

Charles E. Sims, president of the local CIO Council and business representative for United Electrical Workers Locals 754 and 768, received the top vote among the four candidates nominated in the field of seven and the highest ever won by a primary candidate for City Commission. His vote was 6,698.

His running-mate, C. Josef McLin, Negro businessman, and former CIO member, won the third highest vote. The 5,836 ballots cast for McLin were just 87 short of second place. Neglect and malfeasance by the Election Board, which failed to provide ballots for some 350 people standing in line to vote just before the polls closed, is believed to have cheated McLin of the second highest vote.

#### POLITICAL VICTORY

This political victory was won because the workers and Negro people were inspired by the opportunity to vote for independent labor and Negro candidates free from both the Democratic and Republican machines. The working people turned out in record numbers to back their own candidates and program.

In spite of a terrific heat wave, 16,000 voters went to the polls as against the highest previous primary turnout of just 10,300.

The victory is all the more impressive because all three Big Business-controlled newspapers in Dayton and the Democratic and Republican parties joined in a savage redbaiting, anti-labor, anti-Negro campaign against Sims and McLin.

Labor's candidates answered with a program pledging a city ordinance to control rents, an improved municipal transportation system, better city-wide recreational facilities, a comprehensive housing program and expenditure of the city funds in the interests of the people rather than special business interests.

The CIO Political Action Committee played a primary role in organizing the campaign for Sims and McLin. The heaviest vote in the city and the largest vote for the Labor-Negro slate was cast in the four wards where PAC is most strongly organized.

Hundreds of union members and shop stewards were mobilized by PAC as "Volunteer Vote-Getters." Various local unions were assigned responsibility for getting out the

### N. Y. State CIO Board Rejects Attack on American Labor Party

By a four to one vote, the New York State CIO Executive Board rejected an attempt on Sept. 3 to force the CIO to withdraw its support from the American Labor Party. The anti-ALP move was made on the eve of the State CIO convention starting Sept. 4 in Saratoga Springs.

The right-wing minority making the attack on the ALP contended the CIO should not commit itself to any one political party. An overwhelming majority opposed this position.

The Executive Board voted unanimously to set up a permanent Political Action Committee in every union local.

workers' votes in particular wards. Every home was visited at least twice, early in the campaign and just before elections. "Division coordinators" were assigned to major areas and these "coordinators" in turn designated block and precinct captains to direct the campaigns in every neighborhood.

Dozens of street corner and plant gate meetings were held. Sound trucks toured the city. Just before elections, block workers got Sims-McLin supporters to sign campaign cards, enabling a check-up at the polls if any failed to show up. Telephone calls and a fleet of autos brought many additional voters to the polls.

Voting was light early in the day, and the newspapers began to crow. But when the plants let out, the workers rushed by the thousands to the polls to chalk up a record-breaking vote and ensure a Labor-Negro victory.

Now PAC is busy getting the people to register for the November election. A campaign such as Dayton has never before seen is being planned to out the Democratic and Republican incumbents opposing the two CIO-backed candidates.

Dayton labor and the Negro people are looking forward to dealing a smashing blow at the local capitalist parties next November through genuine independent labor political action.

# PEOPLE DEMAND PRICE RELIEF BUT WASHINGTON TALKS WAR

## Cite SWP Nominee for "Contempt"

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 2—Contempt charges were ordered filed against Irene P. LeCompte, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council from the 7th District, and two members of her campaign committee, Mrs. Pauline Goldenberg and Mrs. Naomi Berlan, for their refusal to answer improper questions at an Election Board hearing today on a challenge to bar the SWP candidate from the ballot.

Similar charges were filed against Jack Rader, Workers Party councilman candidate from the 5th District, and his committeeman, Francis E. Carner.

This action of the County Commission sitting as the Election Board climaxes an attempt by the Democratic machine here to deny the right to a place on the ballot in the coming city elections to all candidates of minority parties. A Communist Party candidate from the 1st District had previously been ruled off the ballot by the Election Board. The Republican machine appears to be cooperating with the Democrats who initiated the challenges.

Mrs. LeCompte was the first to be cross-examined by County Commission Chairman Morton Witkin and the Commission's counsel, William T. Connor, who openly demonstrated their hostility and partiality. She refused to answer all but one question on "the advice of counsel." David H. H. Felix, attorney for both candidates at the hearing.

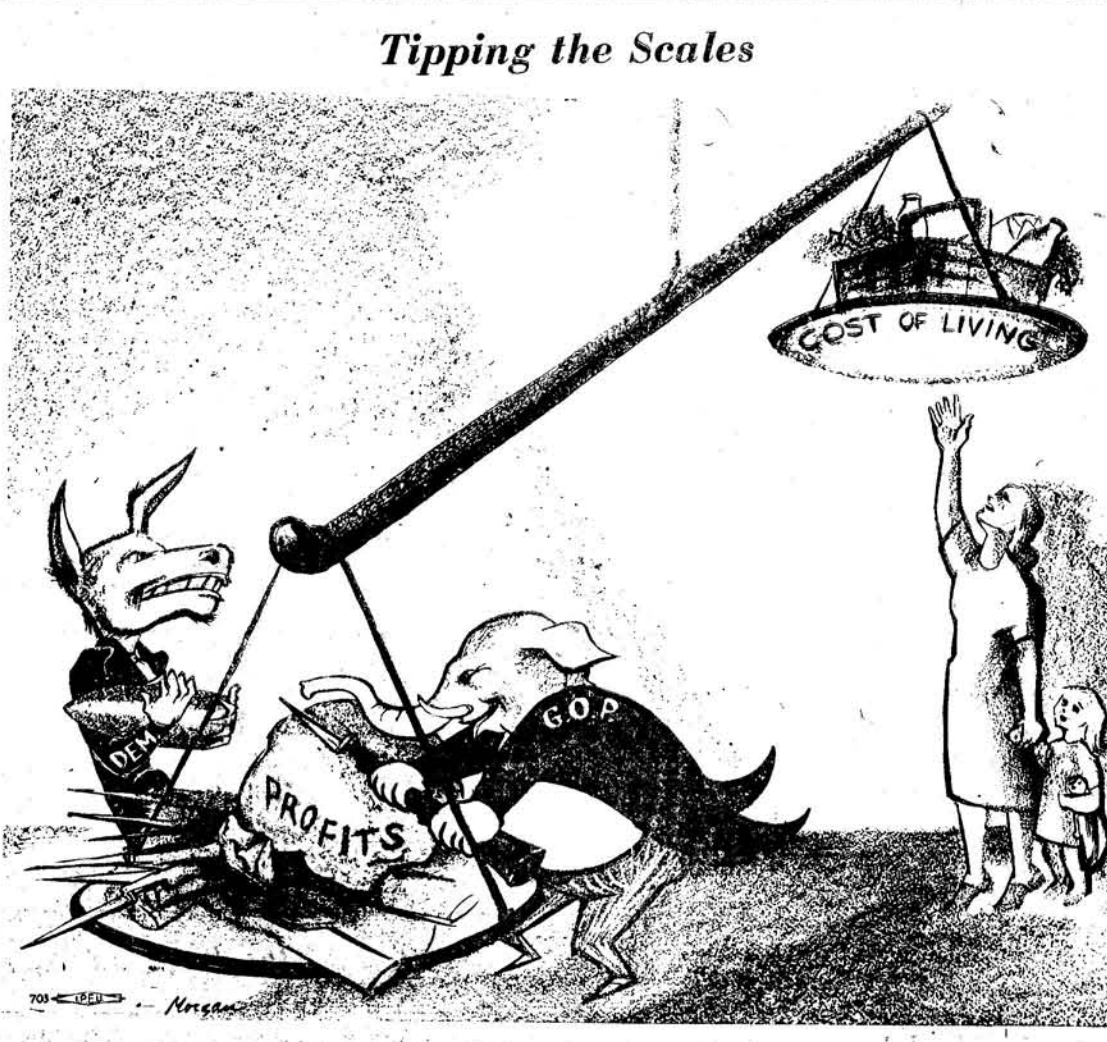
In reply to a question whether the SWP is "just another name for the Communist Party," Mrs. LeCompte said briefly, "There is no connection."

Attorney Felix informed the Board at the outset of the hearing on the legality of the parties' nominating papers that the Board lacked jurisdiction because a prior action had been filed before Common Pleas Court No. 1.

"My clients," he said, "are willing to answer questions before the proper tribunal, but this board is not that tribunal."

Witkin attacked Felix's conduct as "effrontery" and said refusal to answer his illegal questions was "un-American and improper" and seemed to have a "foreign tinge."

Plans are being made to set up a broad defense committee to fight for the right of the SWP, WP and other working class parties to a place on the city ballot.



## Popular Anger Mounts Against Big Profiteers

Popular anger at the high cost of living is being further inflamed by awareness of capitalist profiteering and thievery. Corporation "earnings" are at such fantastic heights, monopoly price-fixing and price-gouging have become so open, that the government and press can no longer hide the direct link between rising living costs and profits.

In recognition of this fact, Wall Street's Republican and Democratic agents in Washington are now in a political duel of "probes" and counter-"probes," trying to shift sole blame for inflation on each other.

Especially the increase over the second half of 1946, says Fleming, has "much meaning." The increase is about the same as the increase in prices — about 15 per cent.

The biggest profits increase was in the steel, iron and coke industry — 155.3%. Last month this industry boosted steel prices again and gave a new spurt to the inflationary spiral.

These profits are being amassed while production has been on a steady decline for the past five months and retail sales fell off. Price rises have cut the buying power of the dollar to 50 cents, according to a recent Associated Press

## NON-OPERATING RAIL WORKERS GET 15½-CENT WAGE INCREASE

A wage increase of 15½ cents an hour was awarded to 1,000,000 union non-operating railroad workers on Sept. 2 by a six-man tri-partite arbitration board.

The board rejected the demand of the 17 non-operating rail unions for retroactive pay to April 25 when negotiations were started.

Even this slim increase in terms of price rises was opposed by the two railroad operators' representatives on the board. They dissented from the award and refused to sign the arbitration report.

The 17 unions had originally asked for a 20-cent raise as an "absolute minimum" to offset the increased cost of living since the 16-cent increase in June 1946 and the subsequent additional 2½ cents obtained after the strike of operating workers won 18½ cents.

While stating that the union leaders would recommend acceptance of

seem to have realized that the public, reasonably or unreasonably, is bound to put these things together — the lush earnings statements now coming out and the persistent inching up here and there of living costs.

Indeed, the low-income consumers are becoming "sensitive," and not "unreasonably" either. Fleming's own figures show why. He cites the National City Bank's August bulletin on "Net Income of Leading Corporations" which shows that for the first six months of 1947 their profits were double those of the first half of 1946.

The decline in the workers' living standards is shown directly in the 4% FALL of labor's share in the national income — from 66.9% in 1945 to 63% in the first half of 1947, and going down, according to the Dept. of Commerce study.

The tiny class of corporation owners, independent capitalists, landlords and bankers in the first half of 1947 snatched 37% of the national income in the form of profits, rent and interests. This is a 4% RISE in two years.

These profits are being amassed while production has been on a steady decline for the past five months and retail sales fell off. Price rises have cut the buying power of the dollar to 50 cents, according to a recent Associated Press

survey of actual retail prices.

Yet we find the association of the big meat packers, the American Meat Institute, having the gall to run ads in last week's papers telling the people that "total net profits of the meat packing companies have practically no effect on the price you pay for a pound of meat."

The biggest rise in prices of any commodity for the year ending June 30 was for meat—76%.

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## Legion Ignores Veterans' Needs In Rabid War-Mongers Confab

NEW YORK, Sept. 1—The gravest problems facing war veterans and their families are the housing shortage and the high cost of living.

You would never know it, though, from the actions of the American Legion convention here, which yesterday wound up its scheduled four-day orgy of drunken brawling, vandalism and rabid war-mongering.

The convention, strictly controlled and manipulated from the top by brass-hat and business interests, was a whooped-up jingo rally for war preparations against the Soviet Union. Its big theme, repeated in every shape, form and manner, was that "communism" is the biggest, in fact the only problem facing the American people.

Most sinister of the convention's actions in support of this pro-war, anti-communist program was its resolution to amend the Bill of Rights of the U. S. Constitution by denying all civil rights to "communists" and to destroy the Constitution's clearly-stated safeguards for free speech, free press, freedom of assemblage, trial by jury, etc.

## Republicans, Democrats Push Militarist Program

As prices go higher and the housing shortage gets worse, the Truman administration and the bi-partisan Republican-Democratic gang in Washington are beating the imperialist war drums louder than ever to distract the people from their troubles.

"Guns instead of butter" was Hitler's slogan. "Atom bombs instead of homes" is the program of Wall Street's agents in the Capital. Last week heard the war whoops sounding at a shriller pitch.

The capitalist press gave top billing to the American Legion convention in New York City where Truman and Dewey, speaking for the Democratic and Republican machines respectively, joined in demanding the imposition of universal military training upon the American people.

#### NOT A WORD

Not a word did they speak upon the desperate needs of the veterans, whom the American Legion pretends to represent. They voiced only incitations to war against the Soviet Union, bellicose challenges to "communism," threats of military intervention on behalf of "democracy" everywhere and anywhere Wall Street chooses to stake out its claims.

Simultaneous with the flood of war-mongering, anti-communist propaganda pouring from the American Legion convention and overflowing newspaper headlines, Wall Street's diplomatic agents were down in Brazil lining up their Latin American satellites for a pledge of joint military action whenever American Big Business decides to again plunge the world into a shooting war.

After the Latin American governments were brow-beaten into this war pledge by Marshall and the Democratic and Republican delegates with him, Truman flew down to Rio. He climaxed the occasion by a blustering speech dedicating J. S. dollars and arms to Wall Street's "peace" program of world conquest.

Under this avalanche of militaristic and war propaganda, the needs of the people are completely buried. Gone from the newspapers are the brief headlines about "probes" of the monopoly price-fixers and the real estate associations. Washington has something "more important" and "vital" to offer the people—war preparations; and the "fight against communism."

This is the classic answer of the ruling capitalists when the people demand a solution to their economic and social problems. American capitalism, refusing to yield an iota of its profits, privilege and power and grasping for more, has no solution but war and repression.

#### PAY THROUGH THE NOSE

The American people, the vast majority of them wage-earners, are paying through the nose for this imperialist war program. Underlying the inflation and housing shortage are the terrific war debt of \$280 billion for World War II and the tens of billions being spent yearly in preparation for World War III.

The intolerable conditions are being aggravated by the insatiable greed of the capitalists. Profits pile ever higher as prices are boosted by monopoly-induced scarcity and price-fixing.

To defend their living standards, to halt U. S. imperialism's mad drive to atomic annihilation, the American people must declare war on the war-mongers. They must demand that the tens of billions for war purposes be reallocated by the government for building low-cost, low-rent housing. The monstrous tax burden must be lifted from the backs of the working people by eliminating all taxes from individuals earning less than \$5,000 a year. A labor party must be built to drive the war parties, Republican and Democratic, out of the government.

## Military Pact Signed at Petropolis Ties Latin America to War Machine

Quitadaha Hotel in Petropolis, Brazil, was the scene last week of a far-reaching diplomatic victory for Wall Street in the "cold war" it is waging against the Soviet Union. On Sept. 2 the Latin American satellites of Wall Street signed a military pact that embraces two continents, reaches from the north pole to the south pole, and includes every part of the earth where American Big Business has planted its house flags. It is the most extensive "peacetime" military pact in world history.

President Truman flew down to Brazil to hail the new military agreement. In veiled terms he indicated that the principal prospective victim of the Western Axis powers is the Soviet Union. And although he did not openly call for war, he made clear that his administration will not hesitate at the use of armed force. "Our military strength will be retained," he declared, "as evidence of the seriousness with which we view our obligations."

The new Petropolis military pact deprives the Latin American countries of one of the most essential attributes of national sovereignty—the right to judge a conflict between other powers on its merits and then decide whether it is better to remain neutral or become embroiled in war.

That sovereign right has now been abrogated. All Latin America is committed in advance to place its resources at Wall Street's free disposal in the projected atomic war.

The pact is proof once again that the main enemy of the Latin American people is Wall Street. The Monroe Doctrine has been replaced by the Truman Doctrine. The boasted shield of protection from foreign attack has changed into an M-Day plan. The Western Hemisphere has become Wall Street's military base in a power-crazed scheme of world conquest.

In the event of "aggression," all Latin America is obligated under terms of the pact to: "Recall of chiefs of diplomatic missions, breaking of diplomatic relations, breaking of consular relations, complete or partial interruption of economic relations or of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, telephonic and radio telephonic communications." The "use of armed force" is included if the signatories "consent."

"Aggression" is defined specifically to include "an invasion affecting a region which is under the effective jurisdiction" of any of the signatories. Under this provision a conflict between border patrols of the USSR and the USA in Korea, China, Germany or Austria could at once involve all Latin America in war. Argentina, backed by Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, objected

to being dragged into a war that might flare from such disputes outside the Western Hemisphere, but this opposition was completely flattened by the Marshall-Vandenberg steamroller.

Even this far-reaching provision is not all, however. Wall Street need not wait for "invasion" of areas in Europe or Asia under its "jurisdiction," for the treaty includes "other acts which the organ of consultation may characterize as aggression."

The Wall Street-dominated "organ of consultation" is set up to carry out the treaty, it thus free to label any act it wishes as "aggression."

This would seem to be sufficient to cover all contingencies. But Wall Street wanted a completely free hand. Article 6, therefore, calls for implementation of the military pact if "any American state should be affected by an aggression which is not an armed attack or by an intra-continental or extra-continental conflict, or by any other fact or situation that might endanger the peace of America."

The capitalist press has already interpreted this clause as giving the "organ of consultation" such wide powers that it could, for example, use armed force to crush any regime in the Western Hemisphere designated as "communist."









