

No Hope in Marshall Plan For Hungry People Abroad

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Workers of the World, Unite!

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PRICE-GOUGERS FEAR NEW WAGE DRIVE

Hickman's Freedom Sought in Chicago

Mass Meeting Backs Defense; Trial Postponed Until Oct. 27

CHICAGO, Sept. 28 — Today's Hickman Defense Rally, attended by almost 1200 people at the Metropolitan Community Church, roared approval to a resolution demanding that the States Attorney drop the murder charges against James Hickman and free him "since he is guilty of no crime other than the love of his family and a sense of decency."

The trial of Hickman, who shot his landlord because he held him responsible for the death of Hickman's four children in a fire last winter, was scheduled to begin tomorrow but has been postponed until Oct. 27.

One of the chief speakers today was Willard Motley, author of the best-selling novel, "Knock on Any Door," and of a moving appeal for the defense of Hickman (printed in the Sept. 22 Militant). He attacked "our social system which puts profits above human welfare" as the chief cause of such tragedies as the Hickman case.

Harold Russell Hits Hickman Case Causes

CHICAGO — Harold Russell, Academy Award winner for his portrayal of the Navy veteran in "The Best Years of Our Lives," declared after endorsing the work of the Hickman Defense Committee:

"The injustices and human suffering that can be brought about because of inadequate housing, firetrap tenements, congested ghettos, the vicious practices of restrictive covenants, can scarcely be more graphically illustrated than in the tragic case of James Hickman."

platform representing UPWA President Ralph Helstein. Along with several other union leaders, Gorman and Helstein have joined the Hickman Defense Committee.

Mrs. Hickman thanked the committee for the great work it is doing on behalf of her husband and in the fight against inadequate housing and restrictive covenants.

The chairman also introduced Michael Bartell, local chairman of the Socialist Workers Party, and Gerald Bullock, chairman of the Chicago chapter of CORE, and commended them for their splendid work in the campaign.

The Communist Party also played a role connected with the meeting. They stood outside the church selling copies of their book, "The Great Conspiracy," which is a long slanderous and repeatedly discredited attack on Trotsky and the Trotskyists.

The Hickman Defense Committee plans to intensify its efforts to win freedom for Hickman during the coming month. It is urging all organizations to adopt resolutions on the case and send financial support to its offices at 4619 South Parkway, Chicago 15, Illinois.

Members of Johnson Group Resign from WP and Join SWP

By William F. Warde

The members of the Johnson-Forest Group, who were formerly affiliated with the Workers Party, last week issued a declaration applying for membership in the Socialist Workers Party. In accord with a resolution adopted by the SWP National Committee, they have now been accepted into the SWP with full membership rights, effective Oct. 1.

In joining the SWP, the members of the Johnson-Forest Group announced their acceptance of the conditions laid down in the March 11 Joint Statement on Unification adopted by the SWP and WP.

The SWP resolution took note of the fact that immediately after the signing of this Joint Statement "the majority of the leadership of the WP pursued a policy and a course of conduct in violation of the spirit of the Joint Statement and thereby obstructed the collaboration between the two parties and prevented the projected consummation of the unity up till this time.

"Simultaneously, the violent and unjustified factional struggle waged by the majority of the leadership of the WP against the pro-unity Johnson-Forest minority cast doubt on the good faith of the signers of the Joint Statement and still further hampered and obstructed the development towards unity."

The Johnson-Forest Group declared that its members had "long wanted to join the SWP despite the difference of opinion on some ques-

AFL Group Demands Labor Party Santa Cruz Council Asks Immediate Action

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Sept. 29 — A resolution advocating the formation of a Labor Party has been submitted by the Santa Cruz AFL Central Labor Council to the national convention of the AFL which will be held in San Francisco next week.

The resolution takes as its point of departure the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act which is aimed at "the weakening and smashing of unions and the driving downward of the workers' standard of living in order to make bigger profits."

It declares that the passage of this law presents a host of new problems to labor and "demands the entrance of the AFL into politics, where labor has a powerful weapon in 37 million votes."

"The need of the day is for labor to enter politics in an organized fashion by entering its own candidates and organizing labor's own party, if it is to survive and progress."

The resolution then advocates that the AFL Convention go on record to amend Article 3, Section 9 of the AFL Constitution to read as follows: "The AFL nationally and locally shall enter into the building of a political party by and for labor, based upon a program of labor's needs and interests."

It also calls on the AFL to hold national and state conferences, inviting all of organized labor to participate, to draft a political action program immediately.

A Gold-Dusted Omelet

Do you get that harassed feeling when you see the latest price tag on eggs? Don't blame the hen. She's doing her best to keep up with demand. The blame lies squarely with the Republicans and Democrats who passed a federal law requiring the government to keep up the price of eggs by buying them whenever the price dips below what is called "parity."

The government doesn't eat the eggs. They dry enormous quantities and store the powder away. What isn't dried is frozen in slabs and placed in deep freeze.

Altogether, the government this year bought up 300,000,000 dozen eggs. Even after selling half these eggs to England, the government still has on hand about \$60,000,000 worth.

So long as Republicans and Democrats monopolize the government there's little chance for the public to get these eggs at bargain prices. The food trust saw to it that a provision was included to bar the government from selling eggs to the taxpayers below market price.

So the consumer is caught in the squeeze. If egg production increases enough to bring down prices, the government promptly buys up the surplus. No matter how you scramble it, it makes a gold-dusted omelet.

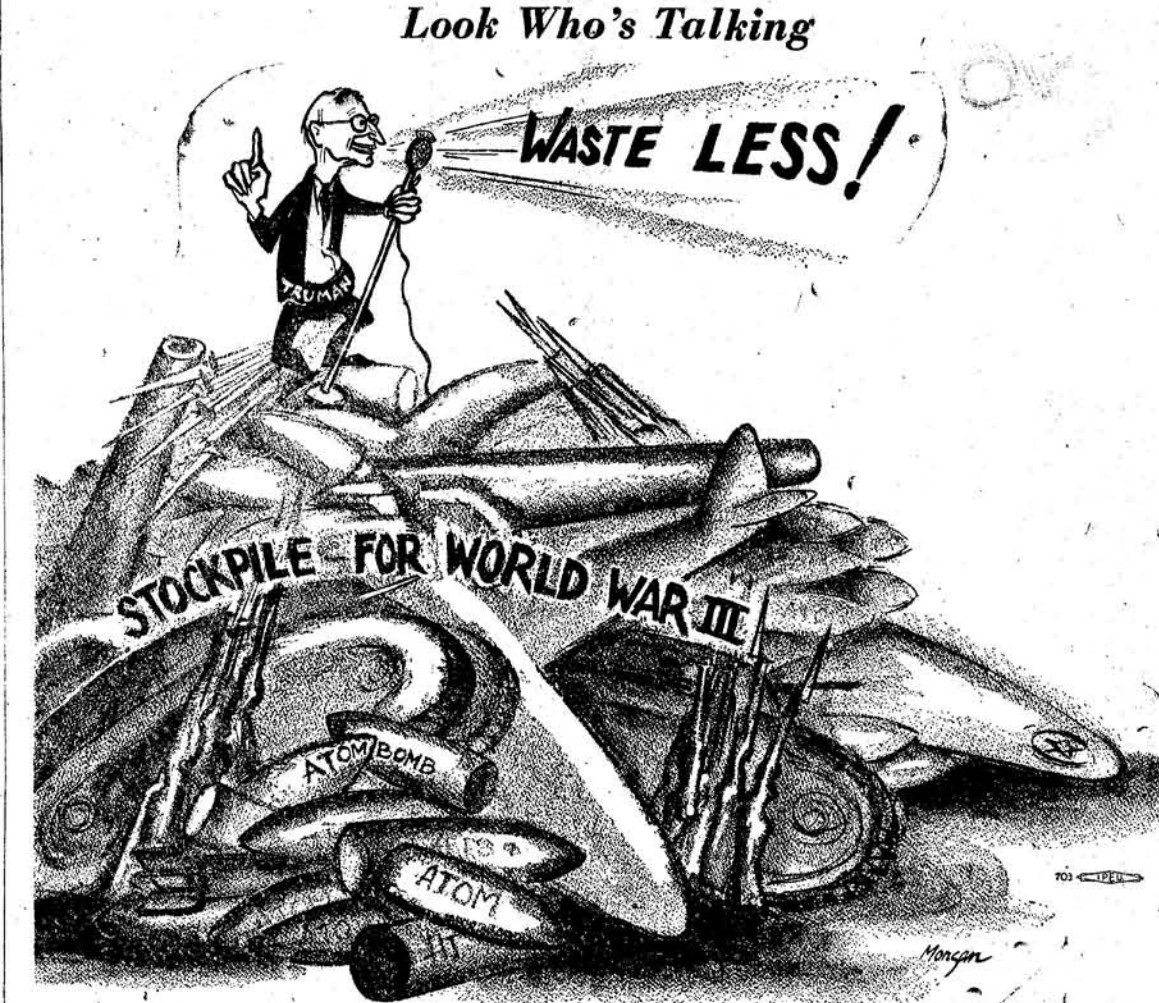
Local Groups Map New Road for PAC-CIO

A widening gap is appearing between the political policies of the top union leaders and the local union ranks. This is becoming most obvious in the CIO Political Action Committee.

The CIO big-wigs are trying to piece together the tatters of their old "reward your friends and punish your enemies" policy. Their toughest job right now is trying to dig up some Democratic Party politicians whom they can reasonably palm off as "friends of labor."

But the rank and file are showing no eagerness to return to the role of political sheep filing meekly into the Democratic fold. The demand for the formation of an independent labor party is growing more insistent. Every week, more local unions join the ranks of the hundreds that have already passed resolutions to build a labor party now.

The sentiment for genuine independent labor political action is finding concrete expression in local election campaigns. This is shown by the growing movement among



CP Domination Fought At CIO Maritime Convention

NEW YORK, Oct. 1 — The Stalinists are getting a taste of trade union democracy at the sixth convention of the CIO National Maritime Union and don't find it to their liking. At previous conventions they rode roughshod over any and all opposition. The convention gath-

ered in New York City and charged that the effect of their policies "weakened our union and aided the shipowners."

He castigated the CP for trying to put over the permanent no-strike pledge, for preaching that "the shipowners were our friends," and that strikes were out of date. These same people, Curran asserted, "had the colossal gall to even propose the elimination of our strike fund, as no longer necessary."

In the following words, Curran summarized what would have happened to the NMU if the CP had succeeded in putting over their full program at the previous convention: "With our militant and fighting organization eaten away at the core, and with our strike fund gone, the shipowners would have been able to ride roughshod over our union, our wages and conditions. Not only could we not have won the many gains that we did in the past two years, but we would have been unable to even fight for them at all."

In addition to exposing their reactionary record, Curran blasted the Stalinists for their method of smearing, slandering and framing opponents. He accused them of fostering race prejudice and national division in the ranks of the union. When he concluded this section of his report a substantial section of the convention delegates expressed their approval by prolonged applause.

There will be no steamrolling at this convention. The Curran group is organized in a "rank and file" caucus which has been able to win a majority on most of the convention committees. The Stalinist cries for "unity" have been brushed aside as so much demagoguery. Neither group commands a decisive majority. The relationship of forces will become clearer when some of the controversial questions come before the convention.

So far, the first nine days of the convention have been taken up with the election of committees and officers reports. The real fireworks will come later.



JOSEPH CURRAN

Cost-of-Living Bonus Needed to Protect Workers Standards

Big Business fears a new union wage drive as the greatest immediate threat to its profits, swollen phenomenally by high prices.

Washington has launched a preventive campaign against any wage drive with direct and flank attacks on possible wage demands.

Republican spokesmen like Taft and Stassen have called openly for a wage freeze. Administration and Congressional price-"probers" are trying to whitewash corporation profiteering, the real source of high prices. The capitalist press is again screaming that "higher wages will skyrocket prices."

A major aim of the Truman-Taft "Waste Less-Eat Less" program is to spread the impression that the workers are getting too much money, which they are spending for lavish living, thus bidding up prices on food and other necessities.

This frenzied campaign against higher wages, even before any wage drive has begun, is a tip-off to labor on what the profiteers fear as the most effective immediate answer to their price-gouging.

Their fears are aggravated by the knowledge that in any new wage drive the workers may demand not only flat wage increases, but additional protection against rising prices in the form of cost-of-living bonuses.

Such cost-of-living bonuses would be paid on a regular and adjustable basis, automatically rising in direct proportion to any increases in the cost of living. They would supplement basic wages and maintain real wages.

This is the only realistic and effective defense that the workers can use immediately to protect their standard of living. It is a weapon that will strike sharp and true to the heart of high prices — high profits.

The top trade union leaders are the principle obstacle to a militant defense of labor's living standards through a fight for higher wages and the cost-of-living bonus. As they have done before at each new high level of price inflation, they

The Man for the Job

Heading Truman's Citizens Food Committee, which is organizing the pressure campaign on the American people to "Waste Less-Eat Less," is Charles Luckman.

He is the big soap and food magnate, president of Lever Bros., leading soap concern and owner of the subsidiary that manufactures Lipton's Teas and canned soups.

On Sept. 29, just after Luckman assumed his new post, Lever Bros. raised soap prices another 10%.

are trying to side-track a wage struggle.

The CIO 7-point program on prices, issued last week in the form of an appeal to Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, says not one word on wages. It repeats its futile plea, voiced time and again over the past four years, for "price control" by the capitalist government.

Once more, the CIO leaders place dependence on a government of Big Business to halt the thievery of the monopolists. But they are silent on the only way to break the power of the private monopolies — by expropriation, government seizure and nationalization of the basic industries and their operation under workers control.

The CIO leaders descend to absurdity when they ask Truman to call a meeting of the big industrialists and "place before them the danger confronting the nation" through profiteer-inflation. These wolves have already given the big laugh to Truman's plea to "restrain yourselves."

Wall Street's agents in Washington won't halt price-robbery. But the action of the workers can. And the first big action must come on the wage front to win higher wages, supplemented and protected by the cost-of-living bonus.

TRUMAN ECHOES TAFT "EAT LESS" PROGRAM

Truman has discovered the reason for high food prices. Strangely enough, it's the same as Taft's. According to these political agents of Wall Street, the people are eating too much. They are wallowing in fat living.

Truman last week announced his remedy—"Waste Less." Taft said it more bluntly — "Eat Less."

While the workers are clamoring for lower prices so that they can feed their families adequately, Truman and Taft tell them to pull in their belts still more.

This advice—it is really a threat—comes as health authorities report the growing menace to health because people can't buy enough of the right kind of food at today's prices.

New York City Commissioner of Hospitals Edward M. Bernecker said in a special report last week to Mayor O'Dwyer: "So sharp has been the impact of present rising food costs that it is causing the deepest concern among the doctors, nurses and social workers."

The present trend of high prices, Bernecker added, creates the "grave danger that the health of large segments of our population will deteriorate."

Commissioner of Health Israel Weinstein told O'Dwyer that "for months and in steadily rising crescendo, mothers who bring their children to our health stations have complained that they simply cannot afford to buy proper food for their youngsters."

He revealed that for the average

family of four, the cost of a minimum adequate diet for a week is now \$36.07, or 27% higher than a year ago. It is to this average worker's family, which cannot even now maintain a minimum health diet, that Truman issues his insulting and brutal command to "Waste Less" — meaning "Eat Less."

Yes, there is too much waste — but Truman directs his order at the wrong people. The real wasters and hogs are the rich profiteers. They are enjoying super-luxury. But Truman is not putting on a big drive to cut down the profits of the monopolists, to end their swinish living.

Yes, there is too much waste — when the government buys up millions of dozens of eggs at fantastic prices and hoards them until they spoil — to keep egg prices up. Or buys up millions of bushels of potatoes and pours gasoline over them and burns them.

Yes, there is too much waste — a trillion dollars worth of waste in the Second Imperialist World War. And this is nothing compared to the waste of the next war — the atomic war — that Truman is now preparing by wasting tens of billions annually for military purposes.

Waste less, we say, by kicking out the monopoly profiteers and warmongers.

