

THE MILITANT

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All Labor Must Rally to Aid Of Coal Miners!

By The Editors

The failure of the trade union leaders to support the miners, who are fighting with their backs to the wall against the whole wolf-pack of Big Business and government, borders on open treachery to American labor.

True enough, CIO President Philip Murray has made a minor gesture by his offer of legal aid to the United Mine Workers in fighting Denham's Taft-Hartley injunction. But more legal assistance is the least the UMW needs against the concerted attack of the capitalist class and government.

If Murray, AFL President William Green and the rest of the union leaders had a real sense of loyalty and responsibility to the American workers, they would have gone in a body to Truman weeks ago and advised him in no uncertain terms not to interfere with the miners. They would have held him publicly accountable for any move by any government agency to invoke the infamous Taft-Hartley Act against the coal workers.

And they would have done more than pound on Truman's desk. They would have opened their treasuries to the miners — just as the miners last October proposed to the AFL to contribute a joint fund of millions of dollars a week to the striking steel workers. They would have summoned every local, state and national labor body to extend full moral and material aid to the miners. They would have rallied meetings and mass demonstrations everywhere to thunder into the White House and the halls of Congress: "Hands off the miners!"

How strangely their silence and inaction in the miners' struggle contrasts with the fury of their activity in conducting witch-hunts against critics and oppositionists within their own unions. The Murray machine in the CIO spends money like water to conduct its "cold war" against the Stalinists, to purge and expel whole international unions.

This is what the corporations and government labor-baiters want them to do — to tear up their unions from within while remaining quiescent and unresisting to attacks on labor from without.

Covering Up for Truman

It is easy to fathom the motives for the scandalous — the treacherous — conduct of these union leaders. They fear to expose Truman's real role in the mine struggle and thereby jeopardize their dirty political alliance with him. A genuine campaign in defense of the miners would rip the "friend of labor" mask from Truman and show him up as the true author of the move to shackle the miners with a Taft-Hartley injunction while he uses Denham as his front-man to evade personal responsibility. The Murrays and Greens are determined to cover up for Truman at no matter what cost to the miners and the organized labor movement.

Their behavior is all the more indefensible because the developments in the mine conflict give them a wonderful opportunity to strike a powerful blow against the Taft-Hartley Act. If they would concentrate some real heat on Truman and force him to remove Denham, they could nullify the whole move to use the Taft-Hartley Act against the miners. Murray himself admitted last week that Denham is Truman's appointee and the President has "ample power" to remove him. But Murray and Green don't want to put up the kind of fight on the Denham issue that would "embarrass" Truman.

Moreover, there is reason to suspect other sordid motives in their conduct. Do they nourish the hope that they can make a bit of capital for themselves out of a defeat for Lewis and the miners? Perhaps they think that by currying favor with the "Hate Lewis" mob, they can keep the corporations from turning on them after the miners are "dealt with." What a vain and dangerous illusion!

Miners Only First Target

The very reason why Big Business and its political henchmen are so determined to crush the miners is to open the way for an effective attack on the rest of organized labor. The miners have been the biggest single obstacle to the plans of the employers to undermine the massive American trade union movement. The miners are a pillar of strength to all labor. They were the backbone of the CIO in its formative stage. During the past decade they have been the shock troops who have opened the way for one gain after another by all organized labor.

For its own protection, the labor movement must step in and call a halt to the Big Business-government assault on the miners. It is clear the CIO and AFL leaders will not act effectively unless forced to do so by the rank and file. The initiative must come from below, in every local union.

Vote full support to the miners. Send resolutions to Truman demanding that he remove Denham and halt the Taft-Hartley injunction proceedings. Call on your top union leaders for immediate nationwide mass action and all-out material aid to help the embattled miners.

Tito Regime Announces New Important Reforms

A number of reforms have been introduced in the current session of the Yugoslav Parliament which may have a far-reaching influence on the evolution of the Tito regime. The most important of these reforms is the proposal to "de-centralize" major branches of industry, turning their management and operation over to local authorities and giving the workers in government-owned enterprises a voice in policy and management through the creation of workers' councils.

The electoral laws have likewise been liberalized, allowing candidates apart from the official slate, to run in any constituency where they can obtain signatures of 100 voters. At the same time the number of constituencies in the Lower Chamber has been increased from 364 to 444, or one to every 40,000 inhabitants.

Previously the Central Committee of the Yugoslav party introduced a reform in the field of education.

CONTRAST WITH PURGES

On the whole the projected Yugoslav reforms constitute concessions to the mass of the people. These concessions stand in sharp contrast to the intensification of repressions in the other countries of Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union itself. Bulgaria points up the mounting purge that has been engulfing the Krenin's satellites. One member of the Bulgarian Political Bureau and six members of its Central Committee have just been lopped

off and another "treason trial" is rumored in preparation. In Moscow the death penalty has been restored.

The economic reform in Yugoslavia envisages a break with the system of rigorous centralization, patterned after the regime instituted under Stalin. Under the new set-up the mining industry, all light industries, the production of electrical energy, part of the chemical industry and certain branches of the transport system will be turned over to the governments of the six constituent republics of the Yugoslav state, and they will have full responsibility for the operation of all these enterprises.

A component part of this "de-centralization" program is the creation of workers' councils in each state-run factory. "These councils," states the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, Jan. 19, "will function as advisory bodies on production and other plans, and will make proposals to improve organization and efficiency in factories."

These new bodies will be set up autonomously alongside the trade unions. "Members will be elected for one year and are subject to recall by the workers," Tanjug correctly points out

that "such councils are unknown in either the Soviet Union or in the other countries of people's democracy." But it omits to say that full-fledged workers councils, as conceived in Lenin's day, have functions that go far beyond those of "advisory bodies" and participate fully in policy, operation and management.

It remains to be seen whether these new bodies will become vigorous centers of self-action and intervention of the workers into the country's economy or, on the contrary, become reduced to mere formal appendages under the state-appointed managers. The measure itself, however, is a step in the right direction.

Foreign Minister Edvard Kardelj has been placed in charge of the entire program which will be submitted in a series of bills to the next Parliament. The elections are scheduled to take place toward the end of March.

Says Steel's Steal Not Big Enough

Ben Moreell, president of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., which is also owner of strike-bound "captive" coal mines, on Jan. 25 told the Senate committee investigating the recent steel price rise that the \$4 a ton increase "are not so high as they should be."

He said he thinks steel prices ought to be raised at least another \$17 a ton and "just as soon as competition will permit it, damned if I'm not going to do it."

90,000 STRIKE AT CHRYSLER

JAN. 26 — A nation-wide strike of 90,000 workers at the 25 plants of the Chrysler Corporation began last night after the breakdown of negotiations between the CIO United Auto Workers and the third largest auto corporation.

In an effort to avoid a strike, the union negotiating committee headed by President Walter Reuther, had reduced its demand from 11 1/2 to 10 cents an hour, leaving it up to the corporation to decide for itself whether it should be granted in the form of a wage increase or a pension-insurance program.

But the corporation refused to compromise on its own offer, which was to assume pensions of \$160 a month to 65-year old workers with 25 years' service by paying the difference between social security allowances and the \$100 figure.

The Chrysler negotiators insisted that this miserable offer was comparable to the recent welfare settlements of the Steel, Glass and Rubber Workers unions. But the UAW replied that the Chrysler offer amounted to an increase of only 3 cents an hour.

The strike, which will affect many other companies supplying Chrysler, illustrates the growing toughness of the employers in their relations with the unions. It also shows that last year's inadequate welfare settlement with Ford, instead of setting a pattern for the industry, merely established the maximum that the UAW would demand — and even that it cannot get without putting up a hard fight.

Labor-Haters Gang Up On Embattled Miners

He Needs Our Help



Trumanites in Congress Stall Action on FEPC

By Joseph Keller
The Truman Administration and its supporters in the House last Monday deliberately knifed the bill to set up a Fair Employment Practices Commission to investigate and prosecute cases of job discrimination against Negroes and other minorities.

'Slap in the Face,' Wilkins Complains

When Truman's lieutenant, Speaker Rayburn, announced he would keep the FEPC bill from the House floor, Roy Wilkins, acting secretary of the NAACP wired the Democratic Congressman: "We are shocked and dismayed by your reported decision to bypass FEPC. Civil rights advocates who rallied to the Administration's support to save the 21-day rule can only interpret this upholding as a slap in the face."

Washington Aims to Save Franco

For a long time Washington has been carefully preparing public opinion in this country for a resumption of "normal relations" with the fascist Franco. Now, to the great consternation of Truman's liberal supporters, the decision has now been made to pass from preparations to action.

Washington's official line on Spain is set down in a letter to Senator Connally of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the text of which was released on Jan. 19 by Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Dropping all previous pretenses, Acheson announces that the Truman administration will move in the United Nations General Assembly to rescind the 1946 resolution which directed participating members to withdraw their ambassadors from Madrid.

The bill will be stalled at least until Feb. 27 before Lesinski can call it up once more. The entire decision on whether the FEPC bill would be called up rested with Truman and his chief lieutenant in the House, Rayburn. After a Monday morning conference in the White House, Rayburn announced that it would cause too much "strife" to bring the FEPC bill up at this "early" date.

TRUMAN CLAMS UP

Rayburn still tried to cover up for Truman by blandly informing the press: "The President didn't order me what to do, as some folks were saying he would. What we are going to do in the House today was not discussed." Rayburn did not attempt to explain this alleged sudden reticence of Truman to speak out at the decisive moment on the test issue of his whole 10-point civil rights program. Only the week before Truman had twice intervened to demand that the House defeat the proposal to restore the power of the House Rules Committee to indefinitely bottle up legislation.

Washington Aims to Save Franco

Per capita wheat consumption, the staple diet of the people, has dropped to two-thirds of the pre-war level when it was at the meager level of 343 pounds per person a year. According to Brewer, "the skilled worker, a foreman bricklayer or plasterer — on higher-paid levels gets \$1.20 daily. His hod carrier gets approximately half that, and it is difficult to understand how they feed themselves and their families on it."

The N. Y. Times Madrid correspondent, Sam Brewer, cabled on Jan. 21 that the Franco regime "has taken the astonishing step of advertising for offers of grain on practically any terms." The same correspondent reports that Franco's Spain "is virtually bankrupt and to all intents and purposes is living on capital — selling the bonds to buy tomorrow's lunch or, in this particular case, mortgaging the national gold reserve to buy enough wheat to last it over between harvests."

POPULATION STARVING
The mass of the population have been on starvation rations. It is an open secret that the

White House Ready to Come To Aid of Coal Operators

By Art Preis
JAN. 26 — Truman is preparing to intervene personally and directly against the militant coal miners, who have been battling courageously for eight months

for wage increases, a strengthened welfare and pension program, and the retention of union security safeguards.

The pretext for the threatened intervention, which may take the form of a Taft-Hartley injunction under the "national emergency" clause, is the refusal of some 70,000 soft coal miners, primarily in the mines of the steel corporations, to discontinue their strike against the stalling of the operators.

CLEARED WITH TRUMAN

Through a statement by Dr. James Boyd, Director of the Bureau of Mines, to the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee yesterday, the Truman administration laid the basis for Taft-Hartley action by claiming that coal production has declined to the point where "the national economy, health and welfare is now or soon will be imperilled."

Boyd's statement, reported the N. Y. Times, "was first cleared at the White House." It is further reported that Truman may offer the United Mine Workers the prospect of submitting the mine demands to the marbles of a "fact-finding" board hand-picked by Truman and accepting a 60-day "truce," or being clubbed with an 80-day Taft-Hartley injunction.

When the latest strike of the miners began on Jan. 9, the capitalist press and coal operators had gleefully hailed it as a "revolt" against John L. Lewis and the UMW. Lewis himself twice "suggested" that the miners return to the pits. But by last week, the bought press and the



ROBERT N. DENHAM

owners were yelping that the strikes were a "plot" by Lewis and demanding louder than ever that Truman crack down with the Slave Labor Law.

The only revolt the miners are staging against the continued stalling of the operators who hope the government will force the miners into submission; against the move by Truman's NLRB General Counsel Denham to tie up the UMW with a T-H "unfair labor practices" injunction; against the \$9-million "damage" suit brought by the operators in Ohio; against the mine owners' halting of payments into the union welfare fund; against legislative moves by House and Senate Democrats to

(Continued on Page 2)

JUDGE RYAN CALLS FBI WIRETAPS "UNLAWFUL"

Federal Judge Sylvester J. Ryan has given the lie to the claim of FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney General J. Howard McGrath that wiretapping is somehow "legal" when it is "authorized" by the head of the Department of Justice.

"STILL THE LAW"

The judge in the Coplon-Gubitchev case, ruling on the admissibility of evidence secured by wiretapping, declared on Jan. 20: "Such authorization did not clothe with legality the unlawful activities of the wiretappers nor detract at all from the interdiction of the Supreme Court on evidence secured by this type of investigation."

Pointing out that the Federal Communications Act prohibits wiretapping and wiretap evidence, and makes telephonic interception and use or divulgence of information so obtained a felony, Judge Ryan ruled: "This is still the law. It has not been repealed or modified, it contains no exemptions as to any individual and no exceptions as to investigation of any particular type of crime, irrespective of how heinous or dangerous to national safety and security. . . The fact that these interceptions were carried on under written authorization of the Attorney General imparts no sanctity to them; they remain unlawful and prohibited."

Nevertheless, Judge Ryan ordered the case to trial on the grounds that the government "has shown to my satisfaction" that it has "independent proof" of the facts obtained by illegal interception.

Although admitting that the FBI has engaged in criminal acts by wiretapping, Judge Ryan did not propose that the FBI agents and their superiors — former Attorney General (now Justice) Tom Clark, McGrath and Hoover who "authorized" FBI violations of the law — be brought to trial for their crimes. Nor did he call for proceedings against the FBI agents for numerous perjuries in court regarding their wiretap activities.

Judge Ryan's affirmation that these top officials of the highest federal law enforcement agency are themselves guilty of gross violation of criminal law, gives added weight to the demand: Remove Clark, McGrath and Hoover!

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TROTSKY

"According to Marx, the government is the executive committee of the ruling class. Today monopolists are the strongest section of the ruling class. The government is in no position to fight against monopoly in general, i.e. against the class by whose will it rules. While attacking one phase of monopoly, it is obliged to seek an ally in another phase of monopoly. In union with banks and light industry it can deliver occasional heavy blows against the trusts of heavy industry, which, by the way, do not stop earning fantastic profits because of that."

— Leon Trotsky, Marxism in the United States, 1939.



LENIN

Cure for the "Sick" Coal Industry

The coal miners made their biggest gains during the war, when the exceptional demand for fuel briefly lifted the coal industry out of its state of chronic "sickness." Under the aggressive leadership of John L. Lewis, the United Mine Workers were able to take advantage of the favorable economic situation and by militant action won the highest wages and best social improvements in all industry.

the government moves to "illegalize" the miners' three-day week designed to spread available work, "the miners have often been subjected to a two- or three-day week by the coal operators without any threat of punitive action by the Government against the operators."

By John G. Wright Last year Senator Edwin C. Johnson, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission, blabbed in public that a super-bomb was being developed at least a thousand times more powerful than the A-bomb. President Truman, obviously displeased with such an indiscretion, refused to comment, as he has continued to do since then.

NOT IDLE SPECULATION This public debate is far from being as innocently speculative and aimless as it is made to appear. On the contrary, it is part of a deliberate campaign to psychologize the American people for proceeding as quickly as possible with the manufacture of H-Bombs, on top of the already huge stockpile of A-bombs.

(Continued from page 1) doubly in the belief that it would be passed and they would then have an excuse to blame the Southern Democrats and Republicans if the FEPC bill were buried in the Rules Committee. Much to the Trumanites' consternation, 64 Republicans joined them to provide the majority needed to defeat the rules motion by a vote of 236 to 183.

NEW YORK Dinner and Dance In Honor of James P. Cannon On his 60th birthday at 116 University Place Subscription: \$1.50 Dinner at 7 PM after dinner speeches & dance at 8:30 PM adm. 50c Saturday, Feb. 11th - 6 PM For reservations call GR-5-8149 or write, SWP City Office 116 University Place, N. Y.

initial costs have been estimated: they are "2 to 4 billion dollars, plants for a whole new atom industry," which would have absolutely "no peacetime use."

NO PEACETIME ATOMS The A-bomb project was launched in wartime, in deepest secrecy and behind the backs of all the people. The American people were promised that peacetime uses of atomic energy would follow slowly but surely.

Trumanites Stall FEPC



SAM RAYBURN

Rayburn from having to recognize Lesinski. Since the next "discharge day" is Feb. 13, when the House will adjourn to celebrate Lincoln's Birthday, the earliest date the FEPC bill can be called up is Feb. 27.

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ADAMIC'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS YUGOSLAV TRIP

The Early Spring issue of Louis Adamic's magazine (Trends & Tides, Milford, N. J., 50 cents a copy. Subscription rates: \$2 for 6 or more issues in 1950) contains first-hand observations of conditions in Yugoslavia during the author's recent six-month visit to that country.

Behind this resistance, says Adamic, is "a tremendous new dynamic... loose in the country. It was loosed by the war of liberation, and has grown stronger by the minute after 1945. Tito could not stand against it had he wanted to. He could not listen to Stalin's Cominform when it ordered him to stop industrializing Yugoslavia and keep it a peasant land."

Claims Differences Openly Expressed

In these discussions, Adamic says, "there are wide differences not only as between Communists and non-Communists, but among Communists who are 100% united on current policies and tactics. Nearly all discussions that I have heard of or participated in were marked by humor, even uproarious humor, much of it directed against top leaders — except Tito who is something special in present-day Yugoslav mentality: something hard, perhaps impossible, to understand in America. I think I am on the trail of its mysteries, and I will try to write about them in my subsequent letter."

Differences in the Standard of Living

"The ordinary worker," Adamic writes, "whose performance at his job barely meets the norm, or even misses it, gets just enough ration points to maintain his strength. But if he eats in the shop or factory mess-hall he gets at least one substantial meal a day — usually a pretty dull meal but pretty substantial."

The Hiss Verdict

The conviction of Alger Hiss for perjury has spread fear and consternation among the liberals and left-wing Democrats while jubilation reigns on the extreme right. These sharply contrasting reactions to the verdict cast light on the political significance of the Hiss case.

the Hiss verdict as proof of its accusations that the New Deal was "Communist-inspired." The Republicans have grabbed it as an anti-Truman issue and are demanding Acheson's resignation for siding with Hiss.

Myth of the "Fair" Profit

One of the cruder gags that propagandists against socialism used to repeat was, "A socialist is a man who wants something, he doesn't know what he wants, but still he wants you to give it to him." With a lot more truth, we can paraphrase this: "A capitalist is a man who wants a 'fair' profit on his capital, he can't say what a 'fair' profit is, but still he wants the workers to give it to him."

Senator O'Mahoney cited figures showing that U. S. Steel had made six percent net profits on its investment even during "the years of the depression." "What would you consider a fair return?" O'Mahoney asked. Fairless hedged: "There are too many variables involved. It's very involved. . . I would say the figure must remain flexible."

"Welfare" in New York

By Ruth Johnson

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 — While Mayor O'Dwyer basks in the Florida sun enjoying his \$16,000 raise, 320,000 needy people of this city face desperate hunger and quick eviction. Relief payments were slashed on January 16.

There were more than a hundred worried men and women at today's protest meeting in the Wayside Casino, 100 West 116th Street, called by the Better Harlem Association.

The meeting opened with the wistful prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." It closed more than two hours later with ringing denunciations of the Democratic City Administration and the Republican State Administration which had united to take the bread from their mouths.

"There has been no appreciable decline in food prices to warrant the cuts made," said a petition addressed by the meeting to the Mayor, the Governor, and the Department of Welfare. "The extra-large reduction of special-diet allowances makes it practically impossible for those on said diets to provide the necessary food, and thus exposes them to undue and unnecessary hardships and sufferings, and even to premature death."

It cited the many expenses not provided for in relief budgets, which must be paid out of the miserable food allotment: "Insurance premiums on policies approved by the Welfare Dept., recreation, especially for children; childcare to travel to and from welfare centers and for essential traveling; money for haircuts, especially where there are several boys in the family."

Mrs. Katherine White, 10 West 112th Street, told me that childcare and lunch money alone for her two high school children costs \$5.00 a week. That comes out of the food money. So does \$2 a month to make up the balance of her rent; the Welfare Department considers her rent of \$25 a month excessive, and allows her only \$23.

"I don't know how we can manage," she said. "They cut my check \$8 a month. I was getting \$13 a month altogether, for myself and my three children. I pay \$11 every two months for gas, because I have to use the gas oven to help heat

the apartment, it's so cold. I have to buy all the children's clothes, too.

"I am separated from my husband. He was sending me \$3 a week for each child, but my oldest boy was 16 years old last month, so the court stopped his allowance from his father. But I want him to finish school."

Like others in the audience around me, she was determined not to let her family suffer in silence.

"I hope that your paper will say something about the meeting. I wish everybody could know what is happening. But the daily newspapers care more about crime stories than us!"

There was applause when John Brown, representing the Lenox-Fifth Avenue Tenants' League, urged the united action to prevent evictions and restore the previous scale.

"It is true that we in Harlem are the last to be hired and the first to be fired," Brown said. "It is true that relief cuts hit us hardest of all. But there will be unrest in other parts of the city, too. Perhaps we can be the spark that will set off a big protest all over the city, and that is what I think we should try to do. I am going back to my organization with the recommendation that we cooperate with you to see what can be done."

Welcoming the support of the Tenants' League, Joseph E. Ritzberg, chairman of the Better Harlem Association, issued a warning to all who live on near-starvation incomes.

"It is not only the men and women on relief today who are hit by this cut," he declared. "Everyone whose income is close to the relief level is endangered. People getting supplementary relief, those whose wages did not even come up to the old relief standard, used to get a few extra dollars to help pay their bills. Now their wages may be above the new scale, and they will lose that money too. Remember also, that you who are not on relief today, do not know that you will not be tomorrow."

Dunne Flays Role Of Union Officials In Rights Fight

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 20 — Before a sizeable audience of workers, Negroes, students and professionals, V. R. Dunne, demonstrated the links between the labor bureaucracy and the State Department, and between the cowardly attitude of this leadership and the government's assault on democratic rights.

"The CIO bureaucracy," said Dunne, "has expelled 500,000 workers. Murray now plans to kick out another million. All this means loss of dues and reducing his organization. How can this serve Murray's interests? In no way whatever. Whose interest does it serve? When we remember that Murray made the test of affiliation to the CIO support or non-support of the Marshall Plan, then clearly this proves Murray is acting for the State Department in the CIO."

In contrast to its attitude to Murray and Green, Dunne pointed out, the government is determined to crush the United Mine Workers. The independent actions of this union constitute a threat to the State Department's plans to tie the labor movement to the war machine and spread the idea of resisting Washington's attacks against labor's rights and living standards.

"The real aim of the witch-hunt, Dunne said, was not merely the suppression of radical parties but an attempt to paralyze the whole labor movement to a point where it is incapable of defending itself against the monopolists' attacks on working conditions and living standards. By bringing the witch-hunt into the labor movement, Murray and Green are exposing it to great danger. But at the same time, they are arousing increasing hostility against their policies and leadership in the ranks.

Dunne predicted that American labor, sooner than we think, will rid itself of such spineless and craven leaders and raise up a new leadership capable of mobilizing the working class for new and mighty struggles and victories.

"The meeting continued informally after the conclusion of the address and a generous donation by the audience.

Dunne was also interviewed over radio stations WNBC and WYBC, the latter operated by Yale University. A news broadcast over WELI devoted a few minutes comment to the Dunne meeting.

Strikers' Families Evicted



Failing to crush the spirit of CIO Woodworkers on strike for the past eight months, the owners of Bond Bros. railroad tie plant got a court order evicting families from company-owned houses. Here a mother and four children watch their furniture being moved out.

They Can Dream, Can't They?

By Sidney Crabbe

BOSTON — The newspapers here have not let up on the headlines about the one-and-a-half million dollar robbery of Brink's counting-house. The first day after the robbery there was a rash of solemn, indignant editorials. The governor issued a statement that the forces of law and order would prevail and the criminals would be brought to justice.

J. Edgar Hoover, the well-known wiretapper, saw this as a wonderful opportunity to direct attention away from the recently-revealed illegal activity of his FBI, and the newspapers heralded his triumphant entrance into the city.

The whole town was excited as the reporters took to the streets, asking as many of us as cared to answer, what did we think of the hold-up? The response astounded the editors, though they should have known better.

The hold-up was smooth, no one was hurt, the getaway was perfect, and Brink's and the insurance companies were out a million and a half. The city was really gleeful. There were a few people who gave advice to the police on capturing the bandits, such as: "The cops ought to take the first train to Hialeah, because boys with that kind of luck are sure to be at the track doubling their money." These advisors to the police department were in a minority.

Most people were eager to give the cops advice on how to hold on to the money. "If those boys are as smart as they seem, they will lay low and retire for the rest of their lives." "I don't approve of robbery, but if I had that kind of dough..." Everyone was talking about it, mostly with commendation and a sort of why-didn't-I-think-of-it-first wonder in his eyes. Nearly everyone wished them long, peaceful years of enjoyment of their haul.

Why should there have been any different reaction? In other parts of the country the 19th century myth of Boston's civic purity and social

Large Meeting Held in Boston

BOSTON, Jan. 16 — The campaign to preserve and extend our civil rights can be the key issue to rally millions of workers in a progressive fight against the dictatorial plans of Washington and Wall Street," declared Vincent R. Dunne in an address at Socialist Workers Party headquarters.

Before the largest audience to hear a SWP speaker in recent years in Boston, Dunne analyzed the desertion of the fight for labor's rights by the official leadership of the AFL and CIO. He demonstrated that the trade union officialdom with one or two exceptions is following the pattern set by the government and business in conducting loyalty purges within the unions. The Murrays and the Greens hope thus to gain political and economic favors from the bosses and, at the same time, strengthen their own control over their membership.

OPPOSITION GROWING

Government purges, firings of so-called subversives from private industry on orders from army and navy bureaucrats, FBI Gestapo methods, destruction of reputations by Congressional committees, he stated, will hit more and more people and create widespread resentment.

Even now, when the witch-hunt is just beginning, workers throughout the country are suspicious and conscious that the real purpose is not to catch communists but to terrorize militant fighters for labor, weaken the unions internally, and prepare the country for another war.

Dunne reported that there are many signs that the ranks of the labor movement and leading liberals and intellectuals are prepared to resist these encroachments on their rights. This is indicated in the support that has rallied around James Kutcher and John Mahoney, expelled from the Sailor's Union of the Pacific for opposing the Lundeberg gang, and in the outcry that has gone up over the law-breaking activities of the FBI.

KUTCHER APPEAL WILL BE FILED IN 2 WEEKS

The filing of James Kutcher's suit against his discharge, scheduled for the week of Jan. 23 in the Federal District Court at Washington, D. C., has been postponed for two weeks until Feb. 8.

This delay was necessitated by the substitution of new Washington counsel on the legal staff preparing and handling Kutcher's case. The Kutcher Civil Rights Committee has secured as co-counsel with M. J. Myer of Chicago the services of Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., one of the outstanding labor and civil liberties attorneys in the nation's capital.

Rauh is a former secretary of Justice Felix Frankfurter and is at present head of the Americans for Democratic Action in Washington, D. C. His firm acts as official counsel for the International UAW-CIO and other unions in Washington.

Rauh is not only a vigorous defender of civil rights, but has had considerable experience in handling cases arising out of the operations of the "loyalty" purge. Best-known is his work in the Remington case which he won.

The banquet will also hear a report by Kutcher on his recent six-month tour of the country which he spoke before hundreds of organizations on the significance of the issues in his fight for reinstatement to his VA job.

The banquet is sponsored by the New Jersey Kutcher Committee. It will be commemorated with a souvenir booklet containing greetings from organizations aiding Kutcher, as well as friends and merchants. Support for the banquet has come from the following groups:

SUPPORTING GROUPS

The New Jersey State CIO; Passaic County CIO Council; Essex-West Hudson CIO Council; Passaic and Paterson Textile Joint Boards;

Textile Workers Union Locals 75, 634, 656, 1983 and 2247; United Auto Workers Locals 688; 736; 824;

United Steelworkers Locals 1264; 1339; 1725;

United Rubber Workers Locals 111; 202;

International Electrical Workers-CIO Locals 440; 441.

Also, Retail Clerks Local 108; Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers Local 287; Amalgamated Clothing Workers Local 128; Amalgamated Toy Workers Local 304; United Packinghouse Workers Local 624; Construction Workers 1267; and Local 571 of the International Association of Machinists.

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A compilation of articles by Leon Trotsky on fascism, including:

1. The Tragedy of the German Proletariat
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Curran Machine Continues Purge Of Opponents

The surge of oppositionists continued full blast in the National Maritime Union as Vice President Jack Lawrenson was placed on charges and two rank and file members were expelled from the union at the New York Port membership meeting on Jan. 19. Another member was suspended for one year and fined \$100.

All were charged with activities arising from the resistance to the New York membership to President Joseph Curran's recent arbitrary ouster of 15 elected Port officials. In the intimidating witch-hunt atmosphere, accompanied by the crooked vote-counting of Curran's hand-picked master-at-arms, the great majority of those present abstained from voting on any of the cases.

PACKED TRIAL COMMITTEE

Charges against Lawrenson brought by Neal Hanley, National Secretary, repeated the well-worn pattern of "inciting to riot," "creating a dual and hostile organization," etc. Lawrenson will be "tried" by a fifteen-man trial committee of Curran supporters. What its "findings" will be is not hard to predict.

George Irwin, charged with refusing to recognize the authority of two Curran appointees and distributing anti-Curran literature aboard his ship, stated in his defense that he was guilty only of backing up the legally-elected officials. Eladio Paula, refusing similar charges, also took occasion to deny present or past membership in the Communist Party as a matter of record.

This provided John Reaves, newly appointed machine official, with the opportunity to "explain" that actual membership in the CP was not the important thing; it was necessary to root out all those who by their actions gave aid and comfort to the "Party."

SPITE A PURGE MOTIVE

Expelled along with Paula was Morris Weiner, a Stalinist, selected for his participation in defense activities against Curran's illegal coup. Irwin received the fine and suspension. Motives of vengefulness and spite, characteristic of witch-hunts and purges, offer an explanation why the above three were singled out first for reprisal from the hundreds who participated in the struggle.

Several days before the membership meeting, National Officers Stone and Hanley announced that the dictatorial and "anti-Communist" constitutional amendments sponsored by the administration, had carried in a referendum vote. This is being interpreted by the head-chopping bureaucrats as a mandate for their anti-union purge program. It was during the very course of this 90 day vote that Curran and Co. were systematically smashing all opposition!

PILOT MIRRORS TERROR

The Jan. 12 issue of the NMU Pilot is indicative of the present state of affairs within the union. In his personal column Curran calls for mobilization to eliminate the "disruptive element." Elsewhere in the paper he cynically explains that "it takes time and there must be clear cut cases before any man may be brought to trial... democracy moves slowly." (Curran's emphasis!)

Symbolic of this Curran-type democracy are the recantations, confessions and expressions of fealty to the "Great Leader" splattered throughout the paper. Worried and intimidated members hope thereby to escape the spreading purge. Under the heading "CORRECTION" one member writes that a previous critical letter bearing his signature "was due to confusion and carelessness."

Another letter, written in behalf of a ship's crew and advocating "the ousting of Communists from amongst our ranks" goes on to blurt out a few lines later that "many a man criticizing or protesting the present policy of our leadership is labelled Communist" and swept along in the same wave and carried overboard. Private opinion and voice of opinion now seems a crime in our democratic union."

Convictions Without Trial

By Fred Hart

The Supreme Court, by a 4 to 3 decision, has declared it perfectly legal for the Attorney General and the FBI to convict people on anonymous charges without any trial, to keep both the identity of the accuser and the nature of the charge secret even from the courts, to deprive the accused of a hearing, and even of the right to be released on bail pending final decision.

All these issues were involved in the case of a refugee war bride of German-Jewish origin who came to join her husband, Kurt Khauff of Ozone Park, N. Y.

Mrs. Khauff came into this country in August 1948 and was immediately locked up on Ellis Island, without a hearing. She was then denied release on bail and finally, again without a hearing, ordered deported because in the opinion of the FBI she would be a "hazard to security."

The identity of her accuser and the nature of the charges against her remain a secret today as they were when the FBI first placed her under arrest. Mrs. Khauff's own record proved of no avail. She fled from Hitler to Czechoslovakia from where she went to England where she served for three years as a flight sergeant in the Royal Airforce in wartime. After an honorable discharge she returned to Germany as a civilian employee of the American Military Government since 1948.

She married Khauff with the permission of military authorities and came to this country only to be tried, convicted and ordered deported in the manner already described. All this was authorized by the then Attorney General Tom Clark, who now sits in the Supreme Court.

This whole procedure and the majority decision is so raw that Justice Jackson, speaking for the dissenting minority, used language seldom heard in the Supreme Court. He denounced the denial of a hearing to Mrs. Khauff as "abrupt and brutal." Attacking the government for its brazen contention that "not even a court can find out why this girl is excluded," Justice Jackson concluded: "The menace to the security of this country, be it as great as it may, from this girl's admission is as nothing compared to the menace to free institutions inherent in procedures of this pattern."

He might have added that these are the "procedures" and "patterns" of a police state which is being imposed step by step on the American people.

Notes from the News

TRUMAN'S CHOICE as Democratic candidate for US Senator in his home state of Missouri, Emory W. Allison, was the man who appointed and served on the Missouri Senate Committee which for eight months refused to report out a bill to give Negroes equal education rights.

FIVE SHOP STEWARDS of Local 1154 of the United Electrical Workers, who were given ten days penalty to "think over" their refusal to sign "loyalty" statements prepared by the company, were fired on Jan. 11 by the Stewart-Warner Corporation in Chicago. The victimized unions declared that the corporation officials "are not concerned with oaths; they want the Un-American right to make employees toe a political and non-union line both on and off the job."

AN INNOVATION in strike tactics was suggested by Joseph Beirne, head of the Communications Workers of America, CIO, last week when he proposed that the public use automatic equipment as much as possible in case of a strike in the telephone industry. He especially appealed to

the 6 million CIO members to help jam the automatic phones.

STUDENTS AT WAYNE UNIVERSITY in Detroit have organized a committee to raise funds for relief to striking Pennsylvania coal miners, who are being denied credit by corporation-owned stores.

CIO PRESIDENT Murray, moving forward with his own "loyalty" purge, has expelled the California State CIO Council, long controlled by the Stalinists. He has instructed his national representative, Richard Leonard, to set up a new state council in its place.

REP. ADAM CLAYTON POWELL of New York has accused his fellow-Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. of fouling up the effort to force a vote on FEPC to further his "personal political ambition" to become governor of New York. Young Roosevelt circulated a rival petition to Powell's in order to bring the bill to a vote in the House.

Group to Picket at Spanish Consulate

A three-day demonstration against Franco's terror and the murder of workers in Spain is being organized by the Libertarian Committee for a Free Spain. The demonstration will be held in front of the Spanish Consulate on February 8, 9 and 10 between the hours of 11 A.M. and 1 P.M. and will be followed by a mass meeting on February 10, 8 P.M. in the Labor Temple.

NEW YORK

Public Meeting on:

LABOR AND CIVIL RIGHTS

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"New Leader" Exposes SIU Officials' Attacks on SWP

The anti-Trotskyist hysteria fomented by Paul Hall and Harry Lundeberg, heads of the AFL seamen's union to cover up their dictatorial rule and strike-breaking policies, is too raw even for social democrats. In the Jan. 21, New Leader, which is the Number One apologist for the trade union bureaucracy, the following item appears in Daniel Seligman's column, "Spitting at Labor" which we reprint, despite its whitewash of Curran, for the information of readers of The Militant:

"Hard on the heels of the anti-Trotskyist campaign in the National Maritime Union come the reports of a purge of Trotskyites in the AFL Seafarers International Union. As is usual in such cases, the reporting on both sides is fragmentary and violently partisan, so we shall make no attempt to judge the merits of the fight. Several facts are obvious, however.

"First, the Trotskyites in the SIU are a pitifully small group and do not constitute a remote menace to Harry Lundeberg's administration. (Whereas Curran's rule very definitely was menaced for a time in the NMU.)

"Second, the bill of particulars against the Socialist Workers Party is vague in the extreme. The resolution which was circulated through Atlantic and Gulf branches, and unanimously passed, charges the Trotskyites with 'using the trade union movement for their own ends' and with possessing a 'disruptive record on the waterfront.'

"The only specific charge involves the beating of an SIU dispatcher, but the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, which is cited in corroboration, merely reported that the dispatcher said his assailants 'were supporters of former members who had been expelled from the union.' [Since the writing of Seligman's article it was proved in a court hearing in Seattle that no one but the dispatcher and another seaman was involved in the brawl. Both men were sentenced by the judge.]

"Third, the expulsion resolution is directed not only against

1 Out of Every 9 Jobless in Germany

Unemployment, rising steadily, has become the No. 1 problem of the puppet government in Western Germany. The officially admitted number of jobless workers is now 1,783,142, according to a dispatch from Frankfurt in the Jan. 24 N. Y. Times.

This represents more than 11% of the working force. Almost a quarter-million workers lost their jobs during the first two weeks of this month alone.

The official figures do not include an estimated 100,000 other workers who have lost their employment but have not thought it worthwhile to register at government offices.

This explosive economic situation, reminiscent of the period in which Hitler rose to power, is certain to have important political repercussions. Either it will spur the revival of militancy among the workers, or it will serve as the breeding ground for the growth of the fascists, who are already operating in the open and reuniting their forces with increasing boldness.

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