

Wildcat Strikes Win Wage Gains In Auto Industry

By Howard Lerner
SWP Candidate for Governor of Michigan

DETROIT, Sept. 4 — The rank and file auto workers have once again shown they are the pacemakers of American labor. The Chrysler wage increases and the new Ford wage, pension and insurance adjustments. The pressure of stoppages by thousands in all Ford plants won out. The new Ford agreement brings the Ford workers in line with the GM escalator agreement plus additional concessions.

HOW THEY STARTED

The strikes started in the Chrysler plants with thousands walking out daily, making production of cars impossible. Picket lines were set up at Chrysler Highland Park, where the police were fought off. Such militant fighting actions forced Chrysler to grant the increase. Throughout Detroit plant after plant went down as the workers felt the need to exert pressure to win cost of living wage increases.

Following the Chrysler raise, all locals resubmitted wage demands to equal the new pattern. Faced with the threat of rank and file action, Briggs, Hudson, Budd and others gave in. At Budd the skilled workers applied additional pressure by walking out. Plant after plant was hit with stoppages where the companies stalled.

The movement spread to Ford. It forced the company to change its "flat no" position. Ford felt compelled to grant increases and

Before the Chrysler development, President Stellato of Ford Local 600 answered the company's stubborn refusal with a threat to strike — but only after the contract ran out Jan. 1. However, when the Ford workers took their cue from the Chrysler workers, Stellato was forced to change his tune. He was compelled to adopt a diplomatic attitude to this rank and file movement. So popular and widespread was the wildcat movement that not a single worker has yet been penalized anywhere in Detroit for participation or leadership.

In a disclaimer of responsibility for the walkouts and an order to the men to return to work, Stellato was forced to state that the union would not tolerate any discharges. He stated to the Ford contingent at the Labor Day parade, "I informed the company that if a single worker was penalized for any actions taken last week, 65,000 workers would be penalized. The company's answer was short — 'O.K.'" In estimating the role of the rank and file, he admitted at the same time, "The Ford Motor Company would not have negotiated if these stoppages had not taken place last week."

WHAT WAS DECISIVE

If the auto workers had followed Reuther's policy of "No strikes, live up to your contracts," no progress would have been possible. Not one of these strikes had the backing of the International officers. Where meetings were held in connection with these strikes, the International representatives ordered the workers back to work in each case. Three weeks of action on an industry-wide basis brought greater results than Reuther's entire 1949 economic drive. In addition it won (Continued on page 2)

MYRA T. WEISS RUNS FOR CONGRESS IN CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 5 — A Declaration of Intention to run for Congress in the November election was filed here today by Myra Tanner Weiss, chairman of the Socialist Workers Party in Los Angeles.

She will contest the Congressional seat in the 19th California District. Her sole opponent will be the incumbent, Chet Holifield, a "liberal" Democrat who won both the Democratic and Republican nominations in the primaries. Holifield is also supported by the Stalinist-dominated Independent Progressive Party, which refused to run a candidate against him.

Myra Tanner Weiss will appear on the ballot as an "independent." California election laws make it impossible for the Socialist Workers Party to get on the ballot and are among the worst in the country.

Her candidacy is being sponsored by the Committee for Myra Tanner Weiss for Congress, which has opened an election campaign headquarters at 3012 East 1 St., near Evergreen, in the 19th Congressional District.

The committee is busy now collecting the necessary signatures to nominating petitions to put the name of Myra Tanner Weiss on the ballot. It also plans to sponsor the candidate in a series of speaking engagements before various organizations in the district, arrange radio and television ap-

NEXT WEEK:

Yugoslavia and Korea

To the Memory of Oscar Coover, by Farrell Dobbs

SWP Enters Election Campaign in Minnesota

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THE MILITANT

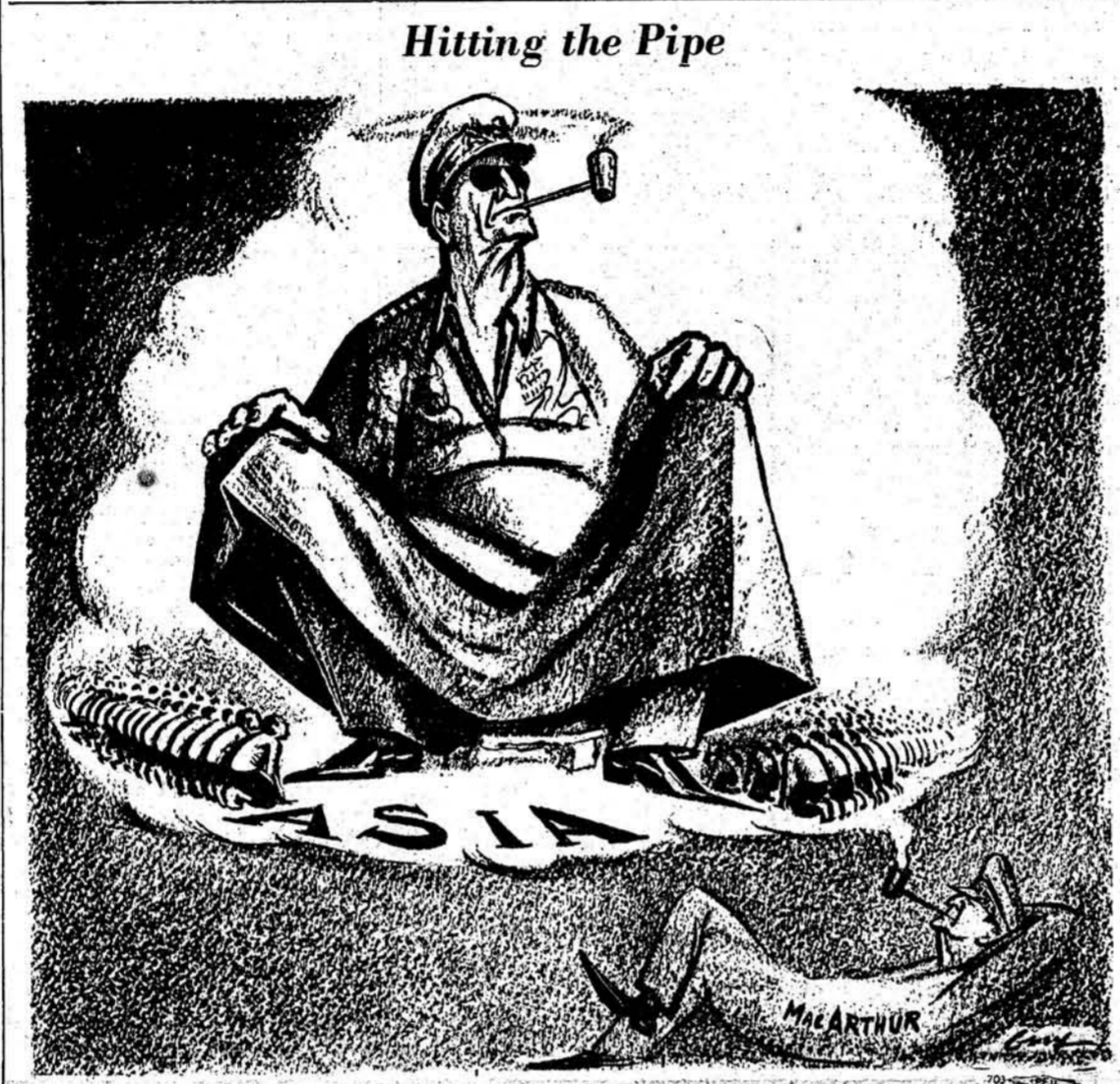
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Senate "Fair Dealers" Push Concentration-Camp Measure



Hitting the Pipe

Boss Parties Endorse Machine-Made Tickets

By Gladys Barker
SWP Candidate for Lt. Governor of N. Y.
NEW YORK, Sept. 6 — The party conventions of the major parties convene today to select their candidates for the coming elections. The horse trading, machine maneuvers and triple-crosses have been completed behind the scenes, and all that remains is the formal nominations, with perhaps a few squabbles on secondary posts.

The Democratic bosses have picked for Governor a hack from the Bronx, Walter A. Lynch, who has done what he was told for the last ten years as a member of the House of Representatives. His latest act in Congress was to vote in favor of the Wood police state bill.

Truman Defends Unpopular War

By Joseph Keller
Truman's "Report to the Nation" on Sept. 1 was a personal effort to stir up a little popular enthusiasm, both here and abroad, for his undeclared war in Korea and to lull suspicion of his military moves toward Formosa and Indo-China.

Second, hundreds of millions of people in Asia and Europe, as attested by all observers, have been aroused to fear and loathing of the United States because of Washington's support for the murderous dictatorship of Syngman Rhee in South Korea, the terrible U. S. bombings of Korean

WITCH-HUNT AIDED BY BOTH PARTIES IN HOUSE Nazi-Like Bill Would Nullify Trial by Jury

It would be a good thing if every American would go to the library and read in the Aug. 29 Congressional Record the text of the debate held that day in the House of Representatives on the Mundt-Nixon-Wood-McCarran "anti-subversive" bills. It would be a good thing because then every American would know that the Bill of Rights is in deadly danger and that neither of the two major parties has the slightest intention of blocking or defeating this danger.

The House was considering its own variant of these police-state measures — the Wood Bill (H.R. 8490), bearing the title, "Subversive Activities Control and Communist Registration Act." The debate ended with the adoption of the bill by a vote of 345 to 20 — 211 Democrats for, 17 against; 134 Republicans for, 2 against; one ALP member against, and 56 Representatives not voting.

HOW THE POLICE STATE BILL WILL AFFECT YOU

Everybody who belongs to any organization is a potential target of the Wood Bill ("Subversive Activities Control and Communist Registration Act") passed by the House of Representatives on Aug. 29.

That is thought-control with a vengeance. Thus a pacifist group could be dubbed a "communist-front" solely because over a period of time its "positions" happen to coincide with those of the Stalinists. As Rep. Burdick of North Dakota, one of the two Republicans to vote against the bill, said:

"THE FIRST STEP" — "Under this bill when a citizen thinks out a certain plan of action

