

DETROIT SWP ON TELEVISION - See Page 2 -

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XV - No. 7

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1951

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

RAILROAD WORKERS FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Truman -- Servant Of Rail Barons

By The Editor

For the second time in seven weeks, members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen have tied up the railroad system.

The rail workers did not launch this struggle lightly. They knew that President Truman would threaten them, and try to carry out his threats; they knew that the government would brand them as "traitors"; they also knew their leaders did not have the stomach for such a fight.

But they have dared everything because they know their cause is absolutely just. While other rail workers have the 40 hour week, the operating brotherhoods have to work any and all hours at straight time. While other workers have received two wage increases in the past two years, they have received none. The machinery of the Railway Labor Act, a special railroad slave labor law, has stalled their demands for almost two years. Small wonder the railroad workers are out of patience!

Truman Is Their Enemy

The railroad workers know Truman as their enemy. It is clear to them that if he were on their side he could easily force a decent agreement based on the unions' demands. But instead, Truman has used his power to back the companies; he "seized" the roads, and then appointed railroad executives to high military rank to run the roads and rake in the profits.

Let the labor leaders explain why Truman does not appoint some switchmen and trainmen to the rank of Colonel and let them operate the lines. Why doesn't he turn over the huge profits to the unions for welfare, hospital care, medical aid, and educational purposes?

Because Truman, the government he heads, the Army he commands, the courts he appoints, are not the servants of the people. They are the agents of Big Business: They are all in league against labor!

A Fight Against Odds

The railroad workers are struggling against great odds. Their greatest obstacle is their own leadership, which called Truman "strikebreaker number 1" in 1946, then backed him for President in 1948, and begged him to "seize" the lines last August. These same leaders keep the rail unions divided along craft lines. It will be difficult for one craft, in a spontaneous struggle, disconnected and without real organization, to win a complete victory.

The railroad workers are trying to emulate the militancy of the miners. To do this, they need a unified national organization which will consolidate all the operating crafts into one mighty striking force.

But even with their handicaps, the railroad workers can win this fight if all labor rallies to their cause.

Truman Asks 10 Billions More "Soak-the-Poor" Taxes

Lowest Incomes Face 20% Boost; Millionaires 3.5%

Truman's "pay-as-you-go" tax program will take another \$10 billion from the purchasing power of the American people. For the low-income earner it is a "pay-through-the-nose" program. The workers do the paying to make Wall Street's war machine go.

As detailed by Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, the latest tax extortion will increase income taxes in the lowest brackets by another 20 per cent. What the government doesn't withhold from your pay, it will rake off from what you buy thru excise taxes on hundreds of manufactured commodities.

SOAK THE POOR

The tax program is designed, Snyder admitted, to bear most heavily on the small taxpayers, those with annual incomes under \$5,000 — the 83 per cent of taxpayers who receive only 58 per cent of taxable income. "This concentration of income must be tapped if the tax is to raise enough revenue," Snyder declared. He did not speak of the real concentration of wealth in the hands of the top tenth of the 17 per cent of taxpayers who get 42 per cent of the country's taxable income.

To make his new tax bill palatable, Truman has again thrown in a proposal for increased corporation incomes taxes — though even he asks that only 30 per cent of the \$10 billion in new taxes come from corporations. But Truman proposes and Congress disposes. The 81st Congress cut in half the excess-profits portion of his previous tax

(Continued on page 4)

Hansen to Tour Country Analyzing World Crisis



Hansen to Tour Country Analyzing World Crisis

The Socialist Workers Party has announced a coast-to-coast tour of all party branches by Joseph Hansen, SWP candidate for U.S. Senator in the 1950 New York elections. The tour, beginning Feb. 23 in New Haven, Connecticut, will feature a talk on the war crisis titled: "America and the World Crisis."

The speech will deal with the important questions in the "Big Debate" over U.S. foreign policy arising out of the American intervention in the Korean Civil War, and bring the Trotskyist point of view to the public.

TROTSKYIST ANSWERS

Hansen will give the Trotskyist answers to the critical problems in the minds of the workers. He will make clear why the U.S. troops are in Korea, the true relationship between China and the Kremlin; he will analyze the meaning of the Asian Revolution to America, and expose the real purpose behind plans to rearm Europe; Hansen will also explain the home-front consequences of war plans as they affect democracy and living standards, and

will pose the socialist alternative to capitalist militarism.

Joseph Hansen was born 40 years ago in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1936 he served as Associate Editor of The Voice of the Federation, official newspaper of the West Coast maritime unions. In 1937 he became secretary to Leon Tretsky in Mexico City, and was there when Stalinist agent assassinated Trotsky in 1940.

BIGGEST VOTE GETTER

As senatorial candidate of the SWP in New York in 1950 Hansen was the biggest Trotskyist vote-getter in the state campaign.

He is the author of numerous pamphlets on labor and socialist questions: "Wall Street's War — Not Ours," "American Workers Need a Labor Party," "The Socialist Workers Party — What It Is — What It Stands For." Hansen is a regular contributor



JOSEPH HANSEN

Sick and Tired of Govt. Run-Around, Men Demand 40-Hour Week, Living Wage

By Joseph Andrews

Feb. 8 — The "sick report" walkout of railroad yardmen went into its 9th day as members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen demonstrated their rebellion against the two-year stall of their completely justified demands.

President Truman, who has it within his power under the "seizure" of the lines to force the companies to come to an agreement, has centered all his

fire upon the union, which he charged has "acted in bad faith" by refusing to accept government mediators' proposals for settlement.

Truman appointee Charles E. Wilson, Big Business head of war mobilization, had the gall to slander the rail workers' patriotism in a national radio broadcast.

The Federal courts in Chicago pushed contempt proceedings against union heads, trying to implement forced-labor injunctions.

THE WORKERS ANSWER

The answer of the workers was typified by the remarks of one railroad worker quoted in the N. Y. World Telegram, Feb. 3:

"President Truman put the skids under us in 1946. We tried to strike and we were told to get back to work or be drafted. They're always talking patriotism when something like this comes along. But let me tell you, brother, these guys are just as patriotic as anybody else.

"Take my case," he continued. "My rent's \$86 a month. I give my wife the same paycheck I gave her two years ago. And don't forget, you can knock a 10 over the head with one trip to the butcher shop. We work a 56-hour week at straight time, \$12.26 a day. No Sundays or holidays off."

If Truman were seriously concerned with the effects of the rail walkout on the military situation, he could settle the dispute as he did the miner's strike in 1949 after government seizure. After every attempt made to force the miners back to work proved unsuccessful, the government mediators ordered a wage increase acceptable to the union.

TRUMAN'S FORCED LABOR

But in the railroad dispute, Truman has taken advantage of the craft division in the rail unions, the lack of militant leadership, and the cover of the Korean war to try to force the workers to work against their will without a decent wage and hour agreement.

Thus, W. P. Kennedy, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, stated, "Steelworkers, auto workers, common laborers, in fact most other workers have received four wage increases and some a fifth since the end of the war. Trainmen have had three. Their last pay hike was in October, 1948.

"In contrast to this, the rail-

(Continued on page 4)

EISENHOWER EUROPE TOUR STAGED TO SELL TOTAL MILITARISM HERE

By John G. Wright

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower has gone to Europe and come back to perform his real job. It is to sell the American people a program of total mobilization for total war. In this way the American imperialists also hope to solve the constitutional crisis. Neither the Prussian nor the Japanese War Lords ever dared to project so sweeping a program of militarization as the one Eisenhower came back from Europe to sell.

In his public statements, Eisenhower evaded every issue but one. He misrepresented his trip — a staged affair from the word go; he painted up the mass reactions in Europe to his trip which actually were "neutralist" or hostile; he refused to tell even Congress the gist of his talks with the European militarists, refusing so much as "to mention my several conversations in Germany." But under the cynical formula of inspiring "unity of free men" and doing it by U.S. setting the example, Eisenhower did spill out the program of the all-out war effort, "the first priority," as he put it.

SKY THE LIMIT

"We must by example," Eisenhower told Congress and later repeated in his even more evasive "Report to the Nation" over the radio, "inspire and insist and get everybody to do his maximum. . . . To do what? To build "a great mobile powerful reserve, ready to support our policies, our rights, our interests, wherever they may be endangered in the world," announced Eisenhower, adding "and we must do it quickly." The sky is obviously the limit for this "great mobile powerful" war "reserve" which Eisenhower demands.

This "great inspirational lead-

er" is touted in the press as having gone to Europe to study conditions at "first-hand." His whole junket to Europe took a little more than two weeks, a considerable part of which had to be spent in travel, even if by air. He visited 12 capital cities where he talked to none but the top government dignitaries, local brass and capitalist tycoons. At each of his stops he held one, two or more press conferences; attended several banquets; and as for the "ceremonial visits" to local notables, these were not few or fleeting, either. And how much time did he spend in secret confabs? Of these Eisenhower himself has inadvertently admitted there were "several" in Germany alone.

TRIP A HOAX

In this two-week whirlwind of publicity blasts, banquet gabfests, ceremonial mumbo-jumbo and secret plottings there couldn't have been any room whatever for "first-hand study" or any "consultation" of the European peoples. Not only couldn't there be room for this; there wasn't; nor was there intended to be. The whole trip was a deliberate hoax designed to set the stage for Eisenhower's big selling job — right here at home. And the most cynical role in this stage-play was executed by this general who poses in public as a model of honesty and integrity, of wisdom and moderation, etc.

This militarist now wields power no Prussian or Japanese War Lord has ever wielded. "No other American, even including Secretaries of State, has had quite the power to make or break this country's foreign relations that has been conferred, again by (Truman's) formal directive, on General of the Army D. D. Eisenhower," report the Alsop brothers, columnists who have pipe-

lines to both Capitol Hill and the Pentagon.

RESOLVE THE "DEBATE"

Eisenhower is "the political and military arbiter of the entire (war) program," says Arthur Krock, head of the N. Y. Times staff of political experts, who then goes on to gloat that Eisenhower had no trouble at all in selling Congress the shipment of American troops and arms to Europe. "In his extemporaneous report to an informal meeting of the Senate and House last Thursday he (Eisenhower) removed any important threat to the enterprise," says Krock.

This "arbiter" and "man of power" has also — "extemporaneously" — sold Congress the still unpublicized part of his entire enterprise, namely, the draft of 18-year olds, the labor draft and the rest of the "maximum-effort" war program which he blandly outlined as a prospect for the next "20 or 30 years."

It is on this basis that the American capitalists hope to bring to a close their "Great Debate" and to establish what their journalists now call a "new national unity." Their motto now is "Leave it to Eisenhower!" But the biggest job remains still to be done.

The American people are still to be sold Eisenhower's real bill of goods. Will the American mothers and fathers and their sons also agree to leave it to Eisenhower? If they do, the military boot will be firmly planted on their necks. We are confident that not even a legion of Eisenhower will ever succeed in such an enterprise — provided our people, and, before all, American labor, are aroused to the terrible danger and conspiracy of the imperialists who have now pushed Eisenhower to the fore as their "man of the hour."

Freed Krupp 'Takes up Where He Left Off'

By Joseph Keller

If justice were truly served, Alfred Krupp would have died beside Hitler — and each at the end of a rope. Indeed, Krupp would have mounted the gallows first, for in reality he was the master and Hitler the servant. Krupp and his fellow industrialists and bankers financed the Nazis to power in order to crush the German labor movement and atomize the revolutionary German working class. His vast Ruhr war industries armed Hitler's Wehrmacht and reaped untold profits from German imperialism's slaughter of tens of millions.

A MONSTER FREED

This capitalist monster Krupp — in the interest of whose class the Nazis tortured and murdered millions of German workers along with a host of other victims — is today alive and free, his confiscated properties restored to him, hailed as a "national hero" by the German capitalist class and its Bonn government.

His release on Feb. 3 from

Landsberg Prison, along with 28 other Nazi murderers, including six fellow-directors of the Krupp armaments works and four of Hitler's generals, was the occasion of a festive celebration. Rejoicing capitalists, Bonn officials and other ex-Nazis met him at the prison gates. He was "escorted quickly to the biggest hotel in town," reports Jack Raymond in the Feb. 2 N. Y. Times, where he was "guest of honor" at a celebration breakfast which "included champagne" and was "greeted like a returning national hero." He disclosed that he "intends to take up where he left off as head of the vast iron, steel and coal empire of the Ruhr."

SLAVE LABOR BOSS

Krupp is now free "to take up where he left off" through an "act of clemency" by Gen. Thomas T. Handy, United States Commander in Chief in Europe, and John J. McCloy, United States High Commissioner for Germany. His original sentence to 12 years imprisonment on a charge of em-

ploying and brutally abusing hundreds of thousands of slave laborers was reduced to "time served" — less than three years. More than a desire to "temper justice with mercy" prompted Washington to order "clemency" for Krupp and his fellow criminals. This is a deliberate political demonstration timed in connection with two major developments: (1) the U.S. campaign to secure Bonn's agreement to supply German armed forces for Eisenhower's "Atlantic Pact" army; (2) the threat of a general strike by a million organized Ruhr steel and coal-mine workers which has wrung from Chancellor Adenauer a promise to support a bill granting "co-determination" — 50 per cent representation in management — to the workers in West Germany's steel plants and coal mines.

AID TO CAPITALISTS

Through the demonstrative release of Krupp, chief figure of the German armaments industries, Washington holds out the promise

of great rewards to the German capitalists for their "co-operation" in rearming Germany as an ally of the Western powers and converting their industries into an arsenal for the "West European" army.

But Krupp's release signifies much more. It is intended as a declaration, however symbolic in form, of Washington's support for German capitalist resistance to German labor's pressure for an "equal say" in the control and management of industry.

Wall Street imperialism looks with trepidation on the German labor movement's offensive against capitalist "rights of management." Thus, Earl Bunting, managing director of the National Association of Manufacturers, on Feb. 4 issued to Heinz L. Kreckler, German consul general in New York, a stern warning against "co-determination." Bunting wrote that "American investors are watching the developing situation with increasing concern" and that "if the German economy expects American capital investments . . .

it may find that the existence of a co-determination law is a serious roadblock." Threats as well as "clemency" are being used to stiffen German ruling-class opposition to German labor's demands.

WORKERS "MAIN ENEMY"

Bunting's statement helps illuminate the motives behind Washington's moves in Germany, particularly the "act of clemency" toward Krupp, the Ruhr armaments baron. This act, coinciding with the upsurge of the Ruhr workers, indicates that Washington desires to rearm German capitalism first of all against the German working class — the "main enemy." In this, the U.S. capitalist government agrees with the Bonn government of the Krupps, whose Minister of the Interior Dr. Lehr recently told a meeting of German businessmen: "We need an army not merely for defense against the East but also for defense against the excessive wage demands of the trade unions."

