

# Jim-Crow Army Courts Victimize Negro GIs

## NAACP Counsel Hits Brutality Of Army Brass

Army jim crow is victimizing Negro GIs in Korea and Japan, it was revealed Feb. 21, in a report of NAACP special counsel Thurgood Marshall upon his return from the Korean front.

Marshall reported that only eight white soldiers had been accused of violation of the 75th Article of War (misbehavior in face of enemy) whereas 60 Negro GIs had been so charged. "The question as to why so many Negroes were charged and so few white soldiers remains unanswered," Marshall said.

Marshall further pointed out that 32 Negroes and only two whites had been convicted by courts martial. The white GIs received sentences of five and three years. Of the 32 Negroes convicted, one, (Lieutenant Leon Gilbert) was sentenced to death, 15 to life imprisonment, one to 50 years and 15 to from five to 25 years.

### STEAM ROLLER TRIALS

An NAACP report states, "the trials were hastily conducted, many of the accused men being rushed from foxholes to the court. The trials of the two men who were sentenced to life lasted 50 minutes each; two others so sentenced had trials lasting 44 minutes and 42 minutes respectively."

The main complaint of Negro troops, Marshall stated, in addition to their objection to the heavy sentences, "was that they had inefficient white officers and white officers who resented working with Negro troops."

### FALSE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

This report gives the lie to the propaganda of Negro leaders who beat the drums for the Korean war as an opportunity for Negroes to win equality. Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, director of the UN division of trusteeship, stated last September that Negro soldiers

were "fighting valiantly" in Korea in order that Koreans might enjoy "that freedom and equality which these same Negro GIs have never experienced in full at home."

### AT HOME AND IN KOREA

But the Negro GIs have experienced in Korea the very same segregation and brutal discrimination that they were subjected to at home. At home the Negro is the last to be hired and the first to be fired. In Korea, the Negro GI is the first to advance and the last to retreat.

As a reward he is framed up by white-supremacist officers, and handed drastic prison terms by lily-white courts martial. These 45 minute trials are replicas of the kangaroo courts of all-white lynch-juries at home which condemn Negroes to prison and death because of their race.

NAACP spokesman Marshall failed to tell the whole truth about the criminal treatment of Negro GIs. It is well known that these troops are used as shock troops in every advance, and as rear-guards in the retreats.

Lester B. Granger, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League last July 22 tried to cover up this discriminatory use of Negro troops in an article in the New Leader, hailing the Korean war as a "boom" because "Negro soldiers, sailors and airmen are permitted to serve not only as messmen and menials but also as combat troops."

Neither Bunche, Granger nor Marshall explained that the frame-up and courts-martial of Negro soldiers was an extension to the battle front of the deliberate campaign of terror in the U.S. to prevent the equality of the Negro people.

## CORPORATE TAXES FELL AS 1950 PROFITS ROSE

The profits swag of big corporations was bigger in 1950 than ever before. The Associated Press reports that profits after taxes in a sampling of 72 corporations shows a jump of 33.5 per cent in 1950 profits over 1949.

Rubber companies were among the most profitable; they piled up 87.9 per cent more profits in 1950 than in 1949. Eight steel companies including the very largest, showed increases of 36.3 per cent in 1950 profits.

### A RECORD HIGH

In general, the AP report states, "American industry has apparently set itself a record high in earnings."

But meanwhile the working people took it in the neck. The Internal Revenue Bureau reported Feb. 21 that 1950 income tax payments by individuals rose to \$17,936,535,662 from \$17,752,414,084 in 1949.

But corporate income and profits tax payments went down from \$12,006,490,560 in 1949 to \$9,936,726,082 in 1950. A decline of over two billion dollars!

From these figures it can be seen who is paying the freight for war preparations. While prices have been steadily going up, the working people have been paying more and more taxes; and while profits have risen, the corporations have been paying less taxes.

And that is only the beginning. With enactment of Truman's tax-the-poor program, including his vicious excise tax, the process of milking the poor to enrich the monopolists will be stepped up in 1951.

## "INDICT BRIGGS HEADS!" REPEATS WOMAN VICTIM OF COMPANY THUGS

Genora Dollinger, militant Michigan trade unionist and Trotskyist leader, who was one of the victims of the gangster beatings by Briggs Manufacturing Co. hired thugs, has demanded an aggressive campaign by the United Automobile Workers, CIO, to bring the criminals in the case to justice.

The facts linking the auto corporations to the campaign of violence against union militants were revealed in a two-day Detroit hearing of the Kefauver Senate Investigating Committee.

Thus far, the UAW has limited its demands to a proposal that the Briggs company fire its president, Dean Robinson, and that an autopsy be performed upon the bodies of three former Briggs officials. Following is the text of Genora Dollinger's proposal:

Walter Reuther and International Executive Board United Automobile Workers of America, CIO

Dear Brother Reuther:

Following the recent death of my son, I am temporarily out of Michigan for a rest on doctor's orders. This letter is to assure you of my complete solidarity with

our union in any action that may be taken to follow up the revelations of the Kefauver Senate Investigating Committee. We must not rest content until full evidence and retribution is obtained in the Briggs beatings, the attempts on the lives of Walter and Victor Reuther, and the attempt to terrorize the whole labor movement of this country by such methods.

I have written my proposals to my union, Local 212, and I hereby submit them for your consideration:

1. That the union demand the immediate indictment of Walter O. Briggs, Dean Robinson, etc., for the slugging of Briggs union members.

2. That the union in the name of these victimized workers start a personal damage suit against the Briggs Co.

3. That the union conduct an overall educational campaign to expose the companies in the Briggs beatings and reopen the case of the Reuther shootings. The collaboration of the Briggs Corporation and the Ford Motor Co. with the lowest scum of the underworld against the union movement indicates that we must stand solidly together for the defense of our union against any

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# THE MILITANT

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Workers of the World, Unite!

## Workers Force Union Heads Into Rift with Administration

### White-House Aides Linked To RFC Graft

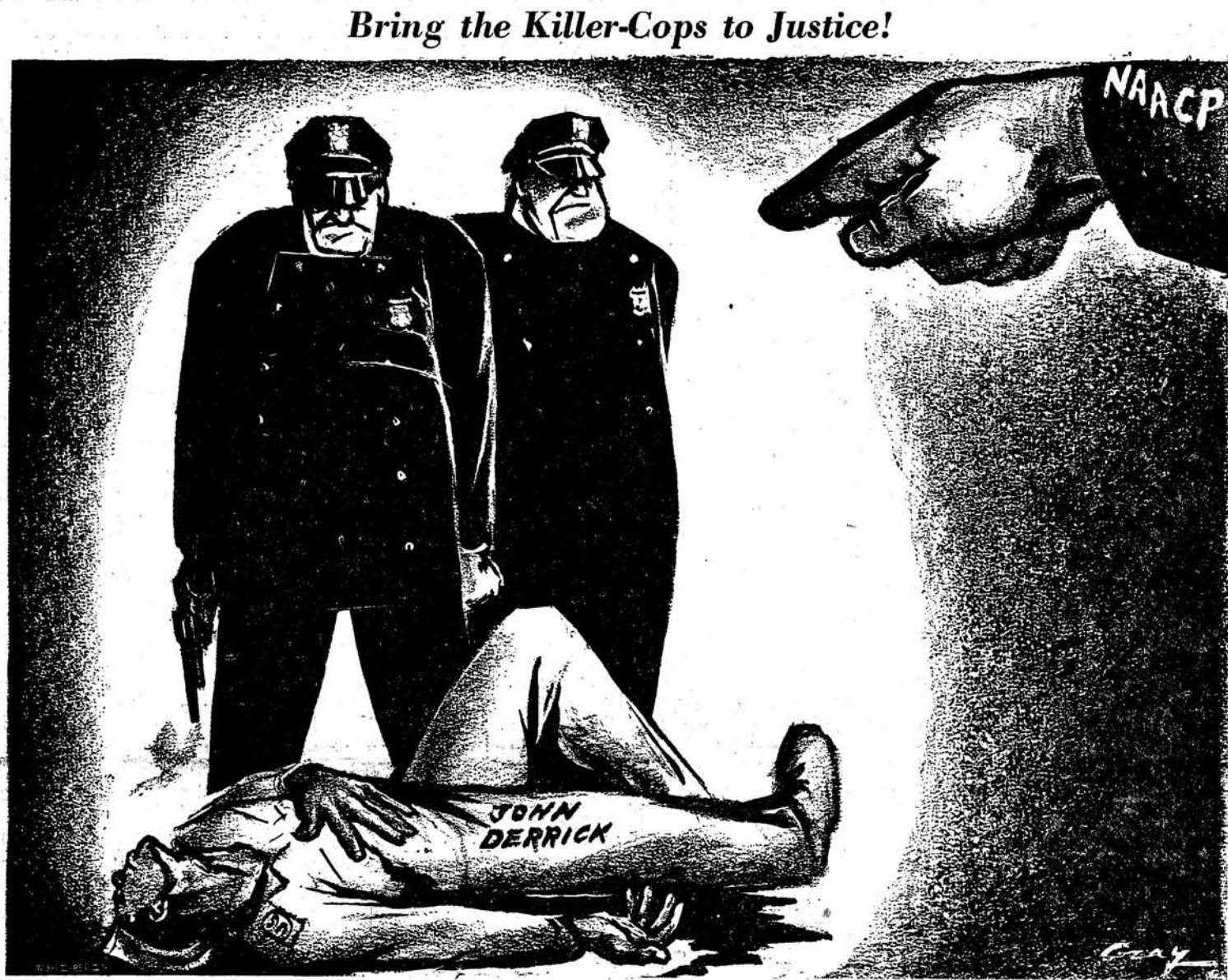
A stench of corruption is again wafting from Washington. This time the odor of graft and bribery — the "fix" — rises from the \$2-billion Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the "relief" agency for "needy" capitalists. Since 1932 it has handed out \$2.2 billion in "loans" to "deserving" corporations and businessmen with the "right connections."

### TRUMAN'S BRUSH-OFF

Truman at first tried to brush off the documented charges as "asinine" and a smear designed to "personally reflect" on himself. He then defiantly renominated for the third time the present five RFC directors, including the three directly named in the Senate report as exerting "influence" on behalf of favored companies. The three under fire are C. Edward Rowe and William E. Willett, Democrats, and Walter L. Dunham, Republican. Their reappointments had twice before been held up by the Senate.

Subsequently, Truman issued a belated "plan" for "reorganization" of the RFC along lines proposed by the subcommittee. When these steps did not quiet the committee, he reverted to tactics learned from his days with Missouri's Pendergast mob. He let it be known he has secured photostats of some 900 letters written by Senators and Representatives to the RFC on behalf

(Continued on page 3)



Bring the Killer-Cops to Justice!

## NAACP Rally Blasts Whitewash Of Killer-Cops in Derrick Case

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 — The refusal of the grand jury to indict the killer-cops who murdered the Negro ex-GI, John Derrick, was protested this afternoon at a Harlem mass meeting. The meeting was held at the Golden Gate Ballroom under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

An independent investigation conducted by Wilfred N. Mayes, counsel to the NAACP, has established beyond any doubt that Palumbo and Minakakis, the cops who shot Derrick last Dec. 7, are guilty of murder and grand larceny. In the light of his investigation, the handling of the case by District Attorney Hogan and the grand jury stands exposed as a criminal conspiracy to suppress evidence and thwart justice.

### EIGHT EYE-WITNESSES

Despite a justifiable fear of police reprisals, Mayes secured eight eye-witnesses who swore under oath that Derrick was shot in cold blood as he stood unarmed, with his hands above his head. Other witnesses testified that five minutes before the killing Derrick had more than two thousand dollars on his person. From the moment of the killing until it arrived at the morgue, nobody had access to the corpse except the two cops. A search of the body at the morgue revealed the money was gone.

Additional witnesses revealed that immediately after the killing the two cops made a careful search of the body and found no gun. A few minutes later one of them went to a nearby police station, returned, made a second search of the body and this time came up with a gun.

Mayes reported that the District Attorney's office made every effort to discredit the witnesses before the grand jury. Actual eye-witnesses to the shooting were asked a few routine questions, while passers-by who had not

seen the shooting were grilled at length about facts they couldn't possibly know. The important evidence about the money and gun was completely side-stepped.

### EIGHT MURDERS BY COPS

This whitewash of murder by Hogan and the grand jury comes as a surprise to no one familiar with their record. Eight Negroes have been murdered in the past two years by New York cops. Not one cop has been indicted by a grand jury correctly described to the meeting by Rev. A. Clayton Powell as a "hand picked, lily white, blue ribbon jury of whiskey drinking, cigar smoking clubmen,

who wouldn't let a Negro into their clubs for any other reason than to clean the toilets."

In a message of support to the meeting (see text page 4) the Socialist Workers Party proposed, through its Harlem spokesman, Gladys Barker, that the NAACP establish an independent jury composed of prominent leaders of the Negro, labor and liberal movement to conduct its own investigation and public hearings on the case.

The facts presented by Mr. Mayes to today's meeting demonstrate the correctness of this proposal. Alone and unaided, he has conducted the kind of an in-

vestigation that Hogan and the grand jury ducked. He should have the opportunity to present his evidence to a real jury of the people. The wide publicity that such a jury would get could rally a great movement of the Negro people to march on City Hall thousands strong. Such action would compel a corrupt, jim crow administration to bring the killers of John Derrick to justice and stop the police campaign of terror against the Negro community. Until resolute mass action is taken, the blood of new John Derricks will continue to stain the sidewalks of Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

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JOSEPH HANSEN

American capitalists are concerned only with the loss of their financial holdings and fields of further investments because of the uprisings in China, Korea, and Yugoslavia.

### AGAINST WILL OF PEOPLE

President Truman and Congress, Hansen stated, are violating the wishes of the American people and following the dictates

### Leaders Quit All War Posts In Wage Fight

Under pressure of an aroused working class, all labor representatives on the war mobilization agencies were withdrawn Feb. 28 by the United Labor Policy Committee which stated, "We have come to the conclusion that in no other way can we effectively impress upon the American people the great wrongs being perpetrated against them."

This full-scale break with the Truman administration mobilization set-up follows the Feb. 16 withdrawal of three labor members of the Wage Stabilization Board. Referring to this action, the labor policy committee stated, "On Feb. 16 we announced that we had become thoroughly disillusioned with the conduct of the defense mobilization program. We made the deliberate charge that big business was dominating the program. . . ."

"Since then we have spelled out our indictment in detail to the President of the United States and to the heads of agencies under him. We have talked and we have listened. After full and complete exchanges of information, our original convictions have been more than confirmed."

### TRUMAN BACKS WILSON

Truman further aggravated the crisis by announcing that Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson, former head of General Electric Corporation, would remain in his position despite the bitter protests of organized labor.

The United Labor Policy Committee which represents 15 million organized workers delivered a crushing indictment of Truman's whole wage-price program, in its public statement:

1. "We are today confronted with a price order (issued by price administrator Eric Johnston) which amounts to a legalized robbery of every American consumer, together with a wage order which denies justice and fair play to every American who works for wages. . . . Wages and salaries of all Americans are now bound under the most rigid con-

(Continued on page 2)

## First Tour Meetings Hear Hansen

Following his opening speech in New Haven and a radio interview on station WAVZ in the same city, Joseph Hansen addressed the second meeting of his coast-to-coast tour in Boston Feb. 24.

Discussing the topic "America and the World Crisis," Hansen exposed the vast conspiracy of the owners of America's largest corporations to plunge the United States into war. Hansen demonstrated at the Boston meeting organized by the Socialist Workers Party that the U.S. rearmament drive is not motivated by fear of Russian attack but by capitalism's need for suppressing revolution in Asia and Europe and to safeguard American business investments.

### CAPITALIST HOLDINGS

Hansen quoted the statements of the heads of such corporations as Standard Oil of New Jersey, Metropolitan Life Insurance, and General Electric proving that

of Big Business. The overwhelming sentiment of the people is for an end to the Korean slaughter and the return of the American troops to their homes.

### REACTIONARY ALLIES

"The alliance between Truman's Wall Street administration and the reactionary governments of Franco, Syngman Rhee, Bao-Dai, and Chiang Kai-shek proves that American capitalists, generals, and Democratic and Republican politicians are not interested in establishing democracy abroad. The policy of intervention in Asia is driving the Chinese masses into a temporary alliance with Stalin. Left to themselves, the revolutionary people of China will break with Stalinism just as the Yugoslav revolution had to break with it in order to go forward. Stalinism is as great an enemy of free and independent revolutionary development as Wall Street imperialism."

### HANSEN TOUR SCHEDULE

Day	Date	City
Thursday	Mar. 8	Chicago
Friday	9	"
Saturday	10	"
Sunday	11	Milwaukee
Tuesday	13	Minneapolis-St. Paul
Wednesday	14	"
Thursday	15	"
Friday	16	"
Monday	19	Montana
Tuesday	20	"
Thursday	22	Seattle
Friday	23	"
Saturday	24	"
Sunday	25	"
Monday	26	"
Tuesday	27	"
Thursday	29	S. Francisco Oakland
Friday	30	"
Saturday	31	"
Sunday	Apr. 1	"
Monday	2	"
Tuesday	3	"
Wednesday	4	"
Friday	6	Los Angeles



# Yugoslavia's Foreign Policy Fund Lags 6% Behind Schedule; 5 Weeks Left

By John G. Wright  
(This is the first of a number of articles on recent developments in respect to Yugoslavia)

The threat of attack upon Yugoslavia by the Kremlin's East European satellites or jointly with Moscow is playing a more and more prominent role in international affairs. In diplomatic circles there is intense activity. Foreign dignitaries, especially from the U.S., pay demonstrative visits to Belgrade which, in turn, arranges deputations to London and other capitals.

The American fleet engages in maneuvers in the Mediterranean. Within the space of two weeks, Washington, London and Paris issue "warnings," each in a different form but all to the same intent, concerning a possible attack on Yugoslavia.

Acheson and Truman announce that world peace would be gravely "strained" by such an assault. Aneurin Bevan, British Minister of Labor, tells Parliament that the Laborite government is "alive" to the threat and is keeping "in touch with other governments on this." The French government conveys to Tito through its Ambassador Philippe Bodet that it is "following with the most serious attention the situation that has been created in the Balkans" and assures its moral support.

### TITO'S POLICY ON EUROPE

These assurances are welcomed with "satisfaction" by the Yugoslav government which has formally undertaken "to strengthen" its relations with Greece, Italy and Austria; to expedite the termination of the state of war with Germany and Austria, etc. On Feb. 16 Premier Tito declared in a public speech that Yugoslavia would wage war not only in case it was attacked but also if the Kremlin engaged in hostilities against Greece, Italy or Germany.

### DANGER IS IMMINENT

For its part — amid its latest "peace offensive" — the Kremlin has stepped up its political attacks upon and defamation of the Yugoslavs. At the Berlin "peace conference" now in progress, Pietro Nenni, the Italian Socialist closely collaborating with the Stalinists, singled out Yugoslavia for denunciation, charging that the U.S. was allegedly creating a "situation of strength" there. Moscow's reply to England this week falsely labeled Yugoslavia "a fascist regime" like Franco's; accused the government of conspiring against Hungary and subordinating Yugoslavia to "British and American masters."

## EUROPE JITTERY ON EVE OF "BIG-FOUR" PARLEY

By Charles Hanley

Notwithstanding the U.S. State Department's reluctance to any "appeasement," Britain and France have repeatedly pressed for "Big Four" talks between the Western powers and the Soviet Union. Representatives of the U.S.A., the USSR, France and Britain are to meet in Paris on March 5, to prepare an eventual conference of foreign ministers.

Quite obviously, a considerable part of the Western European ruling class is not too happy about their alliance with American imperialism and afraid of a new world war, its destructions and its possible revolutionary consequences. On the other hand, Western European capitalism is weak and needs American aid. It cannot free itself from Wall Street's domination; but, being afraid of World War III, tries to bring about negotiations between the capitalist bloc and the Soviet Union (as well as China) and to soften Washington's foreign policy. The four leading ambassadors of France who conferred in Paris on Jan. 19 and 20, followed this line and opposed any policy of provocation.

The Stalinists still attempt to achieve some kind of united front with neutralist bourgeois groups, hoping to encourage the neutralist current and to thereby break up the Atlantic Pact. But despite neutralist articles in France's leading bourgeois newspaper Le

Whether Stalin actually launches his assault this year or the next, the danger is unquestionable. It is imminent and grave. Belgrade is fully justified to take every indicated measure of self-protection and to obtain whatever help it can get to fortify the country. The world working class, the colonial rebels and every progressive force should want Yugoslavia and its revolution to emerge victorious against any and all of the Kremlin's counter-revolutionary attacks. They should aim to give maximum aid in their power toward this end. And it is exactly because the current course of Yugoslav foreign policy weakens and helps block this revolutionary and progressive support — the only real power that can save the Yugoslav revolution from being crushed between Stalinism and the imperialists — that it calls for criticism and condemnation.

Tito and other prominent Yugoslav spokesmen contend their present policy is independent of both the imperialists and the Stalinists; that it corresponds to the interests of the peoples and the struggle for socialism; that it best and "most realistically" protects Yugoslavia and her revolutionary conquests. This is largely true of their domestic course; but it is not at all true of their foreign policy since the first weeks of the Korean war.

The Yugoslavs continue as before to rely far too much upon such imperialist-dominated institutions as the UN, which is being unmasked as the enemy of the Asian revolutions. They place unfounded confidence upon such imperialist "allies" as the U.S. and its European satellites. They underestimate and alienate the only reliable allies of the Yugoslav revolution — their supporters in the European and world labor movement and among the colonial peoples, above all, in Asia.

The Yugoslav leaders have repeatedly pledged that they would not trade away their democratic and socialist principles in exchange for material and military aid; nor buckle under reactionary pressure whatever its source. But sad to say, that is just what they are more and more tending to do as their new line of foreign policy unfolds.

### INTERNAL REFORMS

At home their policy, in sharp contrast to their line in foreign affairs, remains both progressive and independent of imperialism as of Stalinism. Internal reforms have continued and are being extended. Among the latest are the

democratization of the electoral procedures and the revision of the penal code, outlawing compulsory (or "corrective") labor camps, restricting the powers of the public prosecutors and the secret police.

Even so conservative a correspondent as Gaston Coblenz of the N. Y. Herald Tribune has been compelled to concede that Belgrade has recently promulgated "at least three positive measures." First is the creation of workers' councils for which nationwide elections took place in February of this year. Coblenz admits these are intended by law "to have a large voice in running the factories." The elections, he further concedes, have been by and large "conducted with honesty."

The second is the establishment of a new type of "citizens council" intended to assure "broader mass participation of the people in the work of the state." This law also provides for village referendums. The Croation version of this reform prohibits local authorities from carrying out decisions without "having ap-

proval of the local citizens' council."

The reform of the criminal code which is intended to do away with arbitrary arrest and imprisonment and to curb the secret police has just been adopted by the Yugoslav Parliament.

### THE PARTY APPARATUS

The struggle against the abuses of bureaucracy likewise continues. The chief political block in the way of a really effective campaign against bureaucraticism remains, however, untouched. The main source of bureaucratic power and privilege — and by this token of bureaucratic misrule — lies in the monopolization of political power in the hands of a small group, which becomes entrenched on the basis of a "monolithic" party, that is, a ruling party where the rank and file has no means of control over the leaders, where orders are passed down from above and where divergent or critical tendencies are not permitted free and full expression. The entire experience in the Soviet Union

since Lenin's death points up this most important of lessons which the Yugoslav leaders have failed as yet to assimilate.

Democratic reforms in the operation of factories, in electoral procedure, in the criminal code are, to be sure, signposts of progress. But in the end, these will all prove inadequate, if not abortive, so long as the internal life of the Yugoslav Communist Party is not democratized, but, on the contrary, continues to be subjected to a regime which still far more approximates that of the Cominformist parties than Lenin's Bolshevik party.

Without a democratic reform of the Yugoslav party, the whole struggle against bureaucraticism and for the democratization of the country remains one-sided and gravely endangered. This, however, does not invalidate the continued general improvement of the internal regime.

It is precisely this that renders so glaring the contrast with their present foreign policy, and such a contradiction cannot last very long.

## MacARTHUR'S "OPERATION KILLER"

By Art Preis

After trying out "Operation Meat-Grinder" for sound, the U.S. command in Korea has given its latest "limited offensive" the official title, "Operation Killer." Around this term, MacArthur has launched the most grisly propaganda campaign in military history. Tokyo reports daily boast of stupendous casualties inflicted on Chinese and Korean troops. MacArthur called them "among the bloodiest of modern times."

For one day, the Feb. 16 N. Y. Times reported from 8th Army headquarters, "the exact figures given were 10,993 killed and wounded and 365 taken prisoner. Official estimates said that the killing was in the ratio of 148 to 1." In one week, the Chinese casualties were "estimated" at 69,000.

### FIGURES EXAGGERATED

The United Press cautiously disclaimed responsibility for these figures, stating that the 10,993 "doesn't necessarily mean that the figure might not just possibly be 10,992 or 10,994," that "many if not most of the wounded never come under Allied count" and that "the bodies counted on any one day may contain casualties included in the previous day's estimates." Hanson W. Baldwin, N. Y. Times military analyst, frankly calls the claims of Chinese casualties "exaggerated" and notes the "widely discrepant" reports put out by Tokyo and the Pentagon.

Along with the blown-up reports of Chinese casualties continue the claims about the "vast hordes" confronting the U.S.-UN forces. Pentagon figures, revealed by Robert S. Allen in the Feb. 11 N. Y. Post, give the combined Chinese and North Korean combat forces as 465,000. U.S. ground forces — not including naval and air personnel — are not less than 250,000, plus 100,000 South Koreans and 27,000 other UN troops. Gen. Omar Bradley disclosed to Congress last week.

What concerns the American people however, is the purpose of this gruesome propaganda campaign about "Operation Killer," in which, said Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, "We have only one objective — kill Chinese and save ourselves."

It is, first of all, an attempt to prop up the "badly-sagging prestige of the U.S. high command. MacArthur and Ridgway are trying to cover up their failure to defeat the Chinese by a pretension of military success in inflicting staggering losses on the opponent army. Secondly, and more important, it is to conceal the extent of U.S. losses by emphasizing that Chinese casualties are 20, 30 and even 148 times greater.

They are trying to persuade the American people that a favorable decision in the Korean war is not far off, that the cost of staying in Korea will be small and that it would be wrong to withdraw the U.S. troops at this time. The aim is to quiet the demand of the majority of the people for withdrawing the troops right away.

### U.S. CASUALTIES

The fact is that just as MacArthur has grossly exaggerated the Chinese losses, so he has deliberately minimized and concealed the U.S. casualties. Washington columnist Robert S. Allen revealed as far back as last Dec. 9 that U.S. casualties have been "appalling" and among "some of the unreported facts" is that "U.S. casualties exceed 50,000 — a figure at least 15,000 more than officially announced by the Pentagon."

The Jan. 12 U.S. News and World Report described "American casualties are around 50,000 so far, and South Korean losses are very heavy." In just 19 days, according to the Jan. 1 Time magazine, U.S. casualties totalled 11,964, which "did not include 22,000 men listed as non-battle casualties, most of them the

victims of frostbite and frozen feet." Among the latter, according to Army doctors quoted in the Feb. 10 N. Y. World-Telegram, were about 600 amputations.

Yet, the official figures given for all U.S. casualties was still under 50,000 last week. And this after some of the heaviest fighting of the war. It is obvious that the American people are being grossly deceived about the price they are paying, in blood and death, for the continuation of Truman's "police action" in Korea.

### KILLING CIVILIANS

"Operation Killer," however, is slaughtering a lot of people, perhaps as many as MacArthur claims. The huge, incessant, unopposed air attacks are unquestionably taking a frightful toll of Korean civilians and refugees. We get a hint of this in Christopher Rand's Feb. 12 dispatch from Tokyo to the N. Y. Herald Tribune. He writes: "The UN is concluding a successful 'limited offensive' . . . Casualties in this area are estimated at more than 60,000 (though it develops, according to returning travelers, that perhaps only half of these are Chinese, instead of all as believed at first)."

Who are the other half? Civilians!

The Feb. 21 Voice of Korea, published by the pro-interventionist Korean Affairs Institute, writes that the conflagration is exterminating the Korean nation . . . the helpless civilian population is being slaughtered by the crossfire, strafing and bombing. Already 1,000,000 civilian deaths have been reported. . . An estimated 10,000,000 out of 20,000,000 people in South Korea are refugees or homeless. . . The principles of democracy or communism mean nothing to them."

Is it for this "Operation Killer" that American boys are suffering and dying in Korea? Bring them home now!

## WORKERS' RESISTANCE TO FREEZE FORCES LABOR RIFT WITH TRUMAN

(Continued from Page 1)

trols in the history of our country.

2. "The door has been slammed in our faces on the vital problem of manpower, which directly affects the workers we represent. . . So long as the control of manpower rests in the Office of Defense Mobilization (Charles E. Wilson) no wage or salary earner may feel safe that the Big Business clique in control of that agency may not seek to achieve a compulsory draft of the nation's workers.

2. "There has been no affirm-

ative action to meet our basic position that equality of sacrifice must be the guiding and indispensable principle in the defense program.

### LABOR WINDOW DRESSING

4. "We have also arrived at the inescapable conclusion that such representation which already has been accorded to labor . . . and such further representation as is now offered are merely for the purpose of window dressing. . . Mr. Wilson . . . would now accept window dressing, supplied by labor, to cover the back-room activities of the leaders of industry who staff the O.D.M. He will get no such window dressing from the men and women of American labor.

5. "We have, however, publicly stated, and we now reiterate, that we are prepared to participate in a reconstituted tripartite Wage Stabilization and Disputes Board which would administer a fair and equitable wage policy.

Underlying the action of the labor leaders is the rising fury of the workers against the heavy inroads in their take-home pay. Sky-high prices, increased taxation, unlimited profits, and a wage-freeze to hold back attempts by labor to protect its standard of living, have brought forth

stormy protests from the working class.

The American workers are confronted with a capitalist class hell-bent on tremendous profits, an inflation economy, and a reduction of workers' incomes to an "austerity" level.

The fact that the labor leadership has left the door open to a compromise, should serve as a warning to the workers that the union bureaucrats have not given up their policy of serving as "window" dressing for the crimes of the capitalist politicians. They have consistently covered up for the Democratic administration, despite the strikebreaking of both Roosevelt and Truman.

### DANGER OF COMPROMISE

They have resigned from government posts because to remain would jeopardize their positions as union officers.

It is not clear whether or not Truman will offer the labor leaders a way back into the fold. He has the formal power to administer the wage stabilization program without labor representation.

But should a patch-work compromise be reached, it would by no means end the conflict between the interests of the workers, and the Big Business Washington administration.

By Reba Aubrey  
Fund Campaign Manager

Payments to the \$18,000 Organization, Press and Defense fund slumped this week. The weekly total of \$701 is the smallest since the campaign was launched eight weeks ago by the Socialist Workers Party. The scoreboard, compiled on the basis of receipts through Feb. 27, shows \$10,107 or 56 per cent of the national quota assigned for the 3-month campaign. We are 6 per cent behind schedule, which isn't good.

Eight branches are on schedule with 62 per cent, or better. Those below 62 per cent have only five weeks in which to catch up and complete their quotas 100 per cent by the campaign deadline — March 31.

Pittsburgh tops the scoreboard this week with 107 per cent. "We are still going up," writes Comrade Carl, "and hope to hit 150 per cent before the end of the campaign."

Toledo bolted into third place with 76 per cent. Buffalo, St. Paul - Minneapolis and Newark are already in the last lap and pounding toward the goal, with New York running right at their heels.

Flint branch gained a lot of ground with a \$73 payment and "now feels assured of reaching its quota by March 31, if not surpassing it."

Milwaukee added \$6 to its score; Boston, \$24. Seattle sent two payments totaling \$95, and says, "You can depend on us reaching our goal on time."

West Virginia pulled itself out of the zero column and landed half way up the scoreboard with 52 per cent.

Cleveland made a \$22 gain, hitting 49 per cent of its quota. "The comrades have been slow-

ing down somewhat in their payments on the Fund," writes Alma of Philadelphia, "and I have only \$20 to send you. However, I'm sure this is only a temporary lull and that we'll get back on the ball very shortly."

Chicago is just winding up its red-hot campaign for Irving Beinin for Alderman of the Fifth Ward on a socialist anti-war platform. This campaign has consumed all the energies of the branch, but now they hope that

they "can really catch up on the Fund campaign." They sent \$40 this week.

A check for \$115 from Detroit increased their percentage to 42. Sam K., a veteran of the radical movement and an Old Guard Trotskyist from 1928, who maintains unwavering optimism in the socialist future of mankind, came into our office yesterday to contribute a precious \$1 from his very meager income "to help in the campaign."

\$18,000 FUND SCOREBOARD			
Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Pittsburgh	\$ 150	\$ 161	107
Youngstown	500	500	100
Toledo	50	38	76
Buffalo	1,000	752	75
St. Paul-Minneapolis	1,000	733	73
Newark	700	498	71
New York	5,000	3,253	65
Flint	375	232	62
New Haven	100	61	61
Milwaukee	150	86	58
Boston	550	293	53
Seattle	400	211	53
West Virginia	25	13	52
Cleveland	300	146	49
Philadelphia	600	291	49
Chicago	700	321	46
Detroit	1,750	733	42
Oakland	250	90	36
Akron	150	52	35
Los Angeles	2,600	895	34
Allentown	75	25	33
San Francisco	1,500	450	30
St. Louis	100	20	20
General		253	
Total through Feb. 27	\$18,000	\$10,107	56

## THE MILITANT ARMY

New York literature agent Cathy D. reports a gratifying response from the Negro community to the latest Militant article exposing the white-wash of the police murder of Negro veteran John Derrick. A total of 615 copies were sold in Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant. Of these, 70 were sold at the NAACP protest meeting, a report of which appears in this issue.

"Hatred for police brutality in their neighborhood was openly expressed," Cathy writes, "by customers who stopped in the bitter cold to get their copy. The cops are our worst enemies here, one buyer of The Militant remarked. An elderly couple who planned to attend the NAACP protest meeting said, 'We have to fight when we protest and not just talk. We can't let these things go.' Over and over again Militant salesmen heard: 'Why isn't more being done about it?' One aroused customer was convinced that 'we should march.' And another, 'What we need is working class unity. All the parties should get together on this.' One customer handed over a dollar for his Militant and refused change. A taxi stopped and two passengers bought a copy. The driver bought a copy too."

The number of high-scorers increased over previous sales. Yvonne again scored the highest with 37. Other high scorers close behind her were George Rock, 31; Frank M. and Sid, 30; Ruth N., 27; Newton, 26; Zeb, 25; and Frank F., 24.

The New York Youth continue to sell at Stalinist meetings and while most of these are poorly attended, Militants and FIs are getting a hearing. George Rock and Ethel B. sold 4 Militants at a Stalinist peace conference, and Paul and Beezie sold 3 Militants and 3 copies of Fourth International, theoretical magazine of American Trotskyism, at an LYL meeting.

Julie D. of Brooklyn is convinced that persistence is all that is needed to renew Militant subs. He obtained 4 renewals in an evening. One subscriber said that,

after reading The Militant for six months, he couldn't continue his Daily Worker subscription and dropped it.

Minneapolis rolled up a score of 117 Militants sold in the past week. "Last Sunday," writes Pauline, "a number of us went out and had very good results. Harry and C.K.J. sold 10 each; Pauline, 8; David and Larry, 5 each; and Julia, Ralph, and Prentice each sold 4. Prentice also turned in 3 six months subs to The Militant. This makes a total of 54 papers sold on Sunday."

"We made good use of the Militant containing the material on the railroad 'sickness,'" Pauline continues. "This issue was saved for the railroad workers and they saw that the paper got out to all interested railroad men."

The embittered feeling of the railroad workers toward the union-busting, "profit-before-lives" rail moguls was expressed in this incident: A Militant reader gave a copy of the Feb. 19 issue, containing Joseph Keller's expose on the Penn. railroad disaster to his brother, a New Jersey railroad worker. His brother took it to the job, and showed it to his foreman who promptly posted the paper on the bulletin board of the crew dispatch house for all the men to read.

## Local Addresses Of Socialist Workers Party

- AKRON—For information, write P. O. Box 1342.
- BOSTON—Workers Educational Center, 30 Stuart St. Open Tues., 5:30-9 P.M. Social Sat. of every month.
- BUFFALO—Militant Forum, 629 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. Phone Main 2-909.
- CHICAGO—166 W. Washington St., Rm 312-314. Phone Dearborn 2-4767.
- CLEVELAND—Croatian Home, 6314 St. Clair, every Sun., 9 P.M.
- DETROIT—3105 Linwood Ave. Open Mon. through Sat. 7:30 P.M. Phone TY 7-6207.
- FLINT—SWP, 1507 Oak Street. Phone 22496.
- LOS ANGELES—1702 East 4th St. Phone ANgelus 9-4655.
- MILWAUKEE—817 N. 3rd St., 3rd fl. Open Sun. through Fri., 7:30-9:30 P.M. Phone Hopkins 2-5337.
- MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St. Open daily except Sun. 10 A.M.-6 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 7781.
- NEW HAVEN—For information, write P.O. Box 409.
- NEWARK—423 Springfield Avenue.
- NEW YORK CITY—Ho.: 116 University Place. Phone: AL 5-7852.
- BROOKLYN—De Luxe Palace, 558 Howard Ave., near Love's Pitkin. Meeting every Thurs., 8 P.M.
- HARLEM—103 W. 110th St. Rm 23. Open discussion, every Thurs., 8 P.M.
- OAKLAND (Cal.)—For information write P.O. Box 1953, or call Templebar 2-3735.
- PHILADELPHIA—1322-05 W. Girard Ave. 2nd fl. Open every Fri. evening. Phone Stevenson 4-5820.
- PITTSBURGH—For information, write P. O. Box 321.
- ST. LOUIS—For information, Phone MO 7194.
- SAN FRANCISCO—1739 Fillmore Avenue, 4th fl. Open daily except Sun., 12-4:30 P.M. Phone FT 6-0410.
- SEATTLE—Marshall Bldg., 1st Ave., So. and Washington, Rm 201. Open Mon. through Sat. 12-3 P.M. Branch meeting every Thurs. 7:30 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 9278.
- TOLEDO—For information, write P.O. Box 1502.
- TOWNSHIP—234 E. Federal St. Call 3-1779.

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### What Sharpens the Class Struggle in U.S.

"While in Europe the concentration of property is taking place on the soil of ruin, in the United States the growth of concentration and the growth of class contradiction have reached their peak on the basis of feverish capitalist enrichment. The sharp fluctuations in the conjuncture, resulting from the general instability of the world market, impart to the class struggle on American soil an extremely intense and revolutionary character. The period of upswing unprecedented in the history of capitalism is bound to be followed by an extraordinary upswing of the revolutionary struggle."

— Leon Trotsky, Theses on the International Situation, 1921.



TROTSKY



LENIN

## This Is Only the Beginning

The break of the labor leadership with Truman's war mobilization agencies is an unprecedented demonstration by a union bureaucracy which has been the most conservative and politically servile in the world. And this is only the beginning.

This leadership has been characterized by its willingness to serve in Roosevelt's "kitchen cabinet" as a cover for Wall Street's World War II, by its surrender both in Roosevelt's and Truman's administrations of labor's political independence and by its role as policemen for the corporations against labor's militant action on the economic plane.

Yet, they have unilaterally executed a sweeping withdrawal from all governmental positions. Underlying this action is a growing resistance by the workers to the rapid lowering of their living standards.

These labor skates with the hearts of rabbits are beginning to roar like lions because they have no choice. They are not doing what they want to do but what they have to do.

### ONLY THE FIRST CHAPTER

The crisis between labor and the government comes before militarization is fully under way. The effects of a full-scale war economy have barely begun to be felt. What is going to happen when the full program unfolds, and the American workers find out that they have to foot the whole bill and take it out of their standard of living?

So far the workers have only read the first chapter in the big book being written for them by Truman-Wilson and Co. And even this first chapter doesn't read very good. It calls for a brazen wage freeze while prices are allowed to skyrocket without control, and profits zoom upward unhindered. The next chapters in the Big Business book provide for more of the same — and worse.

War mobilization by its very essence requires a drastic lowering of labor's living standards. Moreover, eventually the imperialist plans of the U.S. capitalists will necessitate an all-out attempt to destroy the unions. The military-police state they are planning has no room for independent unions.

For a war of world conquest, of incalculable duration, at astronomical cost, a strong labor movement is an intolerable obstacle. The capitalist class will try by all means at its command to break

that obstacle. To try is one thing — but to succeed is another.

The American capitalist class has seen thus far only the beginning of the workers' militant struggles in self-defense.

The gigantic power of American labor has merely stirred itself, and the result is a crisis that shakes the government. Further assaults against labor, which are already in the works, will bring even more determined resistance.

### LABOR WILL BE HEARD FROM

During World War II the American workers, led by the miners, conducted more than one fearless strike struggle against government strikebreaking. All attempts thus far to crush the mighty labor movement have miserably failed. Even the attempts by the union bureaucrats to housebreak the unions have not really succeeded. The recent series of unauthorized walkouts by the railroad workers clearly illustrates this fact.

The threats by the UAW-CIO Executive Board to strike against government encroachments upon their wage and contract gains come from the fierce determination of the auto workers not to give an inch of their hard-won ground.

It is to be expected that the labor leaders will make every attempt to patch up their broken coalition with Truman. But they are not free agents. The labor bureaucrats are caught in a mighty vise.

One jaw of that vise is the inability of American capitalism at this stage in its fight for survival to give important concessions to labor. On the contrary, their plans call for further regimentation of labor and impoverishment of the masses.

The other jaw of the vise is the untamed power of the organized labor movement which can and will fight with all its weapons against the capitalist-government offensive. Between these two jaws the labor leaders will be squeezed.

The crisis in Washington today gives just a preview of the political class battles of tomorrow. These battles will decide not only the course of American labor but the whole future of mankind.

In the course of these battles the American workers will learn that they cannot reconcile their needs with those of the capitalist system. They will join with the workers of the world and the colonial peoples in the fight against U.S. imperialism, and for socialism.

# Issues Behind Senate Hearings on Troops

By Tom Conlan

Last week's "public debate" before the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees over how many troops should be sent to Europe, whether their number should be limited in advance or remain "unlimited," and whether Truman personally has the authority to do so or must first obtain Congressional "consent" — all this has once again thrown into the limelight the crisis of American imperialism and the insoluble dilemma confronting it.

The emergence of revolutionary China and of the insurgent Asian peoples as a factor of the first rank in world affairs has altered the world relation of forces sharply to the disadvantage of American imperialism. Frightened and alarmed by the dimensions of retreats imposed by this development, the hard core of the American monopolists and the Prussian-minded chiefs in the Pentagon have decided that their only salvation lies in preparing an offensive through all-out war production and all-out war commitments, in this particular instance, in Western Europe.

This war drive is headed by Truman-Acheson-Marshall-Eisenhower, with the powerful backing of a section of the Republican Party in the persons of Gov. Dewey of N. Y., Warren of Calif., Duff of Penn., etc. plus the sinister McCarthyite-China-Lobby crew in Congress. They are for unlimited war preparations and military commitments, with no strings attached on Truman, actually, that is, on the decisions of the Big Brass. And they are now driving full-steam ahead. This, they brazenly pretend will "avert war."

"By fall we will be in all-out (war) production," declared Gen. Clay, who was the former Military Governor of Germany and is now chief assistant to C. E. Wilson, the dictatorial director of Defense Mobilization. "It will be

an armed truce for a long, long time and it will be costly, but it will be without war," added Clay.

As against this irrevocable course, there is a dissident section of the American capitalists whose spokesman is ex-President Hoover and who favor a more cautious and guarded re-arming, shying away from unlimited commitments on the mainland of Europe and Asia. They are opposed to what Hoover calls embarking on "Operation Land War in Europe," and to the current administration proposal of four more American divisions to Europe because — it "is not limited." "In fact," declared Hoover, "it is probably only the first installment of troops." Sen. Taft was a little more outspoken, implying in his statement that secret commitments for unlimited U.S. troops have already been made.

### FEAR REPERCUSSIONS

The pro-Hoover forces oppose this not alone because of what they estimate as a hopeless military situation on land but at bottom for domestic reasons. They fear the cost, the resulting strain on the masses and the inescapable repercussions. The thinking of these "neo-isolationists" has been rather succinctly summarized by the columnist Walter Lippmann, by no means a Hoover supporter.

The costs of the projected "military expansion," points out Lippmann "are startling even by our present budgetary standards." His own "guess" is that "the cost would be at least twice, probably nearer three times, the present military appropriations . . . (or) something near to half the national income." This is a flagrant underestimate. But here is the pay-off:

"It would require," says Lippmann, "the prolonged conscription of our young men and the levying of a terrible toll upon their education and their hopes. It would require an austerity of life by

our people which they have never approached in this century. It would require an iron regimentation of all their affairs and a harsh intolerance of dissent. No free nation, unless it were directly threatened by invasion, could or would long endure the burden of such a military establishment." These words require little comment.

### UNPOPULAR WAR

If any war was unpopular with the American people, it is the Korean "Operation Slaughter." There is no visible enthusiasm for rearmament, let alone the rearming of Germany, Japan, the embracing of a Franco, etc. On the contrary, in addition to the unmistakable mass anti-war sentiment, there is the equally unquestionable and mounting resistance by organized labor to what Lippmann politely calls "an austerity of life," or, the soaring living costs, the declining working standards, the shameless profiteering and all the other blessings which are accompanying the very first phases of rearmament.

In between the pro-Administration and the pro-Hoover opposition, there is a "bipartisan" group of political maneuverers, who are trying to straddle the differences, with more than one eye cocked on the presidency and the coming presidential campaign. This combination still largely unorganized is headed by Taft, who because of his strategic position in the Senate is now seeking to create a situation where he personally would wield the balance of power.

Neither Taft nor Wherry are opposed to sending the four divisions as a starter. What they want is to establish a ratio between U.S. units and those supplied by West-European capitalists. Senator Knowland, for example, wants six European divisions for every American division; Taft's ratio is 9 to 1. Taft also wants a Congress curb on the

administration. The administration, in turn, is holding out for a Senate resolution that will "support the dispatch of troops" without any limitations and with a facesaving formula that Truman shall "consult Congress" but "not necessarily in advance" of any troop commitments.

A heavy majority is reportedly already lined up behind such a "compromise." What the ruling circles fear is a long and bitter debate in Congress. This, as Gen. Clay said, would "be taking a risk I would not want to see taken in this emergency period." The "risk" Clay and the rest of

these war-mad imperialists are really afraid of is the intervention of the mass of the American people into all this "debating."

Neither in Congress nor its committees have the American people had any say whatever on the terrible burdens, sacrifices and tolls that are being imposed upon them, behind their backs and against their will. It is the people who should and must decide on all issues connected with peace and war, above all, on such questions as whether American youth should be sent abroad to die in Europe as they are now dying in Korea.

## The "Fix"

By Fred Hart

All this uproar about a gambling "fix" of New York collegiate basketball players is undermining established American institutions and free enterprise, I say. The editors and sports writers are putting it on thick about what shame and disgrace these young athletes have brought to the hallowed halls of "hire" learning. If they knew the inflammatory effect this sermonizing and deploring could have on the emotional masses, they'd shut up quick.

Up to now most people have sort of shrugged off headlines about New York cops taking a million dollar "fix" annually from the bookies' syndicate or what Governor Dewey did for former Lt. Governor Hanley when the latter agreed not to run for Dewey's job. But it seems the more the papers rave about the basketball "fix," the more they work up public sympathy for the boys involved.

You hear it said left and right, "What are they slaming these kids around for? What did they do that's so extra-special bad? There's a 'fix' going on every minute in the police department, in city hall, up in Albany and down in Washington. If these newspapers were so hot and bothered about 'fixes,' they wouldn't have enough paper to print about all of them every day. So why are they giving these kids the business?" Then someone else chimes in, "That's right. If it's so bad for these kids to take a 'fix,' then it must sure be a stinking mess all around with this 'fix' and that 'fix' and the other, and it's about time we did, something about this whole business of 'fixes' — especially those concerning the guys higher up."

So you can see what I'm driving at. You get people stirred up to attacking the "fix" in general — all and every "fix" — and one day you're going to get the biggest blow-up there's ever been. Maybe even revolution. Because where are they going to stop?

Right here in New York City, the cops are resigning and retiring wholesale because they have the privilege of leaving the force if they don't want to waive immunity in the grand jury investigation of the police and racketeer tie-ups. Just last week another 251 cops — including a flock of inspectors, captains and lieutenants — retired on their pensions and savings, while another 1,400 are expected to take the easy way out soon. They keep pushing this "fix" business and there won't be any cops left in New York. Who's going to protect property rights then?

Or take the New York City Fire Department. It comes out that theater owners who don't pay out a lump of "supper money" every month to fire inspectors would have their premises closed down for fire ordinance violations. It also comes out that a majority, if not all, of 27 firemen promoted to lieutenants last October had to pay an average of \$200 apiece to "somebody" to "fix" their promotions.

### County Prosecutors Sell Out

And it's not just the cops and firemen who are getting "fixed." New Jersey State CIO President Carl Holderman last week called for an investigation of "the corporate connections of all county prosecutors," naming a number who, he charged, "are simultaneously on the pay rolls of corporations involved in labor disputes." One of them, Bergen County's Deputy Attorney General Lloyd, heatedly claimed he represented the anti-labor Continental Paper Co. only in "collection matters and miscellaneous items," while Passaic County Prosecutor Collesser said he had the "right" to represent the Botany Mills and non-union Samuel Hird & Sons Co., where the CIO Textile Workers are on strike, in "civil matters."

In addition to "fixing" law enforcers, the corporations also fix law-breakers. Like the Ford Motor Co. which hired professional thugs and ex-convicts to "take care" of the union. Or like Briggs Mfg. Co. which took a loss on a scrap-hauling contract by giving it to professional gangsters for their services in brutally beating up CIO auto union militants.

The "fix" is going on all the time and everywhere — but especially in Washington, D. C. Of course, it isn't always done by the crude method of passing cash hand to hand. But when business men's organizations and the Big Business press suddenly stop squawking about "government economy," when the Congressmen vote themselves each an extra \$2,500 a year tax exempt "expense" account and vote the President a similar \$50,000 extra — that's a "fix," brother.

Most members of Congress and the judiciary, including the U.S. Supreme Court justices, are "fixed" in advance. The majority are corporation lawyers who lived off fat fees from the business interests and look forward to more of them after leaving their government posts.

Sometimes the "fix" involves more direct forms of graft and bribery. You take the Reconstruction Finance Corporation which has handed out more than two billions in "loans" to corporations. A Senate committee has dug up evidence of a "fix" of RFC officials for favors to certain corporations in obtaining millions of dollars from the U.S. treasury. The threads of this "fix" lead to persons connected with the White House. On the other hand, Truman is waging over Congress the threat of exposure of some 900 letters written to the RFC by Senators and Representatives "in behalf of companies seeking RFC money. You can smell the 'fix' here from coast to coast.

But RFC funds are peanuts and the "fix" involved is small pickings compared to the "fix" where the \$72 billion a year government war spending is concerned. Former corporation executives like Charles E. Wilson of General Electric have been put in complete command of the war mobilization program — including the issuance of war contracts — to see that their companies get a "fair share" of the blood-money awards. The division of the war profits spoils has been "fixed," if anything ever has.

If the government doesn't throw every last owner and officer of the wool companies into jail as traitors and confiscate their industries, you can bet it's because the "fix" is in. These companies have announced they "can't" take any more military contracts until the OPS grants them higher price ceilings. And the OPS has announced that the cotton-goods manufacturers are exempted from price controls on products produced, entirely for military use. Do you, too, smell the "fix"?

When Washington hands out billions of dollars to other governments to buy support for U.S. international policies, that's one of the biggest "fixes" of all time. And it's a "fix" when it tells India she will get wheat for her starving tens of millions only if she agrees to "vote right" in the UN.

Why, you can't even get into Heaven unless you "fix" the earthly "five percenters" of certain churches to use their "influence" with St. Peter.

So, like I said at the beginning, all this bemoaning and moralizing about some college boys taking a "fix" can stir up a lot of dangerous thoughts. Why, the "fix" is a national institution — even an international one. It goes all the way from the cop on the beat to Congress, the White House and the UN. In fact, you might say it's the grease that keeps the wheel from sticking. Take away the "fix" and the capitalist system couldn't budge. And besides, you start nabbing every one involved in some "fix" and all the best people — the Democratic and Republican politicians high and low, the forces of law and order from the country sheriffs to the G-men, the bankers, industrialists and landlords — would be in jail.

## New York Tenants Face 15% Rent-Boost Steal

By Milton Matthews

**NEW YORK** — On March 15 New York tenants, already staggering under the load of the runaway inflation in food and clothing prices, will receive the full impact of a 15 per cent rent raise. This became certain when the state legislature failed to veto by Feb. 15 rent administrator Joseph D. McGoldrick's rent-hike plan or pass a substitute bill.

In a state whose citizens continually breathe the foul air of graft, deals and fixes, this latest rent steal could easily get lost in the shuffle. It will not get lost because millions of workers in New York tenements will find the increase unbearable. What form their protest will take remains to be seen. The Lenox-Fifth Ave. Tenants Association, supported by the Harlem branch of the Socialist Workers Party, is preparing to organize a protest movement.

The story of the rent fix is ugly and sordid. In McGoldrick, the landlord lobby found an old pal who zealously guarded their interests as City Comptroller under LaGuardia. He successfully fought, in those days, attempts to raise the real estate tax levy, a prime factor in the 100 per cent transportation fare hike that the people have been shelling out the past two years. As rent administrator under Dewey he merely continued doing business for the same old crowd.

### DEWEY DUCKS ISSUE

Dewey himself, once again panting on the heels of political glory, adroitly maneuvered so that he would not have to sign the unpopular rent law or publicly associate himself with it, but he did not oppose it.

McGoldrick stated in 1950, when the state rent agency was set up, that his office would begin a long, impartial study of the rent and housing situation. Tenants went along primarily because of the inadequacy of the previous Federal rent control which had inaugurated a "fair net operating income" formula in April 1949 that resulted in widespread rent boosts averaging \$7.30 or 13 per cent.

In January of this year, McGoldrick, with a fanfare of publicity, released a 203-page document as the fruit of a year's survey. He knew, and the landlord association was aware, that few if any tenants would have time, patience or ability to obtain and digest this tome. Without permitting time to elapse for public study and discussion, the rent administrator immediately introduced his 15 per cent rent raise plan. It was based allegedly on the survey.

This was and is a bald lie. The survey showed: 1. 83.2 per cent of local landlords are doing so well, they could not qualify for increases under the most recent Federal formula. 2. New York City landlords showed an increased net income of 17.2 per cent over the wartime base period. 3. The state remains 250,000 dwelling units short of its minimum needs.

The McGoldrick plan, now a law, violates these facts by setting up seven points whereby virtually all landlords will be able to grab up to 15 per cent raises in any one year. Among these points are a "fair income formula" previously held unconstitutional based on assessed valuation of property; a "voluntary" agreement clause that will serve as a landlord weapon in conflicts over necessary services; and a point permitting increases according to the number of occupants, a blow against the poorest sections of the community.

The fact that the bill was passed indirectly in contradiction to established charter provisions presents an out, for the moment, for the liberal and labor fakers in the state. Instead of organizing tenants for widespread, effective action such as a state-wide rent strike and a mass tenant march on Albany, they place their hopes of beating the law on a court verdict of unconstitutionality.

Were the courts, packed with judges appointed by the Dewey or Tammany machines, to kill the Dewey maneuver, it would take simply an affirmative vote of the legislature to pass the bill. This is a foregone conclusion. Without organizing tenant resistance now, the struggle will be more difficult later.

## RFC CORRUPTION LINKED TO WHITE-HOUSE AIDES

(Continued from Page 1)  
 of "worthy" firms. In effect, he told the Senate: "You shut up about our 'fixes' and we'll shut up about yours."

Some of the facts brought out in the subcommittee's report and hearings are:

### FACTS ON GRAFT

1. RFC Director Willett personally assigned the examiner, Hubert Steele, in the case of the Central Iron & Steel Co., a subsidiary of Barium Steel Corporation. On Steele's recommendation Central Steel received RFC loans of \$6,300,000. A month later Steele moved into the law firm which represented Barium Steel at a \$15,000 a year salary, \$5,000 in advance. This is the law firm whose principal partner is Joseph H. Rosenbaum, the lawyer most frequently named as a "fixer" for RFC loan applicants in the Senate report.

2. Willett also admitted that he "departed from the usual procedure" in assigning personally the examiner in the case of the Harrington and Richardson Arms Co., which got a \$300,000 loan. The chief officer of this company is C. Edward Rowe. Rowe himself, on Willett's recommendation, was made a director of the RFC shortly after the loan for his firm went through.

3. Walter Dunham, the third RFC Director under fire, asked Kaiser-Frazier Corporation Vice-President Chad Calhoun to help put through Dunham's renoma-

tion, Calhoun testified. Kaiser-Frazier has received \$69 million in RFC loans. Edgar Kaiser, company head and son of Henry J. Kaiser, was asked what he thought of Dunham's request. Kaiser remarked that his company might need more loans in the future and then asked, "Do I have to answer that?" "You have answered it," Sen. Fulbright retorted. Calhoun also admitted he had been advised by another RFC client, Rex Jacobs, to see Democratic National Committee Chairman Boyle as the man to get better loan terms for Kaiser-Frazier.

### BIG HANDOUTS

4. Most testimony has revolved around E. Merl Young, former RFC examiner, who simultaneously secured an \$18,000 a year vice-presidency at the Lustron Corp. and a \$10,000 post with the Jacobs Co. shortly after these firms got big handouts of \$7 million and \$3 million respectively. They later folded up. Young's wife got a job as secretary with the then Senator Truman in 1940. Young secured his RFC job in 1945 when his wife became secretary to the personal secretary of President Truman. Young has also been linked to lawyer Rosenbaum, the big "fixer," Boyle and Donald S. Dawson, Truman's personal adviser, whose wife is the boss of the RFC files. She testified that the Congressmen's letters were turned over to the White House at Truman's orders.

## Confiscate Railroad Profits!

President Roy O. Hughes of the Order of Railway Conductors Feb. 22 demanded that the Government seize railroad profits. This proposal made before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee is both timely and just.

The criminal conspiracy between Truman, the Federal courts, the Army brass and the corporation heads against the underpaid and overworked railroad operating brotherhoods is a glaring example

of the role of the capitalist government as the agent of Big Business.

The "seizure" of the lines last August has served one purpose: it forces industrial slavery upon the railroad workers while the rail barons continue to operate the lines at a tremendous profit.

If the government is "for the people" why doesn't Truman do as Hughes asks? Why not expropriate the profits of the railroad companies and use the money to improve the welfare of the 300,000 operating rail workers?

The trouble with Hughes' demand is that he offers no way to achieve it. All workers will agree that the railroad corporations are not entitled to their huge profits. . . especially under government "seizure." But who believes that the Senate committee, made up of cynical corporation lawyers and Big Business flunkies will heed the workers' voice? Who believes that Truman, who has distinguished himself as U.S. strikebreaker number 1, will even listen to this demand?

Officers of great unions, such as the Order of Railway Conductors, pay only lip service to such justifiable proposals. To put them into action requires a militant political party of labor, which has as its aim a Workers and Farmers Government. Only such a government will end the alliance between the government and the profiteers, and function in the interests of the exploited majority of the people.

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# Ford Motor Co. Gangsters

By George Lavan

The Senate Crime Committee hearings in Detroit Feb. 8 and 9 not only revealed the use of thugs by the Briggs Manufacturing Co. to beat up unionists but also drew aside the curtain on the Ford Motor Co. and allowed the public to get a brief glimpse of this industrial giant's tie-up with the underworld.

The testimony of Harry Bennett, long Henry Ford's right hand man and head of the infamous "service" department made up of ex-fighters, ex-wrestlers and gangsters, was obviously perjured. No indication has been given that he will be prosecuted.

Bennett testified reluctantly. He tried to avoid the subpoena by claiming that sinus trouble and arthritis made a trip to Detroit from his California ranch dangerous to his health. The Senate Crime Committee sent impartial doctors to examine him. They said he could take the trip.

Preceding Bennett on the stand were Anthony J. D'Anna and Walter Hancock, former police chief of Ford's company town — River Rouge. D'Anna is a gangster with a police record including armed robbery, bootlegging and attempted bribery of a witness to a murder. In 1931 he made a deal with Ford. What he gave is not known. Probably thugs to kidnap, beat up and possibly murder unionists. What he got is known. He admitted that Harry Bennett forced the Wyandotte Ford dealer to take him in as a partner and also made him a half owner of the E and L Transportation Co. which has a contract for hauling new Fords from the plant to various parts of the country.

Although D'Anna and former police chief Hancock described how Bennett arranged for the meeting and concluded the deal in his office, Bennett denied it.

D'Anna, it is charged, is head of Detroit's Mafia gang. Outwardly he is a pillar of the community. In addition to his two profitable partnerships in Ford-connected businesses, he is a bank director, a leader in war bond drives and a big shot in Michigan's civilian defense set-up.

The measure of Bennett's brazenness was given in his statement that he had "never heard of Joe Adonis." Adonis is one of the most notorious racketeers in the East. Under his alias of Joe Doto he runs the Automotive Conveying Co., which was given the exclusive Ford contract for hauling new Fords from the Edgewater, N. J., assembly plant to adjoining states. For this work he is reported to have been paid at least three million dollars by Ford in 1932-40. He still holds the contract.

The N. Y. papers have described Adonis' crime business as extending from dope peddling and gambling to counterfeiting, waterfront hi-jacking, operating racket unions and loan shark agencies.

Bennett's staff at Ford's included men who had been convicted of almost every conceivable crime — rape and gross indecency, concealed weapons, forgery, embezzlement, burglary, robbery, violation of Drug Act, felonious assault, murder, manslaughter, etc. He was an intimate of big gangsters and mediated between disputing gangs. In order to facilitate his recruitment of thugs for union-busting he had himself appointed to the Michigan Prison Commission in 1935, from which post he personally arranged for the parole of prisoners who were willing to do his bidding, at the rate of five a week to the Ford Motor Co. Despite this common knowledge he feels so

sure of his Big Business protectors that he contemptuously told the Senate Committee that he had never even "heard of Joe Adonis."

Bennett tried to picture the paroling of gangsters to Ford as a benevolent work of reclaiming fallen men. Bennett's and Ford's lack of interest in the welfare of prisoners is indicated by the fact that Bennett's pal, Warden Jackson, was one of the most brutal wardens in Michigan prison history. When a prison reform was brought about in Michigan Warden Jackson was fired for using torture devices on prisoners. He was immediately hired by Bennett as head of the "Ford Sociology Department."

Senate investigators did not press Bennett on his relations with Joe (Legs) Laman, former run-runner and kidnapper paroled by federal authorities to Ford. Laman turned state's evidence in the kidnapping case of David Cass, a child whose body was subsequently found. Laman had been caught with some of the ransom money on him. He implicated his partners in 30 kidnaping cases.

Bennett had several systems of using gangsters. Some he hired and kept on the payroll as strong-arm men to beat up Ford workers. Others were given concessions — like the fruit concession for Ford employees' lunches, given to "Detroit's Al Capone," Chester LaMare. These were not only outright gifts of money — since the concessionaire subcontracted the work, but also provided a "respectable" cover for them while, on parole, they continued their underworld activities. Others owed favors to Ford and were subject to call for special jobs.

Ford public relations men try to give the impression that the days of the underworld working for Ford went out when Harry Bennett was fired in late 1945. Bennett's successor, John S. Bugas, is pictured as a clean-cut, ex-FBI man, who is just the opposite of everything Bennett stood for. It should be noted, however, that Bugas is no newcomer to Ford's. He was long a crony of Harry Bennett's. Bennett brought him into Ford employment as his own administrative assistant.

The Senate Crime Committee wanted to question Bugas about the multi-million dollar gambling racket in the auto plants. Gamblers appear to have a "concession" in the Ford plants and this might prove as embarrassing to Bugas as the fruit "concession" was to Bennett. Bugas told the Senate investigators that he would testify at the hearings. However when the hearings were held the company announced that Bugas was on his vacation in Florida. Furthermore, he was deep-sea fishing somewhere in the South Atlantic where it was physically impossible for anyone to serve a subpoena on him.

The Detroit hearings of the Senate Committee were the most successful and sensational of any held. Despite this, they were cut down from the announced three days to two days. No satisfactory reason has been given. It certainly was not for lack of evidence and testimony. The Detroit papers told how: "Investigators who had worked day and night to build the stack of information dejectedly passed on to new assignments. They had been prepared to show every aspect of the numbers racket in the Ford plant."

The question inevitably arises: Were the hearings cut short because of Big Business pressure? Was the committee getting too close to the answer to the murder attempts on the Reuthers?

# Basketball "Fix"

By Joan Farr

It seems to me, as a parent, that there is just about everything wrong with the "basketball fix" case in New York. This is the case in which players from City College and Long Island University are charged with accepting bribes from an underworld character named Sollazo so that the "fixer" could win his bets.

When our boys and girls are in school, they try to fulfill the expectations of their parents by doing reasonably well in their studies, being popular with their classmates, and if possible, being good at sports. Parents, on their part, feel a profound responsibility to smooth the way for their children to achieve these goals — although often the cruelest obstacles are put in their way, the most compelling of which is lack of money.

One of the strongest urges that young people of college age have is to be part of a group of their contemporaries. The greatest rewards come in a sense of mutual loyalty and trust in the interests of the team, the class, the school. This is the age when the warmest friendships and loyalties develop, because in this healthy striving to be part of one's own generation a big step is taken toward breaking away from dependence on parents, and toward maturity.

What a horrible distortion of all these healthy strivings of youth is revealed in the basketball case! The sense of accomplishment as part of something bigger than individual self-interest is replaced by a sell-out of the warmest and best satisfactions of youth.

James White, father of Sherman White, the young Negro all-American from LIU, broke down before reporters while describing his bewilderment. "It would have been different," he said, "if he'd been raised in the streets, but he had to go to college to learn something he was never taught at home." The trouble with parents like Mr. White, is that the system under which we live expects different things from our boys

and girls than we do. Sollazo, the "fixer," offered them money to throw the game. What he was expressing was the real philosophy of our society — that what's important is not the trust of classmates who believe in their heroes and think the games are honest. What's important is cashing in on some of the applause and output of energy. It would even be cowardly for a fellow not to take a chance to better himself. The games were held at Madison Square Garden and although District Attorney Hogan mentions sums of money in the hundreds that were taken in bribes, little is said about the thousands made by the promoters.

When asked why he took the bribe, Al Roth, 21 years old, of City College, told a N. Y. Post reporter, "Why did I do it? I did it because I wanted to be grown up. Sounds funny, doesn't it? I mean, I was sick and tired of asking my father for money all the time."

"Whenever I needed a suit or something I had to go to him. I wanted to be able to do things myself — you know, like a grown-up. My father worked hard. He has been driving a soda truck for the last 25 years and I knew he didn't have too much money to give me."

All of the boys were described by relatives as "good" boys. No, there was nothing wrong with the boys. What is wrong is the monstrous perversion that a sick capitalist society has imposed on helpless young lives which may now be doomed to a future of prison and disgrace. The only moral in this code is "Don't get caught!" The irony is that the boys only now realize that they are supposed to have done something wrong. Like Al Roth, they are innocent victims of a game where the rules are switched by the accident of a District Attorney's opportunism.

The real crime is the capitalist system itself — in which money is the major symbol of success — and in which youth learn from their environment to sell their ideals for a mess of pottage.

# Short Subjects

**FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM** — Charles E. Jackson, head of the National Committee for a Free Europe, recently outlined his formula for "victory." His three point program is: 1. "Money." 2. "No hold barred and no questions asked." 3. "Truth is not enough." Jackson stated, "In this war we need the support of all the cut-throat desperadoes we can get."

**MISSOURI KICK-BACK** — In connection with the RFC scandal, the N. Y. Daily Mirror in a Feb. 26 editorial observed, "While no one may go to jail, several obscure persons who exercise great power may go back to Missouri."

**DEMOCRACY IN TEXAS** — The University of Houston and the Houston Settlement Association have cancelled scheduled speeches by Dr. Bharata Kumarappa, India's delegate to the UN Social Commission.

The objection to the Indian delegate's speaking was caused by reports of speeches he had made in other Texas cities. He is reported to have said that "our chief enemy in the Far East is not communism but Western Imperialism." University President Kenemer indignantly stated that

Houston University would not provide a "sound-board" for Mr. Kumarappa's opinions. That is, once he had discovered that Mr. Kumarappa's opinions were not the kind he wanted his students to hear.

**HOUSING PROGRAM** — Sen. J. A. Freir, Delaware Democrat recently discussed the plans of the Defense Mobilization Board to provide housing in "defense" areas. It is making plans to loan billions of dollars to private construction companies to erect emergency housing. The Senator stated that private enterprise, recognizing the "grave national emergency" is willing to accept the responsibility "where the returns make it worth while."

**AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW** — In San Diego, California, Mrs. Sylura Barron, the first Negro woman delegate to a Democratic National Convention, has left the party. Mrs. Barron, who was a California delegate to the 1948 convention, said she was "all fed up with the way the party operates." She has changed her registration to non-partisan and is seeking election to the City Council.

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# THE MILITANT

## Congressmen Aid Detroit Gangster

An interesting sidelight on criminals and Congressmen came out at the Detroit hearings of the Senate Crime Committee, which exposed Big Business use of gangsters against unions.

Frank Cammarata, former Detroit gangster and gambling boss was sentenced to 15 years in the Michigan State Penitentiary for bank robbery in the mid '30s. Cammarata is an alien and was quickly paroled in order to permit his deportation. But he was never deported. Senator Capehart (Rep.) of Indiana and Representative Kirwan (Dem.) of Ohio got Congress to pass a special act staying Cammarata's deportation. This was despite the fact that Cammarata was wanted in Michigan.

Pete Licavoli, notorious gangster and Detroit's gambling king, who is Cammarata's brother-in-law, was long connected with Harry Bennett, the head of Ford's "service" department — the main instrument of repression and union-busting in the Ford factories. Licavoli admitted to the Senate Committee that he personally knew Senator Capehart, who in addition to being a senator is an industrialist.



AFL Sec.-Treas. George Meany, Pres. A. J. Hayes of Intl. Association of Machinists and Pres. Walter P. Reuther of the CIO United Auto Workers who were mentioned as leading candidates for post of labor aide to War Mobilizer Charles E. Wilson until wage-freeze and other anti-labor policies of Truman administration forced labor leaders to quit Wage Board.

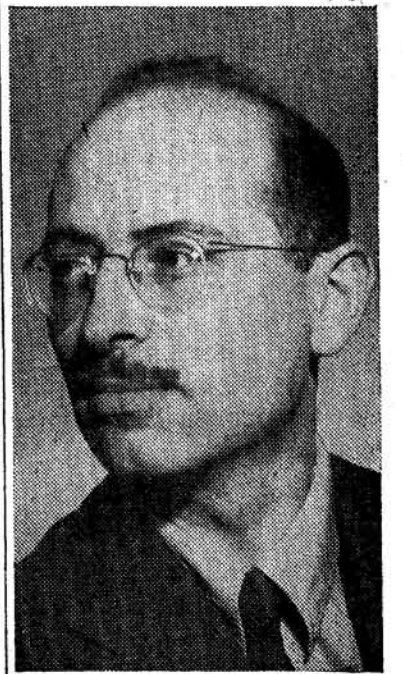
## Disappointed

# SWP Candidate For Legislature Files in N. J.

NEWARK, Feb. 26 — The American people must take independent action to make Truman and Congress obey their will and pull the troops out of Korea. This was the main issue stressed by George Breitman today, when petitions were filed to put him on the Essex County ballot as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for the New Jersey General Assembly in the November election.

"The Gallup Poll last month showed that two-thirds of the people favor withdrawal from Korea," Breitman said. "But the capitalist politicians in Washington don't seem to care what the people think — the only thing that convinces them is what the people do. They won't call off their imperialist adventure in Asia until they feel that their political necks are at stake. The sooner they are imbued with that feeling, the sooner they will comply with the people's demand."

The SWP candidate said he would campaign for the adoption by the New Jersey Legislature of a resolution calling upon Congress and Truman to bring the U.S. troops home from Asia.



GEORGE BREITMAN

"A number of Midwestern state legislatures have already done this," he pointed out. "Last month, for example, the North Dakota State Senate adopted a resolution addressed to Congress and the President, urging immediate action to withdraw all troops and military personnel from Korea." The people in every state in the Union should demand similar action by their legislatures — not after the next election but now, before additional tens of thousands of young lives are snuffed out."

Breitman warned that the capitalist politicians in most states would try to block the passage of such resolutions with every means at their disposal — and especially with the argument that most Americans support the government's policy in Korea.

## FOR A REFERENDUM ON WAR

"There is an easy enough way to settle the truth about this matter," he said. "The Socialist Workers Party has asked Congress to hold a national referendum in which the people as a whole will be able to express their sentiments. Our party is not alone in making such a request." As evidence, he cited a resolution which the City Council of Rockford, Ill., had adopted in January. By a vote of 17 to 3, the Council petitioned Congress "to respond to the public will and initiate and submit at once to the people of the United States an opportunity, through a national referendum, to register their opinion" on the decisive questions of foreign policy.

The Council also resolved that "in case Congress does not see fit, within the next 30 days, to

initiate this request for an early submission of this vital question to a national referendum, then the City Council of the city of Rockford shall submit the same to the voters of Rockford, and the City Council urges all other cities to initiate similar action so that the will of the people may be registered."

Commenting on this, Breitman said: "Thirty days have passed, and I don't know what the Rockford Council has done since then. But I do know that their proposal is an eminently fair, democratic and workable method of deciding what the people want done about the slaughter in Korea. I hope other communities will take the same stand. And I challenge the New Jersey Legislature to submit the question to the voters if they are afraid to vote on it themselves."

The SWP candidate expressed the conviction that the Korean war can be stopped if everyone opposed to it will speak up now and make his sentiments known. "A beginning has been made in this direction," he said, "but much more can be done, especially in the trade union movement. The silence of the union leaders on this central issue of the day is nothing less than criminal. Like the capitalist politicians, they should not be permitted to evade the question any longer."

"The future of this country, its living standards and its liberties depends on the active and militant intervention of the working people in the struggle against war. The aim of my campaign will be to help promote this intervention."

# Oakland SWP Enters City Council Election

OAKLAND, Calif., Feb. 26 — Filomena M. Goelman, the Socialist Workers Party's candidate for Councilman-at-Large here, today filed three times the required number of petitions to place her on the ballot.

A young clerk and factory worker, Filomena M. Goelman was the Socialist Workers Party candidate in the 1949 campaign, for the same office. Despite the fact that this was the first campaign that the party had ever run in Oakland, she received over 2,000 votes.

"Mrs. Goelman is a member of the Alameda County branch of the NAACP and a former member of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 1566 and United Automobile Workers Local 76.

In her first statement of the campaign, Filomena M. Goelman explained the major aspects of the program she will present to the Oakland voters in the Councilman elections.

"The issues which face the voters of Oakland all stem from the war, which today dominates every facet of our lives. My program will be based on my opposition to the present war.

"As a working class anti-war candidate, I am opposed not only to Wall Street's intervention in Korea, but also to its over-all strategy which is dragging the country into World War III.

"As a socialist, I fight for the building of a world of peace and plenty. I fight to replace the worn-out capitalist system which only breeds wars, depressions and misery for the peoples of the world.

"The end of World War II brought the closing of shipyards and factories. Hundreds of thousands were thrown out of work. A new depression was in the making. Only the preparations for a new war has halted this development, just as World War II brought a halt to the depression of the Thirties."

## JOBS FOR WAR

"This is the reality of the situation. Today, capitalism can

only supply jobs when preparing for war. Its only other alternative for the workers is the breadlines.

"But war preparations bring with them unbearably high prices, more taxes to pay; the cost of the war, as well as the fighting and suffering, is borne by the workers, while the corporations make the highest profits in history.

"Anticipating that opposition would develop around this course, the government began undermining the trade union movement. Truman answered the demands of the striking railroad workers by calling out the Army.

"The Taft-Hartley Law, the McCarran-Kilgore Bill, the growing interference of the government in the life of the unions, the 'anti-red' drive — all are steps toward the establishment of a police state to completely hamstring the labor movement and the Negro people in order to prevent any interference with Wall Street's program of world mastery.

LET PEOPLE VOTE!  
"The Oakland Branch of the Socialist Workers Party will go to the mass of people with the proposal 'Let the People Vote on Peace or War!' We will make clear why this capitalist government sets free millionaire Nazis in Germany while condemning seven Virginia Negroes to the electric chair. We will point out that the working people can resist the rising cost of living by fighting for a 'Rising Scale of Wages' in all industries. As against the present government which consists of capitalists, generals and corporation lawyers, we will counterpose a 'Workers and Farmers Government.'

"Many workers, housewives, youth and members of minority races, are searching for a way out of the present dead-end and for some road which will lead to a better life for the great mass of people. A vote for the SWP candidate is the only expression in the coming city elections of genuine protest against war, a police-state, jim crow and Wall Street's drive to slash the worker's living standards."



FILOMENA GOELMAN

# Rail Brotherhood Leaders Retreat

Since Truman's breaking of the "sick" report strike of rank and file switchmen early this month negotiations have brought no result save the weakening of the operating unions' leadership.

Though capitalist editors pretend to deplore the failure of any outcome to the negotiations in Washington, the railroad corporations are quite content that the present contract-less situation continue. The longer it takes to reach a settlement the more the corporations save. For each week the railroad companies stall off an agreement they save on each nickel of the demanded wage increase \$670,000 on the operating railroad workers and \$2,100,000 on the non-operating rail workers.

The union weapon to end stalling is the strike. But the railroad workers are forbidden by the government to strike. Truman has broken five rail strikes in less than five years, three since the beginning of his Korean "police action." The last two strikes have been unsanctioned walkouts by the rank and file who are heartily sick of the stalling on their two-year demand for the 40-hour week at no reduction in pay.

## TRUMAN'S COLONELS

The phoney army "seizure" of the railroads whereby seven railroad presidents, baptized "colonels" by Truman who commissioned them, no longer fools the rail

workers. Responding to pressure from the ranks President Hughes of the Railway Conductors asked the Senate to impound the "seized" railroad companies' profits until they settle the wage dispute.

Despite brave words, the line of action of the heads of the craft unions has been a steady retreat. This was first seen in the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen's plea of guilty to the contempt of court charges brought against it in the effort to break the recent "sick" walkout. Even the judge was flabbergasted by the BRT's sudden change of plea. Remarking on "this unique situation" — the first in memory where a union has entered a guilty plea to government by injunction — he, nevertheless fined the union \$75,000. The union leaders deliberately courted this fine — making the total \$100,000 — in order to frighten their rebellious rank and file. All future stirrings in the ranks for "sick" strikes will be met with charges that they will bust the union treasury and ruin the union.

Even more shameful was the desertion of BRT President Kennedy from the united front of the Big 4 operating brotherhoods. Kennedy immediately met with the National Mediation Board, one of the government agencies set up to frustrate the workers' just demands. So far the board and the railroad barons have refused to

come through with the inducements that led Kennedy to think that by deserting the operating unions he could get a better separate agreement.

This desertion of the BRT leadership will undoubtedly increase the already strong sentiment among the rail workers for consolidation of their unions to replace the antiquated craft division of their ranks.

A glimpse of government "impartiality" was given to Senators when BRT official Chase told senators that Truman's assistant, Steelman, had threatened them that Truman would "ram a settlement down our throats." Chase added, "I never thought I'd be in the position of being blackjacked in the East Wing of the White House, but that has been my experience."

Trying to play the non-operating unions off against the operat-

ing, the National Mediation Board turned its attention to the former. These allowed their wage demands to be cut from 25 cents an hour increase to 12½ plus an escalator clause. Still no agreement has been reached. The companies insist that the contract date be March 1, thus doing the unions out of a 3½ cent cost-of-living increase under the escalator clause for the period in which the negotiations have been on. Another barrier to an agreement is the company demand that there be a three year moratorium on changes in the outmoded working rules.

Despite any "settlement" based on the weakening of the union leaders there can be no doubt that the aroused railroad workers will keep pushing until they achieve their major demand of the 40-hour week with no reduction in take-home pay.

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