Workers of the World, Unite !

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XV - No. 14 | NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951 | PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Both Major Parties Riddled By Corruption, Probe Shows

U.S. Labor Must Cut Loose From Capitalist Parties

Powerful Auto Union Can Lead Way In Building Independent Labor Party

By Joseph Andrews

March 29 — The Cleveland convention of the CIO-United Automobile Workers April 1 — 5 is faced with the most crucial problems in the history of this powerful union representing 1,300,000 workers.

Workers everywhere look to the UAW delegates for leadership in the fight against what the United Labor Policy Committee has correctly called "the present Big Business rule of our government."

National CIO Secretary James B. Carey has characterized the Washington policies as "shameful gouging of the American people." The question is, how to stop it.

The leaders of the CIO, AFL and the independent unions have taken a great step forward in forging a unified front of labor. By withdrawing from all government agencies, by refusing to serve as "window dressing" for the Truman-Wilson policies, they have put labor in a position to fight.

LABOR PARTNERS?

But the ULPC has indicated that it wants to get back into these agencies, and proposes that labor be taken in as a "full partner."

Does any worker really believe that the industrial tycoons and the corrupt politicians in Washington will let labor sit at the table with them as "partners"?

Big Business never views labor as a partner; it conceives of workers as robots put on this earth for the sole purpose of creating profits for the coupon clippers. Truman and the political hatchet men for Big Business look upon workers as people they need only on election day. After that, in alliance with the billionaires, and the scum of the underworld, they show their colors.

THE REAL PARTNERSHIP

If the current labor crisis has proved anything it is that the real partnership is between the big corporations, and the Democrats and Republicans. The whole purpose of this partnership is to exploit labor and enrich the financial overlords.

What is needed is not "partnership," but the complete independence of labor, both on the economic field, and in politics.

On the economic front the workers have learned that independence pays off. Long term contracts entered into with the view of a long period of "industrial peace" wind up by tying labor's hands while the corporations carry on their relentless war against living standards and working conditions.

The experience of the United Mine Workers shows that by independent struggle the unions can make great gains. By "respectability" and dependence upon mediators and government intervention, the unions get only a run-around.

Everything labor has won from industry has been achieved by its own organized strength.

But in the past several years the industrialists have been able to take away the workers' gains

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Hansen Addresses W. Coast Forums In National Tour

Joseph Hansen, on a coast-to-coast tour sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, will speak on "America and the World Crisis" in San Francisco and Los Angeles after which he will travel eastwards.

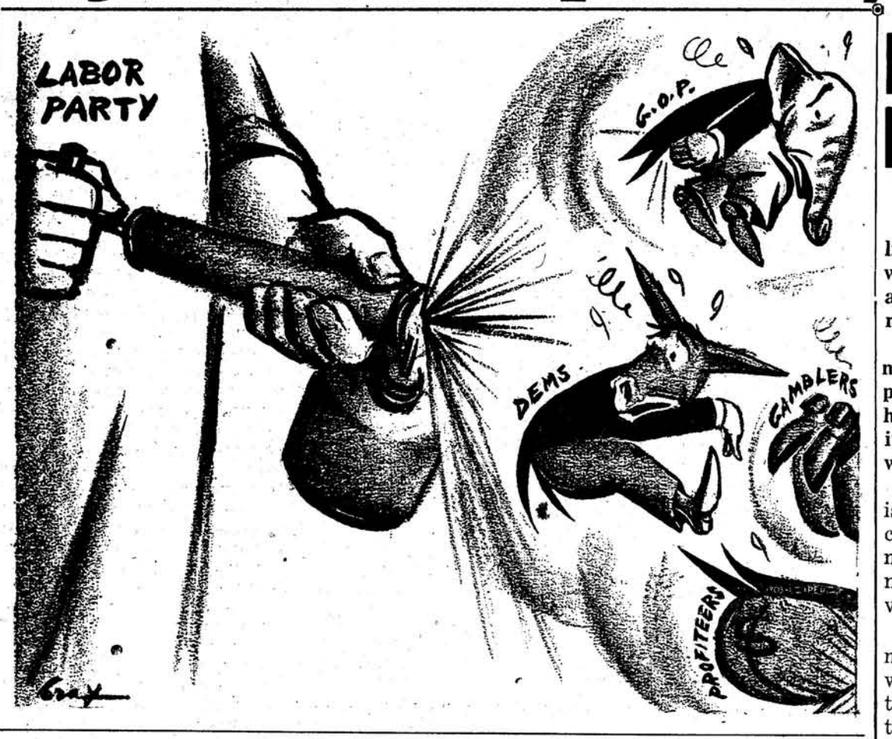
In every city where he has spoken thus far, Hansen, former SWP Senatorial candidate from New York, found sympathetic audiences of workers and students eager to find answers to the pressing world problems confronting the people.

Hansen has spoken at forums organized by the SWP, before church groups, and on the campuses of several universities. In Minneapolis he debated a state senator at a meeting at the University of Minnesota.

Comrade Hansen, former secretary to the late Leon Trotsky, is the author of several pamphlets including "The Socialist Workers Party — What It Is and What It Stands For," and is a regular contributor to **The Militant, and The Fourth International,** monthly Marxist theoretical magazine.

Upon his return East, Hansen will address a May Day meeting sponsored by the New York branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

The schedule of Hansen's meetings on his national tour is printed on page 2 of this issue.



Kefauver Hearings Bare Links With Underworld

By Art Preis

The Senate crime probe, headed by Senator Kefauver, has shown that the political and economic fabric of American capitalism is woven through and through with corruption and gangsterism. The line between capitalist politician and professional criminal, between "legitimate" Big Business and "legitimate" racketeering has almost vanished.

For the informed person, the Kefauver hearings brought out little that was not known about the tie-up between organized crime, the Democratic and Republican political machines and the anti-labor industrial monopolies. Nevertheless, the probe has been of immense value in dramatizing this alliance, focusing public attention upon it and bringing together many of the separate details to form a clearer picture of the whole.

Even in its bare outlines and with much still to be sketched in, this picture is more hideous than the American people could possibly have imagined. It shows this country's capitalist government from the White House down, its two major Big Business-controlled political parties and its industrial and financial overlords meshed with national gambling and vice syndicates in a vast net-work of conspiracy, corruption, violence and murder to rob and despoil the American people.

To be sure, the Kefauver committee's investigations, although in progress for many months, barely scratched the surface of politically-protected organized crime, whose gambling "take" alone has been estimated as high as $20 billion annually. But the committee brought to light enough testimony and evidence to establish as a matter of record that:

1. There is scarcely a city or state government in the United States, regardless of the party in control, that is not directly linked with the criminal elements and whose officials are not protecting underworld activities in return for huge sums in "protection money" and political campaign contributions; and

2. **Leading industrial corporations have been spending millions for the hire of professional gangsters to terrorize unions and break strikes.**

Both these aspects of crime were highlighted in the New York hearings which, through a happy combination of a tremendous television audience, a parade of the biggest and best-known crime syndicate leaders and the presence by request of Truman's Ambassador to Mexico, former Mayor William O'Dwyer, climaxed a nation-wide series of similar though less-publicized hearings.

TRUMAN'S AMBASSADOR

By now, the whole country knows that the man Truman appointed as ambassador to Mexico was on intimate terms with crime leaders like Frank Costello and Joe Adonis and that he stands accused, in sworn testimony, of having extracted a $10,000 bribe from an official of the Uniformed Firemen's Association to discontinue his opposition to certain just demands of the firemen.

O'Dwyer, it is also well known, resigned just ahead of an explosive scandal involving his police department in providing "protection" of big gambling interests for pay-offs estimated at more than $20 million a year. **Truman, never one to leave a loyal henchman in the lurch, hastily rushed O'Dwyer south of the border disguised as a diplomat.**

In the hearings, the Republican machine came out no cleaner than the Democrat. It was revealed that so-called "gang-buster" Governor Dewey, three-times choice of the GOP as its candidate for U.S. President, ducked an invitation to testify at the Kefauver hearings on the grounds of "illness." The Senate committee wanted to get Dewey's "views" on admissions by New York state police officials that they had knowingly permitted the operation of gambling casinos — in which Costello, Adonis and other racketeers had interests — at Saratoga Springs, one of the biggest resorts of gambling and vice in the country and controlled by the Republicans. A top state police official confessed that a report, giving full details of the operations of the resort, had been prepared on Dewey's orders in 1947, but that it was buried and has since been mysteriously "lost."

In a preliminary report covering testimony of 500 witnesses, the committee had previously disclosed that the New York pattern of politically-supported crime, criminally-financed politics and

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The Trenton Six Trial -- A Day in the Court

By George Lavan

TRENTON, Mar. 28 — Today's session of the trial of the framed-up Trenton Six begins at 10:00 A.M. but by 9:15 people are waiting around to gain admission. As soon as the court room is opened the seats are rapidly taken and the overflow must wait on benches outside until someone leaves and a seat is thereby emptied.

The crowd is about 80 percent Negro, evenly divided as to sex. What strikes the observer is the preponderance of young people. These Negro men and women below the age of thirty follow the courtroom proceedings intensely and from snatches of their conversation overheard during recesses, are as familiar with all the details of the case as the lawyers.

The uniformed courtroom attendants male and female, are also very tense and officious. There are more than enough for the limited audience capacity — slightly over 100 — of the courtroom. Yesterday there was a disturbance.

The defense lawyers were demanding that one of the police detectives, involved in extracting the forced confessions from the accused while they were being held incommunicado, be put on the witness stand. The prosecution claimed that detective Stanley was unable to testify because of sickness. Defense lawyer George Pellettieri then declared: **"If Stanley is not produced, I will say to my dying day that these boys have not had a fair trial." At that moment a woman's voice resounded through the courtroom: "Glory be to God. Those boys are not guilty!" As the attendants hustled the protesting woman out of court, sobbing started in the audience and the judge hastily declared a recess.**

Guards bring in the Trenton Six and they are seated in alphabetical order in a row of chairs at the back of the enclosure separating the audience from the court proper. Dressed neatly in civilian clothes, they sit impassively following every word of the testimony. Rarely do they even talk with one another. It must seem to them that they have been on trial or in prison all their lives. Picked up at random by police who needed six Negro victims for a hold-up murder allegedly committed by Negroes, they have been imprisoned since early February 1948. Their first trial lasted 44 days. A higher court declared the first trial unjust and ordered a second. This, the second, has now been on for 24 days.

Before the Trenton Six sit their battery of lawyers — both Negro and white. These lawyers, supplied by the NAACP and the Princeton Committee for the Trenton Six, include such well-known figures as Arthur Garfield Hays, veteran defender of civil liberties.

When the judge has heard all the testimony and arguments on the admissibility of the forced confessions he will make his ruling and the jury, which has been temporarily out of the box, will be called back.

Today's witnesses are three policemen who participated in the four days and five nights of grilling that produced the "confessions" of the exhausted and terrified prisoners.

These police witnesses all tell the same story, even using the same words and phrases. Accord-

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HOW IT BEGAN -- REPORT FROM BARCELONA

(Following is an eyewitness account of the mass protest against increased streetcar fares leading up to the Barcelona General Strike, reprinted from La Verite, French Trotskyist Weekly — Ed.)

According to the official expression "a temporary solution" has been adopted by the so-called "street railway council" — namely the reestablishment of the old fares. The Franco authorities have capitulated completely to a people which has manifested in the course of the last days the greatest opposition to the regime since Franco reduced Spain to slavery.

It may seem exaggerated to thus qualify an action which at first sight is only an action against a particular enterprise which charged too high prices. But the scope taken by the events and their violence justify my statement.

How did it begin? In the simplest fashion: By small groups of students shouting openly in the street against the streetcars. It was not the first time. The streetcars have always been the favorite target of the anger of the students, a fact which always made people smile. It was twilight on Friday, Feb. 23.

The following day, at an early hour, the students continued their activities. They unhooked the trolleys and traffic was continually bottled up. Groups became more numerous and the mounted police launched their first charges on the University Place, but only increased the excitement.

It wasn't long before stones started to fly and the fight was on. The afternoon of Feb. 24 remained imprinted in the memory of the Barcelonians as something not seen very often. One after the other, streetcars were broken as the crowd whistled, shouted and jested. It was no longer just the students who shouted. An immense crowd ranged the sides of the streets where the streetcars passed. The people of Barcelona poured into the streets, and by

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GERMAN REVOLUTIONISTS LAUNCH NEW PARTY

The Independent Workers Party of Germany held its founding convention March 24 and 25 in Worms, marking a new stage in the development of this new revolutionary organization which originated in a group of leaders who were expelled by the Stalinists.

The Stalinists attempted to break up the convention by means of a violent attack on the delegates, but were completely unsuccessful. Only about 15 or 20 Stalinist hoodlums were rallied against the new party convention; attempts to arouse workers in support of the Stalinist attack fell flat.

The new party publishes a newspaper, **Freie Tribune,** which reports that the anti-Stalinist, anti-imperialist program of the organization is gathering growing support, from the dissident elements in the German Communist Party, and from the young workers in the factories and mines.

OPPOSES STALINISTS AND REFORMISTS

On July 23, 1950, leading members of the German CP who were expelled for criticizing Stalin's policies, formed a provisional committee for the founding of an Independent Workers Party of Germany. At the first conference of the group a resolution was adopted which stated, **"The German CP does not carry on a policy of struggle against the oppression of the working class, but is in the service of the interests of the foreign policy of the USSR.**

"The Social Democracy," the resolution stated, "continues its role of 'physician for dying capitalism.'" Thus, the new organization is independent of both the Stalinists and the social-patriotic reformists.

J. P. Cannon Greets New German Party

We heartily greet the founding convention of the UAP as one of the most important signs of the revolutionary revival of the great German proletariat which is destined to play such a decisive role in the socialist reconstruction of Europe and the whole world. We hope your congress will firmly dedicate itself to the traditions of Liebknecht and Luxemburg and the Comintern of Lenin and Trotsky. The German working class, freed from the treacherous influence of Social Democracy and Stalinism, and led by a truly revolutionary party, will be invincible in its own struggle and the greatest aid and inspiration to the revolutionary workers and colonial peoples throughout the world.

James P. Cannon
National Secretary
Socialist Workers Party

Prior to the convention the group had adopted a militant program aimed at rallying the German working class in a fight against both the German capitalists and the imperialists who prop up the Krupps and other industrialists.

The new party opposes the remilitarization of Germany, and demands a referendum on the question of German rearmament.

MacArthur Presses for All-Out Asia War

By Tom Conlan

Gen. MacArthur, whose dream is to conquer all of Asia, renewed last week his unceasing efforts to extend the war in Korea to the Chinese mainland and thereby plunge this country and the whole world into World War III. His public statement of Mar. 24 is the most ominous in this connection to date.

Like MacArthur, the capitalist press here has tried to palm off his statement as an "offer" to discuss "a truce" with Peiping's military commander in the field. Actually, this was no "truce offer" at all, but an arrogant demand for surrender, emphasizing the alleged military and economic weaknesses of the opposing armies in Korea.

ARROGANT DEMAND

Coupled with this is MacArthur's equally arrogant demand to unleash assaults on China's "coastal areas and interior bases," and thereby "doom Red China," allegedly bringing about its "imminent military collapse."

On top of this, MacArthur used the occasion to flatly reject any discussion with Peiping of either Formosa or a seat in the UN. These he announced were purely "extraneous matters." Here we have still another instance of how MacArthur openly flouts the declared policy of the UN, under whose jurisdiction he is presumably acting. Back in January this "world body" had pledged that both these issues would be discussed once a "cease-fire" had been arranged in Korea.

The State Department and the Pentagon are reportedly at odds with MacArthur for his latest moves. But this adds rather than detracts from the sinister character of MacArthur's repeated maneuvers to extend the war.

Only two weeks ago, this "Caesar of the Pacific" used an entirely different line to promote the self-same ends. On Mar. 7 he proclaimed that a "stalemate" threatened in Korea, unless hostilities were extended; he warned against any "illusions" that the Chinese and North Korean forces could be defeated by the U.S. forces under the "existing limitations upon our freedom of counter-offensive action." In other words, he used the threat of possible defeat as a cover for his war policy.

Suddenly, there is a complete about-face. Now MacArthur assumes the pose of a general who had scored decisive victories. The deception is so hollow that even the conservative columnist Walter Lippman pauses to ask why **"Gen. MacArthur would be willing to stop the fighting in the middle of Korea if the Chinese would confess that they have been decisively defeated," and "why, if the Chinese are that thoroughly beaten it is Gen. MacArthur and not the Chinese general who comes forward with a proposal to stop the fighting near the 38th parallel."**

A far more important question is why does MacArthur, who is no fool, lie so openly and deliberately? The answer can only be that he and his associates are seeking at all costs to prevent a peaceful solution of Korea and are acting more and more recklessly.

The State Department is reportedly preparing to disclose "its major war aims in Korea" through a joint statement, with the 13 "allied nations" with troops in the field, "designed to contribute to a peaceful settlement." Simultaneously, the pressure has been steadily increasing in this country to use the troops of Chiang Kai-shek for mainland assaults against Peiping.

Last week the **Herald Tribune,** leading Republican daily in New York City, featured a series of articles by Gen. Claire Chennault, notorious agent of Chiang and of the China Lobby. Chennault's keynote is that "our free world may be lost" unless Chiang is permitted to attack, and is furnished by the U.S. with "only arms, ammunition and experts." This is but a small part of the coast-to-coast propaganda campaign now being conducted.

While MacArthur is swashbuckling in Tokyo, Defense Secretary Marshall in Washington issued on Mar. 27 a "warning" to the effect that the international war crisis is graver today than it was last November. Marshall's choice of that particular date for comparison is quite noteworthy. It was the ill-fated period of MacArthur's notorious "home-by-Christmas" offensive and the ensuing disaster at the Korean-Manchurian border. Marshall and MacArthur, each in his own way, are both seeking to stampede the American people into further military adventures; the first, in Europe; the second in the Far East.

ASSAILED IN EUROPE

The British and French press of all shades of opinion has bitterly assailed MacArthur's latest declaration. The Tory London **Times** complained that by his action "the General Assembly (of the UN) becomes embarrassed, resentful or merely incredulous." The Laborite **Daily Herald** charged that he may deliberately have wrecked "a plan for a new approach to Communist China."

The State Department and the Pentagon, it is reported, want curbs placed on MacArthur. Curbs are needed — not alone on MacArthur but on all the militarists and their political co-plotters, from Truman down. And the best of these curbs is for the American people to decide themselves in a national referendum to put a halt to the "police-action" in Korea. Bring the U.S. troops back home!

Upheaval in Franco's Spain

By Joseph Keller

The March 12 Barcelona general strike was of greater scope and shook Franco's fascist regime more violently than most press reports have indicated. This is revealed in the March 24 and 26 N. Y. Times by Sam Pope Brewer, who has supplied virtually the only detailed information on the Barcelona events to appear in the U.S. daily papers.

Except for the privileged readers of the **Times**, most Americans have been kept in the dark about the real magnitude and significance of the struggle in Spain that two weeks ago burst into the open with such explosive power.

500,000 ON STRIKE

In his latest dispatches, from Madrid, Brewer reveals that twice as many were on strike as had been previously reported. "The number of workers involved was originally reported as 250,000," Brewer writes, "but on the basis of later information the number probably was more than 500,000."

In earlier reports, Brewer wrote that the strike, planned as a one-day protest against high prices and starvation wages, had spread to at least four other industrial cities in Catalonia province. Thousands remained out several days in defiance of ferocious threats and a huge display of armed forces by Franco.

Government spokesmen attributed the revolt to "Communist agitators," but Brewer observes that if this were so, "one would have to believe that at least two-thirds of the people of Barcelona were Communist."

POVERTY OF MASSES

The Barcelona outbreak was not an isolated or sporadic incident, Brewer indicates, but is rooted deeply in general economic conditions that have reduced not only the Spanish workers and peasants but a large part of the middle class to wretched poverty.

"Prices are rising so much faster than wages that the Spanish worker now has less than half the buying power he had before the civil war 15 years ago and still he can see that for those who have enough money everything is available in Spain. The strike showed that economic distress had reached the point at which its victims were willing to risk punishment rather than go on as they had been."

The Barcelona strike is not being lightly viewed by Franco. "It was such a shock to Generalissimo Francisco Franco's regime that worried consultations are still going on," says Brewer. "There is no doubt that the leaders of the Spanish government had a serious scare last week."

CAN STILL PROTEST

In fact, "their problem at this moment is how to remedy conditions in the country before the general indignation over high prices and food shortage becomes critical enough so that all over the country there will be some kind of protest." For the Barcelona strike "showed not only the people of Barcelona but the whole populace of Spain that they still could make a public protest without disastrous results provided they were orderly and everybody joined in."

Brewer states that "the Spanish regime is trying to remedy conditions," but "without interfering with the position of a privileged few in a very poor country." In short, Franco is forced to make promises and some superficial concessions, but he will not curb those who form class foundations of his regime — the big industrialists and landowners, the enormously rich and venal Catholic hierarchy and the professional military caste in whose interests Spanish fascism seized power by slaughtering two million Spanish workers and peasants.

Thus, Brewer concludes, "some further clash can be expected because the fundamental causes still exist."

Brewer, however, tries to show that the struggle initiated by the Barcelona workers is not aimed at a social overturn and does not threaten capitalist property relations and capitalist class rule. He emphasizes a number of times that the outbreak was not "Communist."

He claims "there was no class struggle about it" because "all sections of the population obviously approved it (the strike) . . . there was no effort to attack the police or disrupt the public services," . . . "Barcelona has a reputation for violence, but the demonstration was remarkably quiet," and "every class, including the factory owners, sympathized with it."

This testifies, of course, not to the fact that "there was no class struggle," but that the turnout of the workers was so overwhelming and the popular support for their action so great that the factory owners did not dare to oppose the strike openly.

Loss of confidence, dissension and conflict within a ruling class is a major element in every revolutionary situation. Brewer's reports disclose that important elements of the Spanish capitalist class no longer have confidence in Franco or his power to control the masses. No doubt some are trying to get out from under the Franco regime before it falls on their own heads. They are seeking, very likely, a means to replace Franco and by that gesture to avert social revolution.

Brewer's attempt to minimize the extent of violence in Barcelona is belied by his own earlier dispatches, that told of clashes between demonstrators and police in which five workers were killed, wrecking of black market food stalls, stoning of public buildings, burning of officials' cars and attempts to set fire to the city hall.

This violence did not assume a greater scope because the regime did not dare this time to rely exclusively on force and made gestures of appeasement, while the workers themselves regarded this struggle only as a first test of strength and proceeded cautiously. Nevertheless, they appear to have resisted the armed attacks of the local fascist police very militantly and retreated only in the face of 13,000 special troops and police sent from other parts of the country.

CANNOT STOP STRUGGLE

What the Barcelona events prove above all else is that fascism may for a time curb and suppress the open class struggle, but it cannot eliminate it. Fascism, the most brutal form of capitalist political rule, cannot overrule the contradictions inherent in the capitalist system. It speeds up, in many respects, the economic ruination, especially among the lower middle class which forms the greater part of fascism's mass base. When the dispossessed lower middle class, disillusioned with fascism, turns against it, that is the moment when the workers' hour strikes. The class struggle breaks through in the end and assumes a more explosive character.

The most significant fact in the Barcelona events is not that some employers hypocritically pretended to support the strike, nor that there was less violence than might have been expected, but that the working class through a gigantic strike took the leadership of all other suffering sectors of the population in a great struggle that marks the first stage of the renewal of the Spanish proletarian revolution.

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FRANCO

The New York locals of the Socialist Workers Party and the Independent Socialist League have issued a call for a united anti-fascist demonstration in front of the Spanish Consulate on Saturday, **April 7, at 12 noon.** The action is organized in support of the Spanish workers in their renewed struggle against the Franco regime. The demonstrators will also demand an immediate end of the American Government's military and financial aid to Franco.

All anti-fascist organizations and individuals are urged to participate in the demonstration. The Spanish consulate is located at Madison Ave. and 53rd street.

Wall Street investment banker Stanton Griffis, new U.S. ambassador to Spain, bows as he shakes the hand of fascist butcher Franco at their "extremely cordial" recent meeting.

How Barcelona Struggle Began

(Continued from Page 1)

the side of the gabardines of the students one observed the blue overalls of the workers. Men and women of all ages joined the tumult.

Leaflets began to circulate, some written by hand, others turned out on machines. They all demanded a boycott of the Streetcar Company. The theme was "A single Spain, but with equality for all." The date of the boycott was fixed for March 1, day of the "angel of the Guard," patron saint of the armed police.

From March 23 on, the days that preceded what the Civil Governor himself called a "consumers strike" were filled with feverishness. During the daytime the students gaily pursued their work of disturbance, constantly running away from the police who hunted them with unprecedented brutality. For the first time in twelve years the grounds of the Industrial School were invaded by the public authorities. The Faculty of Medicine was also crowded with grey uniformed guards.

The first aid stations in the center of the city were insufficient to help the wounded. The police suffered losses; many guards were wounded by stones. At the Clinical Hospital (Annex of the Faculty of Medicine) one seriously hurt guard was refused admittance on the grounds that the "students came first, and there was already too much to do."

Arrests were in the hundreds; the local police stations were quickly filled and those arrested were brought directly to prison.

At nightfall the excitement reached its peak when the huge throng of workers left their workshops, factories, and offices. Spontaneously the demonstrators paraded in the center of the city as well as in the neighborhoods, openly insulting the police and loudly demanding the immediate reduction of fares.

THE GREAT TEST

At last came the 1st of March, the date which the people had themselves fixed for the great test. From the early hours of the morning on, it was clear that complete success had crowned the preparations. The workers went joyously to their factories, singing, and exchanging understanding smiles and winks. Each one was proud of himself and of the unknown person ahead.

As the hours passed, one could appreciate more and more the fullness of the reawakening of the popular will. The streetcars rode by completely empty. Their only passengers were a pair of civil guards protecting each vehicle. The cars rolled slowly along, amid a throng which was going about its business, as if they were inviting the crowd to jump in. But nobody jumped in, and the trainmen kept company with the drivers on the platform in front. Even the employes of the streetcar system, who have free transportation, went home on foot after work.

During the first day, new events followed one after the other at a dizzy pace. The mayor resigned. At the Remblas, the women of the Boqueria market attempted to lynch a man and a woman who had stepped off a streetcar. They were saved by the public authorities after a bloody struggle. Both were severely wounded. Police reinforcements arrived from Madrid and Valencia. The students threatened the newspapers with punishment if they persisted in ignoring the events, and they accused the press of "criminal complicity with the governor."

Troubles increased at the end of the workday. Collisions between the police and the population continued. In Valencia Street the first victims fell, wounded by bullets: a woman and a five year old child, who died the next day.

At last the press was permitted to speak of the events; articles asking for order and moderation appeared in all the newspapers. The declarations of the civil governor, Dr. Eduardo Baeza Alegria, in the same vein, provoked great indignation, because the support he had always given the Streetcar Company was well known. He became the target for all sort of attacks; his relations with the popular actress Carmen del Lirio, had become an inexhaustible source of jokes. One night, a great number of students went to the theatre where she performs and in great shouts called her among other things "the lady governor," to the great delight of the public.

The official bodies of the city mobilized their forces and held one conference after another. Today, at the end of the fifth day of the total boycott, at 1:00 PM they restored the old fare of 50 centimes. In the late afternoon the streetcars started carrying passengers.

A COMPLETE VICTORY

In this struggle waged in defense of their legitimate interests, the people of Barcelona won a complete victory all along the line. But more important than this victory is the improved morale and spirit of resistance these events have created among the population that had been beaten down and humiliated. The mass of people have gained conviction in this struggle that they still possess the strength to raise their heads proudly and at a favorable moment to get rid of the yoke oppressing them for so many years.

FRENCH PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS WIN CONCESSIONS IN UNITED STRIKE

By Charles Hanley

The Public Service workers of France compelled union leaders of the Stalinist CGT, the reformist CGT-FO, the Catholic CFTC to struggle for a wage increase by united action after their situation got worse at the beginning of 1951, following several new price increases. (10 percent for coal, 30 percent for electricity, etc.) A monthly minimum wage of 16,400 francs ($47.56) has been fixed in August 1950; but in the last five or six months the cost of living increased at least 12.5 percent, without any new wage rise being granted by the government.

A 24-hour subway and bus strike in Paris, one month ago, warned the administration that the workers were willing to overcome trade union disunity (which had caused the failure of another subway strike, in March 1950) and preparing for a big attack. In fact, the government had hoped the 1951 subway strike — an important test of strength — would be sabotaged by Clement, leader of the "autonomous" (pro-Gaullist) subway conductors union. Clement did his best, yet the conductors understood the necessity of united action, and at the subway station "Nation," a democratically elected strike committee was launched by workers belonging to all the organizations involved, showing the way to real workingclass unity.

The big transport strike began shortly afterwards with a walkout of Paris transport workers (March 15). On March 22 it spread to the railroads. According to the Paris bureau of the **N. Y. Herald Tribune**, 300,000 out of 420,000 railway employees failed to report for work. The rail strike spontaneously started with minor actions; then the reformist "Force Ouvrière" unions (CGT-FO) and, a few hours later, the CFTC officially called out their members. Many CGT workers had already joined the movement. Eighty percent of France's railroads were tied up.

In the Renault automobile works, the Michelin tire plants, several metallurgical factories, the insurance companies and the coal mines, the movement seems to have been stopped by salary settlements, while the important strike of gas and electricity workers continued.

DRAFT STRIKERS

The government tried to break the strikes by drafting gas and rail workers and by intimidation, directing army and police personnel on holiday or extended leave to return to their posts or report for duty to the nearest headquarters.

The cabinet knew it would have to negotiate with the unions, the more so as the official Collective Contracts Commission (in which employers, workers and the government are represented) confirmed that the cost of living had risen high enough to justify a wage increase. Thus the government had to agree (on March 23) to a "new floor for wages which means a 15 percent increase for low-salaried workers in the provinces and 11.5 percent in the Paris region. Rail workers are to benefit by the new rates." (AP, March 25.)

Having won this improved minimum by united action, rail, gas and electricity workers voted to return to work (March 25). "The capital's subway and bus employees remained on strike, after ten days . . . but union representatives reopened negotiations with the management of the government-owned Paris transport services." (AP, March 25.)

STRENGTH IN UNITY

United action is the best guarantee for victory. French unionists more and more urge their leaders to make a united front of labor possible. The most advanced among them who launched a new unity movement in June 1950, have held their first national conference in Paris, on Feb. 25, 1951: 250 trade unionists, belonging to the CGT, the CGT-FO, the CFTC, the autonomous unions, as well as Trotskyist union militants expelled from the Stalinist CGT because they advocated a militant unity program, all promised to sponsor democratically elected united action committees in factories, mines and offices. For the first time in several years, representatives of different tendencies were able to express themselves freely in a common assembly of French unionists.

The unity movement and the big March strikes are apt to give new hope to many workers whom the trade union split of 1947 and the subsequent guerilla warfare between the various trade union leadership had discouraged.

HANSEN TOUR SCHEDULE

Wednesday Apr.	4	S. Francisco-Oakland
Friday	6	Los Angeles
Saturday	7	"
Sunday	8	"
Monday	9	"
Tuesday	10	"
Wednesday	11	"
Friday	13	SaltLakeCity
Saturday	14	"
Sunday	15	"
Monday	16	"
Tuesday	17	"
Friday	20	St. Louis
Sunday	22	Detroit
Monday	23	"
Tuesday	24	Flint
Wednesday	25	Detroit
Thursday	26	Youngstown
Friday	27	"
Saturday	28	Pittsburgh
Sunday	29	"

Fund Campaign 5% Ahead Of Schedule; 4 Days Left

By Reba Aubrey
Fund Campaign Manager

Receipts during the past week in the Socialist Workers Party campaign for an $18,000 Organization, Press and Defense fund amounted to $2,179. This increased the grand total to $17,453 as of March 27, or 97% of the national quota assigned — 5% ahead of schedule. There are only four more days to go. Everything indicates that our goal of $18,000 wil be reached by March 31. A few of the branches are still behind schedule, but we confidently expect a last minute rush to get under the wire. The campaign closes March 31.

Pittsburgh elbowed its way to the top of the scoreboard with 134%. Comrade **Carl** writes: "With only a few more days left, I know all the branches will put forth a great effort to make the 100% column. We still hope to add a little more before March 31."

Milwaukee boosted its percentage to 117. "We had a foine St. Patrick's Day social, begorra," explains Comrade **George**, "and are able to send $10 more for the fund. We are glad to see some of the other branches going over the top and we fully expect to have some more to send in yet."

Cleveland sent in another $24 for a score of 108%.

These six branches crossed the finish line this week: **Chicago, Detroit, Flint, Oakland, Philadelphia,** and **San Francisco.** Comrade **Michael** of **Chicago** writes: "Needless to say we are more than happy to be able to send this in advance of the final day." **Marietta** of **Detroit** expresses the feeling of the comrades there in one word: "Hurray!"

Comrade **Mike** of **Flint** tells us that "It is difficult to communicate how happy the branch feels in having reached its quota. The policy of the branch in getting as many sympathizers as possible to contribute to the fund campaign has paid dividends. Everyone feels like slapping everyone else on the back."

"Here is what we promised — $171," writes Comrade **Alma** for **Philadelphia,** "which completes our quota on the fund in full and ahead of time! It gave me quite a lift to see the comrades respond, as they always do, when they know the party is depending on them."

Letters from those branches not yet 100% indicate they will be paid in full and on time. Comrade **Sally** sent in $83 for **Boston,** stating that the "branch is quite confident of being able to complete its quota 100%, and on time."

Harry Ring says that **New York Local** is "now assured of meeting our quota in full and on time. We're really proud of the response of the membership in this campaign. After a report to the Downtown Branch last week that unavoidable cancellations of several large pledges jeopardized the branch's meeting its quota, more than a dozen comrades volunteered to increase their pledges to make up the difference."

Susan Hart of **Akron** writes: "We are seriously concentrating on getting the balance to you by the end of the month. You can be assured of Akron's coming through 100%."

Los Angeles sent $400 on its quota with this note: "Next week we expect to achieve our $2,600 goal."

The group of Socialist Workers Party supporters near the Mason-Dixon Line sent in another $25, which chalks up 125% on their $250 pledge. **John,** the spokesman for the group, says: "We are certainly glad that we were in a position to keep the march of dollars up to such a standard for this important campaign."

M. S., a friend in **Oregon,** contributed $25 to the Fund.

Only four days to go! Let's make this campaign a smashing success. Every branch 100% for the final scoreboard next week!

$18,000 FUND SCOREBOARD

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Pittsburgh	$ 150	$ 201	134
West Virginia	25	33	133
Milwaukee	150	175	117
Cleveland	300	324	108
Buffalo	1,000	1,017	102
Chicago	700	700	100
Detroit	1,750	1,750	100
Flint	375	375	100
Oakland	250	250	100
Philadelphia	600	600	100
St. Paul-Minneapolis	1,000	1,000	100
San Francisco	1,500	1,500	100
Seattle	400	400	100
Youngstown	500	500	100
New York	5,000	4,775	95
Newark	700	659	94
Boston	550	473	86
Toledo	50	43	86
New Haven	100	83	83
Akron	150	122	81
Los Angeles	2,600	2,027	78
Allentown	75	50	67
St. Louis	100	20	20
General		376	—
Total through March 27	$18,000	$17,453	97

THE MILITANT ARMY

Reports from the national tour of our business manager, **Joseph Hansen,** show that the branches of the Socialist Workers Party are getting all set for the "Big League Militant Circulation Campaign" now in the works and soon to be announced. Sales of single copies also have been going up all along the route as a result of Comrade Hansen's meetings and debates. His debate with State Senator Child at the University of Minnesota broke the "regulation" of the Board of Regents barring **The Militant** from the campus. Hustling **Twin Cities** comrades sold copies to 72 students.

"Even though the wind was cold and the snow deep, the reception we received was warm and cheery," writes **Minneapolis** Literature Agent **Pauline.** "Many students told us that they were 'glad to see the paper back again.' Some said, 'I thought **The Militant** was banned from the campus,' and one student asked, 'Is this your challenge to the Board of Regents?' Over and over again students wished us 'good luck!'

"Many students came out of the meeting hall to buy a **Militant** for themselves or for a friend. Inside **Militants** were prominently displayed all over the hall, with students intently reading the paper and discussing the articles. Even Senator Child walked to the platform with a copy of **The Militant** under his arm."

This week **Militant** salesmen in their second sale since the attempted banning sold 64 papers on the campus. "After our good reception last week at the meeting where Joseph Hansen addressed the students, we wanted to be sure that they had an opportunity to continue to read the paper," writes Pauline, "and the manner in which they responded showed that we didn't underestimate the value the students place on **The Militant.** Our five salesmen all did a good job too. **Harry** sold 15; **Larry,** 12; **Julia,** 11; **David,** 10; and **Pauline,** 16."

Literature Agent **Howard** reports a good score made in **Detroit** by six comrades selling **Militants** door to door in a housing project. "We sold 92 copies and are very enthusiastic about continuing this on a larger scale. In selling we found that an explanation of our attitude towards the war in Korea brought a warm response," he writes. Individual scores were for **O. Johnson,** 19 copies; **Ruby,** 16; **Mervin,** 9; and 16 each for **Ernie, Howard,** and **Bill.**

Bob J., Literature Agent for **Los Angeles,** reports encouraging street sales of **The Militant** in the Central Avenue District. **May** and **Bob M.** sold 21 copies here last week and this week **Rita** and **Bob M.** followed up with a sale of 16 papers. On the campus at **UCLA Milt** and **Shirley** sold 11 **Militants** during a change of classes.

In **Chicago** Literature Agent **Manny Stone** has found that good results may be obtained by selling **The Militant** at El stops when workers are returning home from work. He writes that **Manny** and **Elaine** sold 18 papers in about half an hour at the 51st St. stop, and that "the following week **Dorothy** and **Mary Lou** took the same spot and sold 20 **Militants** in the same time. Mary Lou said, 'They were grabbing the papers out of our hands.'"

A staunch **Militant** supporter, **John M.,** writes from **Seattle** that he wants to help the Seattle Branch in their work of distributing **The Militant,** "the best paper printed in the U.S." Our sincere thanks to Comrade John for his $5. contribution.

AUTO UNION CAN LEAD WAY TO A LABOR PARTY

(Continued from Page 1)

by means of their political control of the government. When the workers win a wage increase, the two capitalist political parties, above all the Truman administration which has the power, steal the workers victories by means of inflationary price policies, the wage freeze and taxation, all the while protecting profits.

Thus the power of labor on the economic front is frustrated by the weakness of labor politically.

There was a time when labor thought it could solve this political problem by electing "friends of labor" to Congress and the White House. But what has happened? Truman has shown himself to be not only a corrupt hack of the Missouri Pendergast machine, but the worst strikebreaker ever to hold the U.S. presidency. Congress is rotten through and through, and passes one law after another against labor, while protecting the interests of the wealthy.

The only partners workers have are other workers. The only friends the unions have are other unions. The new unity of the labor movement sets up the genuine partnership, the solidarity of labor against the capitalists.

This partnership of labor can be mobilized on the political field only if labor sets out on an independent, self-reliant road.

By overcoming labor's division, and rallying the combined forces of the unions on the basis of an agreed upon program, the ULPC has made it possible for organized labor to become the leader of the common people of America.

FIRST PARTY OF AMERICA

Louis Hollander, Secretary of the New York CIO was correct when he recently said a Labor Party in the United States would not be "a third party, but the first party of America." It would quickly rally the support of the fixed income groups, pensioners, small business men, who have all suffered at the hands of the Big Business dominated administration.

American labor has progressed from weak craft unionism to militant and powerful industrial unionism. In defense of labor's standards, the immediate need is the formation of an independent labor party, based upon the trade unions, and in alliance with the poor farmers, the oppressed minorities and the middle classes.

Only through such a party will the Big Business domination of government be broken, and labor emerge in its full strength as the leader of the people.

LOS ANGELES

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— JOSEPH HANSEN —

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THE MILITANT

Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working People
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Phone: AL 5-7460
Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN
Business Manager: JOSEPH HANSEN

Bundle Orders (5 or more copies): 3c each in U.S., 4c each in foreign countries.
Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's policies. These are expressed in its editorials.

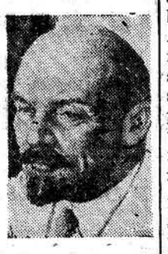
Vol. XV - No. 14 Monday, April 2, 1951

The Lesson of Spain

TROTSKY

"The Spanish revolution again demonstrates that it is impossible to defend (capitalist) democracy against the revolutionary masses other than by the methods of fascist reaction. And vice versa, it is impossible to lead the actual struggle against fascism other than by methods of the proletarian revolution. Stalin waged war against "Trotskyism" (proletarian revolution), destroying (workers') democracy by the Bonapartist measures of the GPU. By this again and definitively is overthrown the old Menshevik theory, adopted by the Communist International, which divides the democratic and socialist revolutions into two independent historical chapters, separated in time from each other."

— Leon Trotsky, The Lesson of Spain. 1937.



LENIN

Ten Years Ago

Ten years ago this week American labor climaxed its struggle for industrial organization by humbling the two greatest remaining fortresses of the open shop, Ford and Bethlehem Steel. These victories against two hard-bitten, ruthless corporations which used every device of violence and terrorism to prevent unionism brought joy to the heart of every American worker. This was decisive proof that even the most powerful corporations could be brought to their knees by the organized might of the working class.

Many, if not most, workers then believed that the subduing of these billion-dollar corporations, the winning of union contracts, promised continuous peaceful gains for the future. They believed that through their union and its grievance machinery they could look forward to an era of steady improvement and betterment.

But the past ten years have gradually dissipated this illusion. Economic progress through "pure and simple" unionism has revealed its limitations. The struggle has proved more arduous and complex than it appeared to be ten years ago in the first flush of victory against Ford and Bethlehem.

For the corporations have another weapon at their disposal — the capitalist government. What the workers have wrested from the monopolists on the picket lines has been repeatedly stolen back by the government in Washington. The struggle, it has become clear, is above all political.

In these ten years, American labor has also had a full measure of experience in attempting to gain its political ends through the machinery of the old-line capitalist parties. Today, the grave labor crisis is testimony to the folly and failure of this course.

The Ford and Bethlehem workers learned through bitter experience that they could not win their rights through company unionism in the plants and broke with that policy a decade ago. The added lessons of ten years show too that labor cannot win through company unionism in politics. To smash the political open shop of Big Business, American workers need their own party, free and independent of the capitalists and their political agents. The day that party is formed will be an occasion for rejoicing as great as when unionism first conquered Ford and Bethlehem. It will mark the beginning of labor's full emancipation.

Not a Cent, Not a Gun For Franco!

It is no coincidence that immediately following the Barcelona general strike which shook fascist Spain to its foundations, Dictator Franco's government expressed an eager readiness to sign a direct military alliance with the Truman administration, modeled on the North Atlantic Pact, provided the U.S. sends arms to the badly-frightened Generalissimo.

It is also no coincidence that Washington is most eager to negotiate such a military alliance and to ship Franco such arms in a hurry. In fact, three days after the March 12 Barcelona upsurge, Truman's new ambassador to Spain, Wall Street investment banker Stanton Griffis, was closeted in long sessions with the butcher of two million Spanish workers and peasants. They engaged in what Griffis described as an "extremely cordial" exchange of views.

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington on March 18 disclosed that Franco's proposals for getting more arms to murder more Spanish people were made right after Griffis "sounded out" the Franco Government on its willingness to supply troops for U.S. imperialism in the "defense of Western Europe."

Washington is under no illusion about the help Franco would be in a war in Western Europe. His army, which has been the greatest drain upon the starving Spanish masses, is riddled with discontent and disaffection. It is made up of peasant and worker conscripts whose only interest in remaining in Franco's military service is to get a little better food and a good pair of boots. Franco did not even dare to call out these troops in Barcelona, but had to send special police and marines from hundreds of miles away.

Behind the propaganda smokescreen of "defense of Western Europe," Franco and Truman are plotting the defense of the Franco regime from the Spanish people, who are boiling with rebellion.

Underground organizations of the Spanish workers, including the POUM (Workers Party of Marxist Unification), have issued appeals to organized labor everywhere to aid the workers' struggle against fascism in Spain. The greatest duty devolves on American labor. We must fight Truman's moves to save Franco with arms produced by the American workers. Not one cent — not one bullet for Franco! All support to the heroic Spanish workers, whose struggle in Barcelona has shown that the days of their fascist oppressors are numbered!

Monopolies and the RFC

There is no question whatever that the theft, graft and corruption associated with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation are the biggest and most flagrant on record. Untold billions are involved; incalculable sums have been stolen. But the heart of the scandal has been suppressed amid the blare of petty exposures. It is this, that the main beneficiaries of the RFC have been the big banks, the insurance companies, the established monopolies in industry and the railways; and that these same monopolists now want to "liquidate" the RFC in order to pocket additional fabulous sums.

Since its formation some 20 years ago, precisely in order to bail out bankrupt Big Business, this agency has authorized approximately 650,000 government loans totalling 17 billion dollars, and despite all the thieving, was able to show a whopping profit. According to its last report on June 30, 1950 it had 184,231 loans outstanding to the amount of $2,088,000,000.

By killing RFC, monopolists not only will grab these huge sums of money but they will have removed the only stumbling block in the way of a complete monopoly of credit. In addition, and by no means the least in their calculations, they will also choke off the only major source of loans to companies competing with the intrenched monopolies.

But there's much more to this campaign to do away with the RFC so loudly voiced today in the halls of Congress. For in addition to its lending activities the RFC has become a major industrial corporation engaged in the manufacture and sale of synthetic rubber, of refined tin and abaca fibre (a hemp substitute), which also run annually into hundreds of millions of dollars. And to top it off, RFC is the agency in charge of liquidating "programs initiated during World War II." Included under this heading are scores of plants, among them aluminum and magnesium forging plants, acquired, "transferred," leased or offered for sale by the RFC.

Here are more heaps of gold for the big financiers and industrialists to shovel into their coffers. And their greedy claws are now just itching for all this booty.

It is not commonly recognized to what an extent and at what speed the monopolies, especially the banking monopolies, have grown during and since World War II. It is these big-time thieves who should be publicly investigated, their stolen billions confiscated, their banks and industries nationalized, and themselves placed behind bars, where they belong.

Wall Street Fights German Labor's Gains

By Paul G. Stevens

A concerted drive on the part of U.S. Big Business — charged by the leaders of the united American labor movement with running the anti-union defense set-up in Washington "lock, stock and barrel" — to suppress important gains recently made by the German trade union movement, was reported from Frankfurt last week. According to an Associated Press dispatch dated March 21, "a campaign" has been launched by "American business interests" against a bill in the West German parliament that "would give labor equal representation with owners on company boards of directors."

This measure, known as "Mitbestimmungsrecht" (or right of economic co-determination), received the backing of the controlling political parties in the Bonn government after 750,000 miners and steel workers in the Ruhr industrial area threatened a general strike early this year unless such a law was enacted. "Now," says the A. P. report, "the trade unions are demanding a similar law for all West German industry."

The "campaign" was announced at Frankfurt by Gordon H. Michler, an executive of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, in his capacity as a representative of the National Foreign Trade Council, "an association of big American firms doing business abroad." Michler said "a delegation from the National Association of Manufacturers is en route to Germany on a similar mission, and that business associations in European countries are planning a similar campaign." In other words, U.S. Big Business is organizing international capitalism to swoop down and overwhelm the German labor movement, which by its own strength and militancy had no difficulty in forcing its own employing class to concede to the demand for workers control of production.

According to Michler, he and his associates aim "to make the German people aware of the risks they run of scaring off foreign capital by such a law." In plain language, U.S. Big Business is threatening to impose an economic blockade of Germany to starve the people into submission to its anti-labor drive.

At the same time, Michler also announced that his crowd was seeking to do away with another proposed measure, a law for "Lastenausgleich" or equalization of burdens. This law, a 50 percent capital levy on property, "is designed to spread more equally among the German population the losses suffered" in the last war. Payable at two percent annually for 25 years, this levy would be imposed on factory owners, whose physical property retained its value, to indemnify small bank depositors whose entire lifetime savings were virtually wiped out when German currency was devalued to 10 percent of its former value in 1948. U.S. Big Business is intent on seeing that German capitalists, in whose enterprises they have long held financial interests, do not in any way suffer losses to the benefit of the broader layers of the population.

The Wall street-led drive against the labor movement and the poor people in Germany is accompanied by an equally intense, but solicitous effort on behalf of the most discredited pro-Nazi German industrialists. According to a United Press dispatch of March 23, "Allied authorities said today that a study may be begun on whether a change is advisable in laws barring Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, and other Germans from returning to positions of industrial ownership and control."

Alfred Krupp is the big steel magnate who was Hitler's chief backer. In the flush of the occupation of Germany by Allied troops — who were enrolled in World War II to "fight Fascism" — laws were passed dispossessing the big Nazi businessmen and imprisoning them along with the generals and politicians who served them. Today that is all gone and forgotten in the propaganda campaign against "Communism." Krupp was recently freed by the American authorities in Germany and all the Krupps are now being groomed to take up where they left off under Hitler.

Big Business very deliberate, class conscious and international-minded: It makes common cause with its own kind in Germany and everywhere. It "campaigns" and conducts a ceaseless offensive not only against the American labor movement but against the German labor movement as well. While the U.S. labor leaders have finally seen fit to speak out against the high-handed anti-labor drive here at home, in Washington, they have as yet to say a word against the same gang's anti-labor campaigns all over the rest of the world. On the contrary, by backing the Truman foreign policy, they let workers in Germany as everywhere else see the American people only in the shape of the Big Business mob.

It is high time that the American labor leaders had a word to say against the rehabilitation of Krupp and his fellow Nazis by Truman's representatives in Germany. It is high time that the U.S. unions reached out their hands in solidarity to the German trade unions against the present drive of American Big Business, which is the common enemy of both. And it might even be worth while for the union leaders here to look into this German "Mitbeteiligungsrecht" law that "would give labor equal representation with owners on company boards of directors."

Both Parties Corrupt Through and Through

(Continued from Page 1)

Big Business gangsterism prevailed throughout the United States. Everywhere it probed, from Los Angeles to Miami and Tampa, from Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, and Kansas City, Missouri, to Bergen County, New Jersey, the committee uncovered "most shocking revelations" of "the extent of official corruption and connivance in facilitating and promoting organized crime."

"The committee has found evidence," it reported, "of corruption and connivance at all levels of Government — Federal, state and local."

Bookie syndicates contributed sums in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to the campaign of Fuller Warren for the governorship of Florida and to Forrest Smith's campaign for the governorship of Missouri, Truman's home state. In California, representatives of the Republican-controlled Attorney General's office, with the "apparent blessing" of the Attorney General himself, "attempted to organize a statewide system of protection for slot-machine operations and for the distribution of punch-boards."

Although the largest portion of funds to finance the Democratic and Republican parties and their campaigns come from the big corporations, these parties have come to depend as well on sizable contributions from the proceeds of the numbers racket, white slavery and dope peddling. Without official protection, organized crime could be cleaned out in 24 hours in any city in the country.

The Kefauver committee's report of Feb. 28 listed as one of the five main sources of political corruption the "contributions to the campaign funds of candidates for political office at various levels frequently made by organized criminals without reference to political affiliations." And it adds with special emphasis, "Not infrequently, contributions are made to both major political parties: gangsters operate on both sides of the street."

It is doubtful if there is a leading public official in this country — not excepting the President of the United States and members of the Congress—whose election was not financed, in part, by the dirtiest of all money — the proceeds from organized vice and crime. Truman himself was and remains a member in good standing of the Jackson County, Missouri, Democratic Club — that is, of the corrupt Pendergast machine, whose leading lights have from time to time occupied some of the better-class cells in state and federal penitentiaries and who are indistinguishable in outlook and practices from the worst mobsters and gangsters, with whom they are inextricably linked.

If it shocks us to realize how how intimately the capitalist politicians are tied to the criminal underworld, let us remember that this is not the most important element of corruption in the government. It is "legitimate" business — the big corporations and financiers — which is the main and overwhelming source of corruption. The gangsters who operate "outside the law" represent only "fringe benefits" to the politicians.

Just to enumerate all of the more glaring instances of Big Business corruption in Washington that have come to light recently would require pages of writing. First and foremost, of course, is the war mobilization set-up which has been placed in the complete control of "former" executives of the largest corporations. Their job is to channelize scores of billions of dollars of government war contracts into a few select companies.

There is the RFC, which has been exposed as a nest of corruption involving persons in the White House itself. The RFC alone disposes of more than $2 billion which, it seems, is parcelled out to firms who are willing to pay handsomely for an inside track to the RFC coffers. There are the five-percenters who have been operating through contacts in the White House, like Truman's intimates, General Vaughan and General Graham, of deep-freezer fame.

Favoritism and graft are involved in every government agency concerned with the letting of contracts or any other matter affecting Big Business interests and profits. Informants in the Alien Property Custodians office fed valuable information on sales to certain insiders. The information was paid for. The shipowners have made hundreds of millions from the operations of the Maritime Commission. The oil, gas and utilities interests "fixed" the nominations to the Federal Power Commission. The Department of Justice has buried anti-trust suits under the inducement of personal and political rewards.

What we are permitted to see of all this corruption is like the one-tenth of an iceberg that rises above the water-line. Most of it, and the worst, remains submerged. No Democratic or Republican politician — not even a Kefauver or a Senator Fulbright — dares to delve deeply into the foul mess. The rottenness is so widespread and penetrating that to expose it in any thorough-going way would be to lay bare the complicity, direct or indirect, of virtually every official in Washington and every corporation doing or seeking business with the government.

The Washington politicians are anxiously speculating on whether to permit the continuation of the crime and other probes, which were originally undertaken by certain members of Congress for their publicity value, but which have taken on an embarrassing momentum of their own. Whether the probes are continued or not, the problem facing the American people is not one of further investigation, but of action.

Enough is known to show that we are dealing with a total system of corruption with its roots in present-day monopoly capitalism itself. Removing this or that public official, shifting from one capitalist party to another, does not and cannot challenge this all-pervading corruption. What is needed is a new broom that will sweep clean from top to bottom of government.

Nothing less than a complete break with capitalist politics and politicians and the formation of a party of labor that will fight to take the full political power from Big Business and its political agents will suffice for the great task. This is not a question of removing a wart from the hand, but a cancer from the very vitals of the nation.

Acie Taylor

By Robert Cotton

CHICAGO — The Socialist Workers Party has lost Comrade Acie Taylor through an unequal struggle with death, but death is not the victor. It is the party and those who knew Acie who have gained in this unequal struggle. To understand this you have to know Acie.

ACIE TAYLOR

Acie was born July 10, 1891, sixty years ago, on a farm near Stephens, Arkansas. This young Negro ran away from home at the age of twelve in a period when prejudice was extremely vicious and brutal.

Let us understand what he had to compete with. This was a period when Negroes had no chance to learn a trade and no means available to get an education. Yet Acie through some way, some means, acquired the skill of plastering. One day he fell off a scaffold and broke his leg which was never set properly. He had to give up the trade because the employers no longer had any use for him. The bosses had use only for workers who could rip, run and slug plaster on the walls. They cast Acie on the scrap heap, like a broken trowel. Acie being a man of firm character then learned another trade, that of a short order cook. He was not only a good worker but also a real fighter.

As a young man, Acie joined the IWW. Then and there he proved himself a 100 percenter. Being a worker, once he obtained an idea he acted upon it. He participated in strikes, free speech fights and conducted himself as a class conscious worker should.

He didn't have the opportunity to finish his working class education. The first world war intervened. But Acie, being the serious thinker that he was, had already become thoroughly convinced of the necessity for a workers and farmers government. He found the program of the IWW inadequate to carry the working class struggle through to its final conclusion.

Acie later came in contact with the Socialist Workers Party through the White City campaign in Chicago. With his crippled body, Acie marched on the picket line to crush the vicious practice of barring a man from the skating rink because of his color.

Acie was not the type to jump up and join the movement immediately. He came and listened to our lectures, to our classes, read our pamphlets and literature. Through this daily educational process, and with his past experience in the working class movement, he came to the conclusion that here was the party to lead the working class to its emancipation. He joined the party.

The party benefited tremendously from this new recruit. He was no dabbler. With all of his physical handicaps, he participated in every action that the party engaged in. He saw that the newsstands were kept supplied with The Militant. He visited contacts. He sold Militant subscriptions.

This type of Jimmy Higgins work consisted of miles of walking and climbing of steps. Yet Acie never griped about his condition, he never asked for sympathy or pity. His only thought consisted of getting the party's program to the working class.

Knowing Acie's physical condition, you being a delinquent member, not doing anything that is beneficial to the party, you begin to appreciate and to admire the capability, the strength of character, the determination that existed in Acie Taylor.

That is why I say that death did not win a victory. It is the party and the working class that won. All we need to do is to become as confident as Acie was of the inevitability of the socialist revolution. And as we think about Acie let's put a little more effort, a little more time, in to building the working class movement, for the sake of Acie, who has left so much for us to work on and be guided by.

PRICE COMMITTEES--AN AMERICAN TRADITION

By Daniel Roberts

The decision of the United Labor Policy Committee conference held in Washington March 20-21 to establish "local consumer committees" in order to police prices is in the best democratic traditions of America.

Only the working people themselves can hold the gouging monopolists in check. That is what our revolutionary forefathers understood when they undertook to police prices in 1774-1775 through popular committees of "inspection and observation." Similar committees are necessary today.

In October 1774, the First Continental Congress adopted the Continental Association, calling for a strict boycott of imports from England and an embargo on exports to Britain. This action was part of the struggle which culminated in independence. Article IX provided for the regulation of prices.

Enforcement of the boycott, embargo and price control were placed in the hands of committees for inspection and observation elected by counties and towns. These committees were drawn in their majority from the ranks of the mechanics — the workers of that time — and the small storekeepers. Housewives, who must form a decisive section of consumer committees today, however, were not represented.

The object of the committees' observation and inspection was the rich merchants, the aristocrats of colonial society. The merchants had organized boycotts of British goods in 1765 and 1768. But these colonial capitalists were as greedy as the billionaires who rule America today, and they took advantage of mass support for these boycotts to sell their goods on hand at exorbitant prices. Not content with outrageous profiteering, the merchants deserted the struggle for liberation when profits began to run low, and when the workers, as in Boston, took control of the boycott out of the hands of the rich.

By 1774 the mechanics distrusted the merchants completely and were determined to hold them strictly to account. Here is how the committees of enforcement and observance functioned: They demanded that ledgers and invoices of the merchants be opened for inspection. Those who violated the non-importation agreements or the price regulations were publicly listed as offenders. Those who refused to open their books were considered guilty of violating the provisions of the Continental Association on that account alone.

The usual method of enforcement was to publicly list the names of offenders. Public listing as a rule was enough to induce guilty merchants to turn over their extra profits to the committees. These sums were allocated by the committees to the relief of the poor in Boston.

In Philadelphia, on March 6, 1775, the committee published a schedule of prices of West Indian imports with a warning that violators of the regulation would be publicized "as sordid vultures who are preying on the vitals of their country in a time of general distress."

In Virginia, where the committees cracked down with great severity on offenders, there appeared before the Committee of Gloucester County a certain Captain Marshall, accused of gouging the public through high prices. When first cited, he had declared in language the capitalists use to this day, that "every man has a right to sell his goods for as much as he can get." The committee was not persuaded by this argument and a few days later the Captain changed his mind. He issued a statement in which he said of his hi-jacking activities: "These are offenses. . . I am taught to know (which) at this time, deserve severe punishment."

Price control under the Continental Association lasted until 1776, when the Continental Congress ordered the committees to stop policing prices. This decision was designed to appease the merchants, and keep them loyal to the cause of independence. Prices soared immediately after the committees discontinued their activities, proving how effective they had been in their operations.

In 1779 there was another organized movement of the city workers to halt wartime profiteering. In Philadelphia a mass meeting of the town elected a new committee of enforcement under provisions of a Pennsylvania law of 1778. The committee announced a new schedule of prices and warned of severe punishment. Prices dropped immediately. Tom Paine and the committee visited Robert Morris — one of the wealthiest merchants of the town — and seized a cargo of flour. The financier complained in almost the same language as Captain Marshall had four years earlier. He claimed the action of the Committee was "inconsistent with the principles of liberty to prevent a man from the disposal of his property on such terms and for such considerations as he may think fit."

The rich experiences of the committees of observation and inspection during America's struggle for independence should be studied by the labor movement. These experiences can serve as guides for the creation and functioning of modern consumer committees such as the ULPC conference envisaged.

One thing is sure: Modern committees of inspection and observation are urgently needed to fight the monopolist price-gougers of today — the meat packers, landlords, textile bosses and all those who fatten on inflationary prices. These monopolists, just as Captain Marshall, must be taught to know that robbing the people is an "offense (which) at this time deserves severe punishment."

THE MILITANT

VOLUME XV — MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1951 — NUMBER 14

SWP California Candidates Campaign Against War Plans

Corporation Thuggery

By Fred Hart

Revelations of Big Business use of gangsters to beat union militants brought out in the Senate Crime Committee's Detroit hearings continue to have their repercussions.

Emil Mazey, Secretary-Treasurer of the CIO United Auto Workers has requested the Kefauver Committee to return to Detroit for further hearings. The Committee curtailed its scheduled three days of hearings to two days even though its investigators had on tap quantities of evidence and witnesses. The two days' testimony revealed the Briggs Co.'s $1½ to $2 million a year scrap contract to the Renda-Perrone gang, explaining the mysterious, brutal beatings of Briggs local militants in 1945-46. Unionists hoped that the Committee would go on to investigate the attempted murders of the Reuther brothers. In this they were disappointed.

Powerful forces are opposing the Committee's return to Detroit — and this may shed light upon the Committee's decision to stop the hearings on the second day. Those opposing the Committee's return are fronts for the giant motor companies guilty of using the underworld to combat unionism.

For example Harvey Campbell, executive vice-president of the Board of Commerce, has been publicly opposing the Committee's return. Political stooges of Big Business like Michigan Attorney General Millard and Senator Ferguson pretend that a great breach of liberty was committed by the investigators when they made public the grand jury proceedings. These proceedings recorded all the damaging facts about the Briggs scrap contract with the gangsters for "protection" against the union, yet no indictment was ever brought.

Since the Kefauver Committee's departure from Detroit, Guy Nunn, the UAW-CIO radio commentator, has continued, despite pressure from Big Business and threats from the Renda-Perrone gang, to make further revelations on the "scrap iron curtain." Among the many facts he has brought to public attention are the following:

Renda at the hearings was pictured as a college boy son-in-law of gangster Sam Perrone and merely a front. Now it would seem that the marriage of Renda and Perrone's daughter was a gangland merger. Renda comes from a distinguished gangster family himself. Renda's father, Vito Renda, a Detroit gang leader, was shot and killed in the lobby of the Wayne County jail, some years back in a gang war. Renda's uncle is a well-known gambling house operator.

Sam Perrone entertained William Dean Robinson, president of the Briggs Manufacturing Co., at his hunting lodge.

When Lydia Thompson was murdered in 1945 she left a note in her room telling the police to look for Sam Perrone if anything happened to her. The Detroit police assigned Detective Glover, a long-time friend of Perrone, to investigate the case. During the investigation, out of which nothing resulted, suspect Perrone entertained detectives Glover and Sheehy, also assigned to the case, at his hunting lodge.

In 1942 a fire at the Michigan Stove Co., where Perrone also held the scrap contract, revealed a secret locker containing a small arsenal of firearms and dynamite fuses.

Guy Nunn has also revealed a prima facie case of perjury on Perrone's part. Before the grand jury he testified he had no connection with the strikebreaking at the 1934 strike against the Michigan Stove Co. The **Detroit News**, April 14, 1934, reports: "Two men reported by police to be guards employed by the Detroit-Michigan Stove Co. to 'protect' non-union employes on their way to and from work through union picket lines were arrested today on tentative charges of carrying concealed weapons. The two are Bert Fazio. . . and Santo Perrone. . . The police said both men were armed with blackjacks and revolvers."

War Babies

By Marvel Scholl

It stands to reason that somebody has to be blamed for the government's plans to draft the 18-year-old boys. In the face of tremendous opposition to this move, they have to find some good reason why these teen-agers should be snatched from the class rooms and into the front lines.

Recently the Census Bureau came up with the answer. They have just finished tabulating their decennial counting of noses and the consequent study of population trends. And they have turned up the scapegoat.

It's the women of the nation. Those women who were in their child-bearing years during the great depression. During the 30's the birth rate dropped so drastically that now, when they are needed, those never-born babies cannot become cannon fodder. We women who should have born those now-necessary 19-to 26 year-olds didn't do our patriotic duty. And there won't be enough young men of this age group to fill the draft requirements until after 1950.

So now they are planning our punishment. They are going to take our 18-year-old sons and put guns in their hands and send them out to fight in "operation meat-grinder" in Korea.

The military schemers don't think of blaming their own system — which brought about the depression, which in turn brought about the low birth rate — for their troubles.

The mothers are also being blamed for another dilemma facing Washington and the Pentagon. This time, the opposite side of the coin — too many babies.

A recently conducted survey shows that the birth rate after World War II rose just as drastically as it had fallen during the depression. So today, when the war plants need young women to replace the drafted men, these young women are tied at home taking care of the babies who won't be ripe for cannon fodder until about 1965 — and therefore of no immediate use to the war makers.

But this up-and-down population trend indicates that there is a serious problem facing the war planners. If the parents of America are going to continue to have, or not have children, depending on the economic conditions, then this same annoying problem is going to arise again and again.

So it stands to reason that if imperialist America is to achieve its aim for complete world domination, something has to be done about coordinating the production of infants. Thought control will perhaps have to be extended to include the regimentation of women's ideas about when they should or should not have babies. Forced parenthood. Continuous production, just like any other war commodity.

Hitler thought of it. Now it's Truman's turn.

The Lookout

By the Skipper

To some extent, at least, the economic fate of the British Empire depends on their staying in Hong Kong and continuing their profitable dealing with the Chinese. The rather palsied fist that MacArthur is shaking in the direction of the Chinese mainland alarms the British no end. MacArthur's prestige needs a shot in the arm after the Korean disasters. But the English need profits like nothing else. On questions like this hang the fate of millions of people — people who do not care whether MacArthur is a general or a corporal, or whether the British are driven all the way back to Bristol.

* * *

Mothers used to complain that football was too dangerous a game for their sons. Now high school youths are being tought to play with Garand rifles. And for keeps, too.

* * *

Colliers of March 3 carried an article on a resolution passed by the United Nations. This resolution outlaws "Genocide." This five-dollar word means the extermination of national, racial or religious groups. From now on apparently this is a crime. So how about Truman and MacArthur's Operation Killer going on in Korea which has as its objective the extermination of as many Chinese and Koreans as can be found?

* * *

We are now being told that the American standard of living has to be reduced. Hey now, I've been wrong before, but I thought that's what the U.S. was supposed to be fighting to maintain.

* * *

Congressmen just don't make Hay
They make a mighty good thing Pay
Their votes seem queer, but when they're scanned
You find a bit of gold they've panned.
So watch the guy you send down there,
He's bound to be a millionaire.

* * *

Let us seriously examine the military advice being given the American people by the top brass in the Pentagon. They tell us now that Europe can be held by a few American divisions aided by whatever military material can be scraped up on the continent. Remember that these "authorities" are exactly and precisely the same professional military "seers" who said in 1940 that Hitler could overrun the USSR in a few weeks!

Joseph Hansen in Seattle

By George Flint

SEATTLE, Mar. 26 — For three successive days during the Seattle juncture of his coast-to-coast tour, Joseph Hansen, former candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for U.S. Senator from New York, made a profound impression upon workers and students at crowded meetings.

On Friday, March 23, at the Frye Hotel, Comrade Hansen analyzed the causes for U.S. intervention in Korea. He illustrated the tie between the government and Big Business, and their conspiracy to carry the American people a step nearer to involvement in World War III. He demonstrated that Wall street was the enemy of both the American people and the oppressed masses of Asia.

A comrade said, "It was my birthday and that meeting was the best birthday present I ever had."

The next day the Socialist Workers Party held a reception for Comrade Hansen. He presented an informal talk on "Trotsky the Man." New acquaintances of the party, together with old friends and comrades, listened intently to a personal characterization of Leon Trotsky which only a man who had known him intimately could have given. As Joe talked, many of us resolved to improve our knowledge and to try our best to contribute all that is in us to our great cause.

On Sunday, March 25, Comrade Hansen was invited to speak at the Forum of the Church of the People. The topic was "Is China a Puppet of Moscow?" Over 85 people listened carefully as he showed the folly of those who viewed events superficially, and regarded the great events in China as a result of the whim of the dictator in the Kremlin. As against that view, Hansen counterposed the idea that there was a deepgoing need for social change in China, which resulted in the revolutionary upheavals there.

Comrade Hansen contrasted a socialist foreign policy to that of Truman and Co. He inspired the entire audience, which sensed in this man and the party he represents a deeper and more thoroughgoing humanism than in those who talk about humanism in the abstract; for Trotskyism is based on a real understanding of the social forces at work in society, which demand a struggle for a better world.

During the interesting question period that followed Hansen's talk, only one listener expressed disagreement with the speaker's indictment of Truman's foreign policy. "Mr. Hansen says Americans are hated in Asia," he said, "but the newspapers describe the warm welcome given U.S. troops returning to Seoul. Why, the Koreans waved at our troops and the children carried flowers."

A woman member of the audience arose and demanded to know where, in bomb-battered Seoul, children could find flowers! The audience burst into laughter in appreciation of her skeptical attitude toward such obviously false press dispatches.

The verdict as to the importance of Comrade Hansen's visit here will not be found in the number of lines alloted him in the capitalist press, but in the greater understanding and inspiration he left with those workers and students who heard him.

F. Goelman Calls for Vote On War Issue

OAKLAND, Calif. — Filomena M. Goelman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for councilman-at-large, has presented her program before several local unions, including United Automobile Workers Locals 1031 and 76, and Carpenters Local 36. She also presented her point of view before the Ladies Auxiliary of Carpenters Local 160.

Commenting on the withdrawal of C. H. McCaslin in favor of Lester Grant in the councilmanic race, Comrade Goelman stated, "Mr. McCaslin based his withdrawal in favor of Mr. Grant on his claim that Mr. Grant represents the interests of the people of Oakland, and that it is necessary to join forces to defeat the incumbent Joseph E. Smith, because Smith represents the trend toward 'socialization' in the city council.

"Both of these statements are false. McCaslin and Grant represent only the real estate and brokerage interests, and not the majority of the people of Oakland, who are the working people and the minorities. As for the statement that Smith represents socialism, this is absolutely erroneous and is an attempt to confuse the real issues in the campaign.

A REAL SOCIALIST

"I am the only representative of socialism in this campaign," Comrade Goelman said. "The things which determine who is and is not a socialist are the fundamental political questions of the day. Two of the important political questions are: What kind of a war is the U.S. involved in today; and, who should control the economy — the working people or Big Business?

"A socialist can only oppose this war and demand that the Korean people be left alone. A socialist would put forward the slogan 'Let the American people vote on peace or war.'

"I, as a socialist, call for workers control of industry, to produce for the people's needs rather than for profit."

Lerner Addresses Union Meetings in Detroit Election

DETROIT, March 24 — "Let the people who are going to have to make the sacrifices vote on the question of war and peace." This thought was dominant in the speech Howard Lerner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Regent of the University of Michigan, gave before a meeting of American Brass Local 174, UAW-CIO.

Lerner pointed out that American labor was being forced to lower its living standards while the corporations were making the highest profits in the history of American industry.

Comrade Lerner, who has had success in obtaining time at local union meetings, was once more speaking to an audience of sympathetic listeners when he hailed the recent walkout of the labor leaders from the government agencies, and supported the right of American labor to speak for the people in the fight against price and rent gouging.

18 YEAR OLD VOTE

Pointing out that those who must fight should have the right to vote, Howard Lerner advocated that 18-year-olds be given the right to vote.

In backing up his demand that the people be allowed to decide the issue of war or peace, Lerner pointed out that the general sentiment of the people of Detroit is in favor of ending the Korean war; this, he stated, has been proved in every poll taken in the past few months.

BROOKLYN
DISCUSSION SERIES
Thursday, April 5 8:30 PM
"What Is Workers Democracy?"
DELUXE PALACE
558 Howard Ave., near Pitkin
— Admission Free —

Campaign for Socialism

Filomena Goelman (l.), Socialist Workers Party candidate Oakland, Cal., City Council, and Myra Tanner Weiss (r.), the party's candidate for Los Angeles Board of Education.

FLINT UAW ELECTIONS SHOW LEFTWARD TREND

By Emmett Moore

FLINT, Mich., March 25 — Despite the direct intervention of CIO United Automobile Workers President Walter Reuther in the local election of officers and convention delegates, Flint is the first major auto center to turn against the Reuther administration of the union. Final election returns show a majority of convention delegates against the Reuther machine, and also a majority of local union officers opposed to the conservative policies of the top officers.

The Reuther machine spent thousands of dollars in radio time, leaflets, stickers, slates and advertisements in an attempt to defeat the opposition. On the eve of the Chevrolet Local 659 elections, the four top UAW-CIO officers sent a six page printed letter to all Chevrolet workers attacking the local union president, Coburn Walker. The letter contained a recital of the accomplishments of the Reuther administration, coupled with a series of smear charges against Walker. As in past years, the capitalist press joined in the election struggles on the side of the Reuther machine.

GROWTH OF OPPOSITION

Last year the Left Wing carried 30 to 40 percent of the total vote cast in the city. **This year the margin increased to 55 percent. The gain in Left Wing strength was sufficient to defeat the Reuther supporters in Buick Local 599 and to reelect the Left Wing in the Fisher Body Local 1 and Local 2. The Chevrolet Local leadership was retained by the Left Wing, led by Walker.**

The A. C. Sparkplug local leadership which had been on the fence the past two years, this year joined the opposition bloc. Thus all major locals in Flint are now led by progressive unionists opposed to Reuther. **The Left Wing won 45 delegates to 22 for the Reuther machine.**

The greatest shock to the Reuther machine was their defeat at the large Buick local. They had been so confident of victory there that they had directed their major efforts to an attempt to defeat Walker at Chevrolet.

By concentrating their forces in the Chevrolet election, and using every possible means of propaganda, the International officers forced the Left Wing to take on at least the semblance of a single united group. In reality all groups functioned on their own, but received great aid from the radio broadcasts of the Walker Chevrolet caucus. The issues raised in the Chevrolet election were taken up by the other local caucuses.

LIMITED PROGRAM

The opposition program was limited to a few points including defense of local union autonomy, opposition to the dues raise and shop problems.

While these issues contributed to the victory of the opposition, they do not explain it entirely. Observant auto militants report that the first signs of a shift of sentiment came on the heels of the Korean war. Each twist of the economic screw in the form of higher prices and more taxes resulted in the rise of more militant and vocal district committeemen in the shops. In committeeman elections this changing mood brought about a change in the character of the secondary leadership.

The freer political atmosphere brought on by the general opposition to the war revealed the developing cleavage between the workers and the Truman administration. Reuther's silence on the issues the workers were discussing shook the ranks considerably. For the first time many of his supporters saw that his fast talk and seeming militancy was just a sham. **They could not detect a shred of difference between C. E. Wilson and Reuther on the war issue.**

The opposition leaders benefited from this deepgoing protest in the ranks, but up to now have not learned what lies behind it. They did not respond to the anti-war sentiment. Unless they do come forward with some real answers the next elections may very well see another protest movement against them. This has been typical of past history of the UAW in Flint.

Myra Tanner Weiss Speaks To L.A. Mexican Workers

By Lois Saunders

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 25 — During the final two weeks of her campaign for election to the Los Angeles Board of Education, Myra Tanner Weiss is reaching many thousands of the city's voters with a clear enunciation of the socialist program as the only solution to capitalist regimentation, miseducation and imperialist war.

She has been receiving encouraging response especially from youth, minority and working class groups.

Two statements by Comrade Weiss, whose candidacy is endorsed by the Socialist Workers Party, have been widely circulated. A brief, 100-word exposition of her views, together with her photograph, is being distributed by the Associated Teachers of Los Angeles. This statement, in which she emphasizes the intimate connection between inadequate school budgets and their attendant ills and the gigantic war expenditures of the ruling class, is being sent to the 10,000 teachers who are members of the organization.

During the past week Comrade Weiss has addressed street corner meetings in the thickly populated Negro and Mexican-American areas of the city. The meeting in the Mexican-American district was conducted entirely in Spanish.

In addition, she has addressed the Westwood Democratic Club, where the younger members showed considerable interest in discussing her program, the Florence Town Meeting, and a committee of the Associated Teachers of Los Angeles. A sound truck is touring the city daily and will continue to carry the socialist platform into the streets until election.

During the coming week Comrade Weiss is scheduled to speak before a meeting of the Independent Progressive Party where she will have an opportunity to contrast her program calling for a serious struggle against the third imperialist war with that of the "peace" illusions fostered by the Stalinists.

She will also address a large meeting called by the American Jewish Congress, and another sponsored by the League of Women Voters. In past years, League of Women Voters' meetings have attracted crowds of around 1500.

In a printed statement distributed by the League of Women Voters, Comrade Weiss stated:

"To democratize the school system, committees from the unions and minority groups should actively participate in all policy decisions. This would end discrimination and anti-labor bias which now exist in public education. The witch-hunt and all thought-control measures must immediately be stopped. Only in this way can the Board of Education be democratized.

"With regard to 'Fundamentals' — our pedagogic methods have lagged far behind progress in science. Regimentation can produce cannon-fodder but will not produce intelligent and happy adults. Wall Street needs the former but we want the latter, which is obtainable only under Socialism.

"As to the budget — the United States spends a shockingly small percentage of its budget on public education. The teachers are badly underpaid. I believe they should be organized to fight for decent wages and would do all in my power to help them."

This statement was made in answer to specific questions. The point on "Fundamentals" refers to a controversy raging here at present between advocates of the teaching of "fundamentals" and champions of so-called "progressive" education.

THE TRENTON SIX TRIAL -- A DAY IN THE COURT

(Continued from Page 1)

ing to them the first suspect was "calm" throughout the grilling which really wasn't a grilling because he talked "voluntarily." The prisoner wasn't at that stage, according to them, a prisoner because he wasn't under arrest. Of course the police wouldn't let him go home when he asked and he was returned to a cell when he wouldn't tell the police the "truth," but he wasn't under arrest.

The police go on with their never-never-land story of the five nights' incommunicado grilling. One of them, Detective Lieutenant Delate, is very cocky and sure of himself when he takes the stand. This manner lasts for about ten minutes of cross examination and the half-sneer fades from his lips as the defense attorneys trap him in contradictions with his testimony at the first trial and inconsistencies between his story today and that of the police who preceded him on the stand.

In justifying a line of questioning that has been challenged, a defense attorney tells the judge: "We intend to prove that Chief of County Detectives Frank Naples came in and took over the case. Frank Naples is the one who used the hypnotic drug — sodium amytal — in getting the confessions."

A glimpse of the anti-Negro police terror that preceded and explains the haphazard choice of these six Negro men for the role of scapegoats in this case comes out. The Trenton newspapers of the time report how special machine gun squads patrolled the Negro neighborhoods with orders to "shoot to kill" and how Negro men on the streets were searched and had to be able to explain their reason for being out. The police witnesses play that down as much as possible. They admit making a raid at dawn in zero weather. The place was Robbinsville — a shack town for Negro migratory agricultural workers — out of their jurisdiction. While refusing to set an exact number the police admit that at least those living in fifteen or twenty houses were roused and questioned. The police claim that they entered buildings only upon invitation, however. A defense attempt is made to bring out that cops armed with shotguns stood covering those who came to the doors. None of the police can recall seeing any of their fellows armed with shotguns.

At the press table the reaction from the audience is heard only a few times. When the session is over, however, a friend who has been in the audience describes the continuous commentary that goes on there. **When the prosecution made an assertion people would mutter under their breath, "That's a lie." When the defense brought out a point relating to jim crow a general sighing — almost inaudible — went up from the audience. On the way out two young Negro girls in front of me are talking about the woman yesterday who shouted that the Trenton Six were innocent. She says, "It was like an electric shock ran through me and I felt so happy I felt like running."**

BREITMAN DENOUNCES NEW JERSEY RENT GOUGE OF TWENTY PERCENT

NEWARK, March 27 — George Breitman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for General Assembly from Essex County, today denounced the 20 percent increase authorized by the Area Rent Advisory Board in Essex and eight other New Jersey counties, and called for public resistance "to this and all other increases in living costs."

He declared that for workers paying $40 rent, "the Rent Advisory Board's outrageous action is equivalent to a five cents' hourly cut in real income, and proportionately more for workers paying higher rent."

Breitman said the labor leaders were to be commended for opposing the rent increase, but said they should "go beyond mere verbal protest and mobilize the people for all-out resistance, including mass protest demonstrations and, if necessary, rent strikes."

An estimated 250,000 families living in houses with four or less units will be affected by the rent increase authorization, beginning April 1. But, Breitman said, "this inevitably foreshadows moves by the real estate interests to foist rent boosts on tenants in larger buildings, unless a great protest is raised now."

The Socialist Workers candidate charged that the local increase had been "instigated" by Tighe E. Woods, national Housing Expediter. He added:

"On the same day that this rent boost was announced here, this same Woods was telling Congress that without rent controls 'wage and price controls become a farce.' Such hypocrisy and double-dealing should be branded for what they are, and opposed by everyone who wants to keep prices from rising further.

"Wage and price controls have become a farce all right, but not the kind that brings laughs from working people. The only ones who can enjoy it are the price-gougers, the rent hogs and the officials who collaborate with them, like Woods.

"The labor leaders, who publicly accuse Woods of responsibility for this rent increase, went to great lengths last year to convince the voters that election of the Democrats was in the interests of the working people who constitute the great majority of the tenants. Now it turns out that their election is actually in the interests of the landlords.

"It won't do for the labor leaders to complain that they have been 'betrayed' once again, as they have to do after every election. What is needed now is a new party, an independent labor party, which can be depended on to fulfill its election promises because it will be controlled by the rank and file."