

# The Kind of Leaders Labor Has in U. S.

An Editorial

The American union leadership is as narrow-minded a crew of petty bureaucrats as can be found anywhere including the ward clubs of the Democratic or Republican party. They have no stomach for a fight except when their personal prestige and privileges are directly involved.

The American Federation of Labor Executive Council meeting in Montreal last week illustrates this.

In the midst of the determined drive of U.S. Big Business and its government agents against the organizations and living conditions of the workers, these union moguls voted to recommend to the September AFL convention that the United Labor Policy Committee be dissolved. By this act they declare their insolvency as leaders.

The top AFL and CIO officers were originally motivated in organizing the ULPC by a desire for more prominent recognition in government posts. But by its very organization the ULPC became a potentially powerful weapon in defense of labor's rights. The bold attack against Big Business control of government, the united front shown by the AFL, CIO and independent unions, inspired hope in the ranks of the union membership.

But none of the top union officials who organized the ULPC had either the vision or the courage to effectively mobilize the united strength of organized labor. They did not carry through a fight either to maintain the workers' economic positions, or to lead a struggle for genuine political representation for labor against the reactionary two-party system.

After walking out of all government boards in protest against the profiteer-dictated Washington policies, the ULPC crawled back in. They did not win a single important concession. The ULPC representing 15 million workers stood helpless, paralyzed by an impotent leadership.

The formation of the ULPC was greeted with enthusiasm by rank-and-file trade unionists. In many cities local committees were formed to carry out united action on a local level between the CIO, AFL and independents. Many locals passed resolutions favoring organic unity of labor.

Many workers saw in the ULPC a chance for the great union movement to unite its forces on the political field so that it could strike as a unified force in election campaigns, winning genuine labor representation in Congress.

**Clique Interests of the Leaders**

But neither the CIO nor AFL leaders carried through the wishes of the ranks. They kowtowed to Truman; they begged small favors; they served as "window dressing" for the wage freeze, the tax steal and the price gouge. They did not once speak out against the drive toward an all-out war economy which more and more loads its heavy costs upon the low-income groups.

Such leaders as Tobin and Green, Murray and Reuther, think of labor unity in a different way from the worker in the shop. They are concerned about their posts, salaries, personal advantages. Each of the top figures in both CIO and AFL is a small-time baron; he views the union as his own happy-hunting ground, and the private bailiwick of his cronies. Unity would necessitate the amalgamation of some unions and the elimination of some posts, or at least the sharing of power.

The AFL hierarchy, which now proposes to split the ULPC, may hope to be able to force the CIO into organic unity on the AFL's terms. That is, with the lion's share of the posts and offices going to the old craft union leadership. The CIO officers, on the other hand, will resist this kind of forced unity because they have no intention to give up a single position on the payroll of a single union. Clique interests will shape this struggle, as it has in the past.

What a picture of unprincipled and small-minded men! The tragedy is that such men of straw head the most powerful labor movement in the world.

But these leaders will not stifle the independent spirit and power of American labor. Should the AFL convention endorse the break-up of the ULPC it would strengthen the growing resentment in the AFL ranks against the dictator-officers who rule these unions. The recent outbreak of militant teamsters in Cleveland is a sign of things to come.

In the CIO, where the bureaucrats are nowhere near as firmly entrenched as in the AFL, a new militancy is slowly but surely producing a new leadership of a far different caliber.

The unions today are bigger and stronger than ever. Neither the combined offensive of the big corporations and the government, nor the attempts of the union heads, have succeeded in suppressing the fighting character of the organized American working class.

In the auto shops, on the trucks, in the steel mills and in the mines, new men of labor are arising. Workers determined to defend their conditions of work and life, are learning the lessons of experience with the old-line conservative union big shots. In the process of struggle they are forging new leaders with the will to fight. The clearer the treacherous role of the reigning bureaucracy becomes, all the sooner a left wing labor leadership will develop to lead and win.

**New Bill To Let Employers Fire Militants**

Senator McCarran (Dem.) has introduced a bill, which, if passed, will spread the purge into every shop in the country. This bill, which is a logical conclusion to the loyalty purge which Truman launched, will give unlimited powers to the corporations to fire any militant they choose.

While Truman bemoans and tries to blame his Republican opponents, in particular McCarthy, for the spreading reign of terror in America, more repressions are being prepared in Congress to extend the witch-hunt deeper and deeper.

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**McCarraan Proposes Broader Witchhunt**

McCarraan proposes to empower employers to fire "without liability" workers whose names appear on any Federal or state list of "subversives," or who are charged with belonging to such groups.

In addition to this the Senator proposes other open union-busting amendments to his notorious McCarran Act.

These will make it unlawful for any member of a communist or "front" group to hold office in a union. Furthermore, it decertifies as bargaining agent any union having an officer who is either a member of a Communist or a "front" group.

Still another deadly weapon placed in the hands of the employers is the authorization to fire any worker who refuses to tell "a duly constituted legislative committee" whether he belongs or has belonged to any organization on the Attorney General's subversive list.

**3 More CIO Bodies Donate To Help Kutcher Defense**

Three more important CIO bodies last week aided the legless veteran James Kutcher in his fight against Truman's loyalty purge. The CIO Council of New Jersey, Kutcher's home state, voted \$25 as "a contribution toward the excellent work of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee."

Carl Holderman, President of the Council, was one of the initiators of the national campaign for his defense when Kutcher was fired from his job in the Newark Veterans Administration because of his socialist views.

**AN OUTRAGE**

The Hennepin County CIO Industrial Union Council of Minneapolis, Minnesota, sent \$10 with a letter from its Secretary-Treasurer Arthur Hopkins saying: "We consider his victimization an outrage against Civil Liberties. We trust that an aroused labor movement will soon aid this veteran in securing justice."

From the steel center of Youngstown Ohio the Mahoning County CIO Council sent \$25 for Kutcher's defense fund.

The funds raised will be used to defray the expenses of taking Kutcher's case to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this fall.

**DEADLY ATTACK**

Something new has also been added to the drive to destroy freedom of the press in America. The Justice Department in its indictment of the West Coast Communists, recently arrested, has included in the list of so-called crimes the writing of articles for the Communist press.

This is the first time since the Alien and Sedition laws of 1798 that writing for a newspaper has been outlawed in this country. The "democrats" in the Justice Department are now in effect saying, "But we are not suppressing a newspaper. We are merely arresting anyone who writes for it."

This widening of the attack on the labor unions and our democratic rights is still another warning to all sincere defenders of civil rights:

**Stop the witch-hunt now!**

**Socialist Workers Party Campaigns In Six States**

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**Illegal to Pray? Wis. Man Worried**

The daily Capital Times of Madison, Wisconsin, which conducted the recent, much publicized petition circulation and which found that 111 out of 112 people approached refused to sign the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights out of fear of consequences, got the following wire from reader A. J. McCulloch, Lancaster, Wis.

"Grant County subscribers Capital Times worried. Capital Times petition Declaration of Independence is violation of Smith Act, contempt of Congress and contempt of Supreme Court. If McCarthy throws you in the clink we are afraid to solicit bail money. We shall pray for you if that is not illegal too."

**What Truman Cooked Up For Our Dinner Tables**

By Murry Weiss

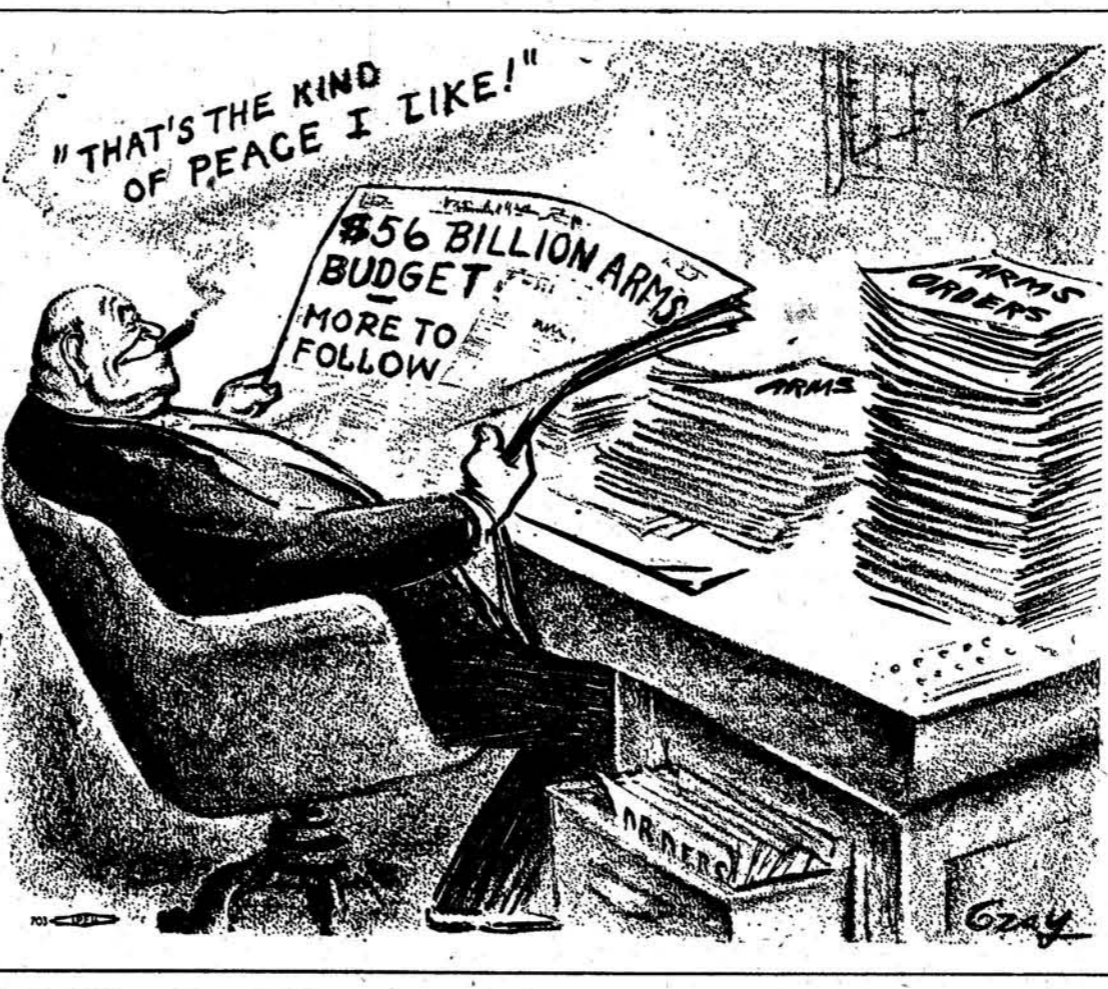
Get ready to spend at least 10 percent more of your take-home pay for nothing. That's the plain meaning of the recent "control" legislation enacted by the "horsemeat Congress." This new price increase should not come as a surprise — the news comes right out of the horse's mouth, Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston himself. Johnston told the first meeting of the Defense Mobilization Board that the cost of living will go up five to eight percent during the next year.

When you consider that this is Johnston's own conservative figure, and then add the steadily mounting open and concealed taxes, you will be safe in concluding that if you are taking home, say, \$50 a week you can kiss \$5 of that goodbye.

**A SHOCK**

"Mr. Johnston's estimate . . . came as something of a shock to Board members," the N. Y. Times reports. If it was "something of

# U. S. Truce Team Seeks To Dictate Harsh Terms



## Chinese Must Retreat North, Pentagon Says; Demand Kept Secret from Public at Home

What terms are being demanded by U.S. negotiators at Kaesong?

This is becoming the big question about the Korea cease-fire negotiations. Newspaper stories from the Korean correspondents covering the parleys continue extremely vague on this point. The plain truth of the matter is that the Pentagon does not want to let the American public know just what demands it is making in Korea.

The Chinese radio has been blasting away with charges that the U.S. brass hats are asking for a truce line far north of the present battle line. U.S. denials of this have been couched in the vaguest terms. On Aug. 5, General Ridgway stated that the U.S. is asking for a truce line that is "in effect" the present battle line. Just what "in effect" means has never been made clear. Other reports of the U.S. stand say that allied negotiators are asking for a truce line "based upon" the present battle line.

The NAM is proposing a federal sales tax on all purchases other than food, liquor and tobacco. The tax would equal more than one-third the cost of the item purchased. In other words, every \$3.00 item would cost at least \$4.00 under the NAM proposal.

**ALL-OUT PUSH**

Life magazine of July 9 lists the big business combination backing this plan as including, in addition to the NAM, the Committee for Economic Development, the Committee on Federal Tax Policy, the National Retail Dry Goods Association, the American Retail Federation, and the Automobile Manufacturers' Association. These are the open Big Business advocates of the oppressive tax scheme, and do not include the powerful capitalist forces that are pushing the plan from under cover.

**Weak administration resistance to this fantastic tax increase may collapse at any minute.** The United Automobile Workers, CIO, in a release last week, charged that, in his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, "Secretary of the Treasury Snyder seems to have left the door open for a federal sales tax in the future. . ."

In the same release, the UAW-CIO makes a vivid analysis of

## NAM Sales Tax Would Cost Poor Over \$5 Billion

During the 24th session of the truce conference, a speech was made by U.S. chief negotiator Admiral Joy, which was reported in part in the press. Maintaining its usual vague and indistinct tone that it always adopts when speaking of U.S. truce terms, the press does not explain the meaning of the speech. However, Joy's speech can have only one meaning. It is a defense of the idea that the U.S. army is entitled to a truce line still further north than the present battle line.

Joy's line is that a truce, which would put an end to U.S. air and naval bombardment, would give the Chinese and Korean armies certain "advantages." "We are prosecuting a war," he said, "behind your front lines which is not duplicated behind our lines." His conclusion from this is that the U.S. Army must be given ground advantages which it does not now possess in order to make up for the alleged great loss the U.S. will suffer by stopping its air and naval bombardment.

All the arguments advanced by Joy appear to bear out the Chinese contention that the U.S. is asking them to retreat before it will accept a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, the U.S. truce team has relations with the press exclusively through a "briefing" (Continued on page 3)

## What Truman Cooked Up For Our Dinner Tables

ton show really get going on an all-out arms program.

2. — In the war year of 1942, Federal, state and local taxes came to \$170 per person. Last year this tax load had soared to \$360, or more than doubled. This is what taxes look like during "peacetime." Imagine what they are planning for the "real war."

3. — Now look at it this way: According to Mrs. Wickens, deputy commissioner U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, cost of living necessities that families buy every month used to cost \$100 a month in 1939 as against \$185 today. "It takes \$23.74 to buy the groceries that a \$10 bill used to buy before World War II," she says. Comparable figures are given for all other cost of living items. Keep in mind this is the continuous trend and there is a lot more of this coming.

**RECORD PROFITS**

4. — Compare these stiff boosts in the cost of living with the figures on profits. While the work-

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# Lieutenant Challenges Truman to Take Issue of Korea Withdrawal to the People

What American soldiers really think of the Korean war was sharply expressed in a letter by Marine Lieut. Gale G. Buuck, printed in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, News-Sentinel on March 26. Lieut. Buuck is on active duty in Korea with the Second Battalion of the First Marine Division. His letter reads as follows:

**THE LETTER**

"Will you please relay the following questions to Harry S. Truman?"

"How many years are you going to let American manpower, materials and money drain into this Korean sewer? How many more of my men must die on account of your stubborn refusal to pull out of Korea?"

"The undersigned dares you to take the following issue to the people:

"Shall we pull out of Korea?"

"Someday you will answer for this sellout of American manpower and materials. Unfortunately on account of you and your administration most of the boys here won't be alive to register their righteous wrath against this sellout."

"Again the question Mr. Truman, how long must we stay here in this godforsaken hole of Korea?"

(Signed) GALE G. BUUCK, Lieut. U.S.M.C.

This letter was officially ignored for nearly four months. It has suddenly received general publicity because it was reprinted in the Moscow Literary Gazette. Then the cat was out of the bag. Now the Marine Corps in Washington has become interested in it. According to the N. Y. Times, "disciplinary action against Lieutenant Buuck is being considered" — for daring to express his opinion.

**HAD TO "SOUND OFF"**

That the Lieutenant is aware that the administration is determined to gag the American soldier is indicated by the remark he appended to his letter, "Do what you will with it, but I had to sound off."

The prolonged official silence concerning this letter is only the other side of a high powered campaign to bludgeon the people into believing that the American soldier is now beginning to glory in the Korean slaughter, that he is happy with such abominations as "Operation Killer."

It is no longer denied officially that soldier morale in the past was low; but the claim is that there has been a "remarkable change." In an interview granted to the weekly U.S. News, Aug. 17, Gen. Ridgway was asked the following leading question:

"What is the explanation for the remarkable improvement of morale of UN troops in Korea in the past six months?" And here is Ridgway's answer:

"Leadership at all levels in all services and national contingents; the inculcation of a reasoned understanding based on facts of the purpose of their presence in Korea and the objectives for which they fight."

**NAILING THE LIE**

But the authentic voice of the GI is filtering through the tight lid of censorship. The lie is being nailed. Lieutenant Buuck's letter is only one among many others.

For example, the Congressional Record of March 13 quotes another letter from a soldier to the Marquette Mining Journal, "Myself and a few thousand other GIs would like to know the answers to several questions. The biggest question at the present is, just why are we over here? The Korean people certainly aren't glad to have us. I've seen it with my own eyes."

**A SURVEY**

To cite another instance, there is the survey conducted in May by Benjamin Fine for the N. Y. Times. Fine has quoted typical

remarks from 5,000 Army trainees and officers whom he interviewed:

"Why am in the Army? I'll tell you why. It's because Truman made a blunder," said one GI.

"I have no stomach to fight the United Nation's war. It's only for Wall Street anyway," another said.

The American soldier is not alone in his revulsion against the Korean atrocity, the greatest perpetrated in history. A recent AFL radio poll of 96,000 listeners indicated the universal unpopularity of the Korean war. Those polled were thirty to one for the immediate withdrawal of the American troops. Every public poll has uncovered the same sentiment.

In Korea and at home, the demand keeps growing. The courageous protests from the GIs are joining together with the real voice of America in the mighty chorus:

**Bring the troops home now!**





