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# Anti-Trucks Law Victory Scored By SWP in Suit

DETROIT, Feb. 23 — The Attorney General of Michigan, who set out in 1952 to smear the Socialist Workers Party and to bar it from the ballot through the reactionary Trucks Law, has been forced to back down — at least temporarily.

## Trucks Victory Hits McCarthyism Dobbs Declares

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 — Farrell Dobbs, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party and one of the plaintiffs in the SWP suit against the Trucks Law in Michigan, today greeted the partial victory against the law won in the Wayne County Circuit Court as "a blow against McCarthyism, a vindication for the Socialist Workers Party, and an encouragement to continue the fight until the thought-control Trucks Law will be wiped off the statute books."

Trucks Law, the "Michigan Communist Control Law" which was passed in 1952 and used in an attempt to bar the SWP from the ballot. Another objective of the suit was to get the Trucks Law declared unconstitutional.

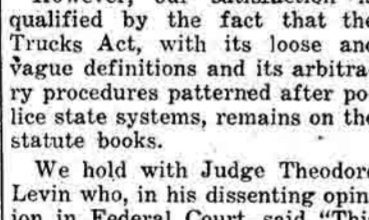
Reluctant to fight the SWP suit to a conclusion, Millard delayed it as long as possible, and then introduced a motion to have it dismissed.

In order to achieve this, however, he had to make some damaging statements that were incorporated into the dismissal order. One was:

"The Attorney General of this State, as of the date of this interlocutory order, has made no determination nor has he conducted a hearing to determine whether the Socialist Workers Party of Michigan, one of the plaintiffs herein, is a communist front organization within the meaning of that term as defined by the legislature in section 4 of the Michigan Communist Control Law, nor does he deem at the present time that he has sufficient proof to establish the fact, if it exists, that any of the plaintiffs, individually or collectively, are communists, communist front organizations, or members thereof within the meaning of said law."

A RETREAT  
This marks a definite retreat by the Attorney General. One of the first things he did in 1952 after the Trucks Law was enacted was to rule that the SWP came under the provisions of the law under the provisions of said law.

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FARRELL DOBBS

## CITIZENS GROUP HAILS DECISION IN SWP CASE

DETROIT, Feb. 22—The Citizens' Committee Against the Trucks Law today hailed the agreement in Circuit Court arising out of the Trucks Act suit. In a statement released by Chairman Rev. I. Paul Taylor and Secretary-Treasurer Ernest Mazey, the Committee stated:

The agreement signed in Circuit Court between Attorney General Millard of the State of Michigan, and attorneys Bernard Probe and Jesse R. Bacalis, in behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, represents a considerable victory in the fight to maintain our freedom and civil liberties.

The Attorney General's admission that the Socialist Workers Party is neither "communist" nor "subversive" under the meaning of the act, and the declaration of the State that it will not interfere with the ballot rights of the party or its individual candidates, is in sharp contrast to the attitude of the State when the Trucks Law was enacted two years ago.

At that time, State Director of Elections Edward Frey declared, "In view of the impending law, we must see that no organization inclined toward socialism is given a place on the ballot." Immediately, the Socialist Workers Party was barred from the ballot for the 1952 presidential election, even though it had complied with the requirements of the election laws.

Since that time, mounting public protests and difficulties in obtaining court approval, for this undemocratic law have compelled the State to retreat from this arbitrary position. Moreover, the State has found it necessary to revise and amend portions of the Act. The amendments were designed to tighten up the law to improve the chances of court action favorable to the state. They do not mitigate the dangers of the Act.

The Citizens' Committee Against the Trucks Law believes that this agreement and the retreat by the State is an important victory for all the people of Michigan. We feel proud that our Committee, by its organized educational and publicity work, has been able to help in this fight.

However, our satisfaction is qualified by the fact that the Trucks Act, with its loose and vague definitions and its arbitrary procedures patterned after police state systems, remains on the statute books.

We hold with Judge Theodore Levin who, in his dissenting opinion in Federal Court, said "This act, if allowed to stand, will contribute to the creation in this country of that phenomenon so familiar in totalitarian countries — the public advocacy on the part of law-abiding citizens of a stereotyped political ideology and the stifling of the kind of free inquiry and investigation that has characterized the growth of our democracy."

He also said that the Trucks Act is "an arbitrary exercise of police powers that by unnecessary interference with the guarantees of free speech and assembly, violate the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

While the Circuit Court agreement narrows the field of the law's application, the law itself remains as a continuing threat to our civil liberties. We are determined to continue our efforts in opposition to the law, confident that it will be declared unconstitutional.

We wish to thank all supporters of our past efforts, and to pledge our continued activity until the law is stricken from the statute books of the State of Michigan.

A panel discussion on the topic: "Is McCarthyism a Threat to American Freedom?" scheduled to be held in a Valley Stream, N. Y. public school, was cancelled by order of the District Board of Education.

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Build a Labor Party Now!

# THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

# Labor Should Lead the Fight On McCarthy, Says N.Y. CIO

## M'Carthy Shows Power In Bid to Control Army

By George Breitman  
"Senator McCarthy this afternoon achieved what General Burgoyne and General Cornwallis never achieved — the surrender of the American Army." — Washington correspondent of the London Times, Feb. 25.

Secretary of the Army Stevens could not have surrendered "more abjectly if he had got down on his knees." — McCarthy to a reporter, Feb. 25.

"Senator McCarthy was asked whether he agreed with Senator Dirksen that Mr. Stevens had not surrendered. 'I agree with that,' he said with a big grin on his face. 'It was just a case of reaching an agreement.' Surprisingly, he kicked a correspondent in the shins as he made the statement." — N. Y. Times, Feb. 26.

After the "agreement" with Stevens, McCarthy "offers waltzers in the Capitol corridors Army commissions if they want them." — Alsops, Feb. 28.

"Officers of the Army in particular were in a state of incredulous shock. The general mood at the Pentagon was gloomy and bitter." — N. Y. Times, Feb. 26.

"In Washington the next morning, the atmosphere suggests Berlin after the Reichstag fire with Stevens in the role of Van Der Lubbe, the dullwitted Dutchman who committed the arson; with Eisenhower as the aging Hindenburg and with Hitler played by you-know-who." — Alsops, Feb. 28.

"Okay, Bud. When I want you again I'll send for you." — Caption on Herblock cartoon showing Stevens offering McCarthy his sword, Feb. 26.

McCarthy's growing arrogance has a solid base — it parallels the steady growth of his power and of the dismay, demoralization and discredit of his Republican and Democratic opponents. The white flag run up by the Pentagon marks the greatest success he has recorded in his drive to McCarthyize the government bureaucracy and take over the

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## First Report On My Tour

By Murry Weiss  
PITTSBURGH, Feb. 20 — Pittsburgh is the division point between the Eastern and Midwestern part of my tour. I arrived here Thursday with a group of comrades who drove down from Buffalo with me.

It was late in the evening when we reached the steel center. The glow of the open hearth furnaces touched up the hills. The Buffalo comrades told me that the nights were brighter in the years of full capacity production. Now many of the furnaces are banked. Production is down below 80%; and in Youngstown, 70 miles northwest, it is below 70%.

Pittsburgh is a good place to look back at the first leg of the tour. It's been 15 years since I was here. Much has happened since that time and much has changed. But many things seem the same. We were deep in a "recession" the last time I was here in 1939.

I was reminded of this when we stopped at a restaurant on the outskirts of town and picked up a paper, the Pittsburgh Press. It was full of "optimistic" speculations on how the economic decline, which has struck with such force at the steel industry, is "leveling off."

Meantime, the officially acknowledged number of unemployed in this key industry grows from month to month. The "leveling off" talk is just that — talk.

Later when we met the Pittsburgh comrades they showed me a front-page story in another daily paper about my meeting. There was the usual garbled account of what the Socialist Work-

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## Their Frankenstein Monster



We reprint the above especially appropriate cartoon from the Sept. 22, 1952, issue of The Militant on the occasion of our celebration of the 10th anniversary of Laura Gray's first cartoon for this paper, published on March 4, 1944. On Page 2 we reprint other examples of her famous cartoons, some of which have been reproduced around the world. Also on Page 2 are a number of tributes to our Laura from all parts of the country.

## "30 for 40" Program Wins Growing Support

The movement for a 30-hour week at 40 hours' pay to combat unemployment is gathering momentum. This program, first proposed in the Militant, is being widely discussed in labor circles and union publications and is gaining new advocates.

In the CIO United Automobile Workers, the powerful Ford Local 600, Flint Chevrolet Local 659 and the California General Motors locals have been hitting hard on this issue for several months. Favorable discussion of "30 for 40" also appears in the Feb. issue of the Voice of Local 212, newspaper of the union of the former largest Briggs plant now incorporated into Chrysler.

"FIERCER COMPETITION"  
Frank Marquart, Education Director of Local 212, in a column on technological unemployment through automation, reports: "A growing movement for 30 hours a week with 40 hours pay may soon be just as logical as the movement for the eight-hour day was back in 1886."

Citing the effort of the corporations to maintain high profits by cutting labor costs through eliminating workers, Marquart says: "The fiercer the competition the more intense the drive for reducing labor costs. This is why General Motors is going to spend one to two billion dollars over the next two years to modernize its plants. Ford will spend 600 million dollars for the same purpose. Chrysler bought the Briggs plants to improve its competitive position and millions of dollars will be spent to improve all Chrysler plants."

RAISED IN UPWA  
This problem of automation combined with the economic down-

turn that has increased national unemployment to between 4,500,000 and 5,000,000 workers, has brought the issue of "30 for 40" even into an industry like meat-

packing. "Aim for 30 hr. Week — 40 hr. Pay" is the banner headline over a statement in the Feb. Packerhouse Worker by Harold Nielsen, Director of District 1, CIO United Packerhouse Workers.

Nielsen cites a previous article by UPWA sec. Treas. Hathaway, entitled, "Here Come the Machines, What Is UPWA Policy?" that poses the problems of technological improvements, speed-up and unemployment. Pointing out that the union does not oppose technological improvements, Nielsen states that nevertheless if the present trend of wiping out jobs continues, "we may well find a goodly portion of our members classified as D.P.s." He therefore urges the program that "must be pressed for with every means at our disposal if we are to safeguard our people against mass unemployment and its damaging effect upon our whole economy."

"We have said, for instance, that a 30 hour week with 40 hours pay would be a desirable thing; and we have also said that, as a matter of plain right and justice, any benefits accruing to any employer by reason of the introduction of new machines should be shared by the employees."

MAJOR GOAL OF UNION  
The "major goal of this union," insists Nielsen, should be "a 40 hour pay check for 30 hours work and a fair share of the packer's profits for our people."

## Resolution Cites Peril Of Fascism

By Joseph Keller

Aroused by the growing power of McCarthyite fascism, as demonstrated in the Wisconsin senator's bold moves to bring the Pentagon under his control, the New York City CIO Council on Feb. 25 unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the "national CIO to organize and lead this fight to preserve the basic American liberties from destruction."

Recognizing that labor is the only force in America which can smash McCarthyism, the largest local CIO Council in America also calls on all its own local affiliates to "organize and lead the fight against McCarthy and the people who would subvert and destroy our basic American freedoms."

"DAY OF INFAMY"

The council's resolution described Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1954, as "a Day of Infamy." For on that day "our country witnessed the ignominious surrender of the American Army and the Government of the United States to that most dangerous demagogue, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin."

The resolution declares: "No longer can we sit idly by and watch the antics of McCarthy and his Republican cohorts, without realizing that our basic liberties are in mortal danger." It therefore points to the need for the CIO and the labor movement to take the lead in the fight.

SILENT ON DEMOCRATS

The leaders of the Council did not see fit to point out that the Democratic party leaders, including its so-called "fair dealers" like Senator Lehman, have capitulated to McCarthy just as ignominiously as Eisenhower and Secretary of the Army Stevens. Lehman and his fellow "liberal" Senators voted for the funds to fuel McCarthy's offensive to "smash" the unions, as Westbrook Pegler stated the fascist aim in a recent column.

The resolution also contains a grave weakness in complaining that McCarthy "is not fighting an honest battle against communism." Here the New York City CIO Council is falling into the McCarthyite trap. The instant you accept McCarthy's premise that "communism is a menace," then McCarthy can make mince-ment of your complaints about his methods. This is the very reason why Democrats and Republicans who are ostensibly against McCarthy's methods, crumble under his first blow.

SIGNIFICANT STAND

Nevertheless, the stand of the New York City CIO is extremely significant in pointing to the only source of effective leadership and struggle against McCarthyism. Organized labor, which is really the main target of fascism, is the only power that can smash McCarthy's drive to become the American Hitler.

This power can be effectively mobilized, however, only if it is independent of the old-line capitalist parties and politicians. It is necessary for labor to prepare for a life-and-death battle for power in America against the capitalist cohorts of fascism.

Here, the New York City CIO could have struck a more telling blow if it had urged the formation of labor's own party. Reliance on the old parties or any sector of them to put up a serious fight against onrushing McCarthyism is a policy of suicide.

The CIO Council's resolution spoke of the "startling parallel" between the McCarthyite developments and "recent European history," including that of Germany and Italy. The most startling is precisely the reliance on "lesser evil" capitalist politicians, instead of labor's own organized might.





