

THE LAW TRIES TO HALT SIT-DOWN TIDAL WAVE

Neutrality Bill Aids Fascists

By GUS TYLER

Sam D. McReynolds, Congressman from Tennessee, has tacked a rider on to his so-called Neutrality Bill, which has only one purpose: to injure the fight of the Spanish workers and peasants against the Fascist reactionaries.

The section of the bill declares: That when the President of the United States declares a state of civil strife to exist in any country, which — in the president's opinion — threatens the peace and

The Friends of the Debs Column calls upon all workers and other anti-Fascists to protest this deadly blow at the efforts of Americans to aid in the fight against Fascism in Spain. Send telegrams to your Congressman urging that he vote against those provisions of the neutrality act that grant power to the President to stop aid to Spain. Picket your Congressman's home for the same purpose.

security of the United States then it shall become unlawful to solicit or receive any contribution for any such government, or political subdivision, or any person acting for or on behalf of such government or subdivision."

No Aid to Spain

Stripped of its legal figleaves, this means that no aid can be sent to the Spanish Loyalists in the fight against Franco

And no aid, here, means—NO AID! This is not just a ban upon the shipment of arms, ammunition or other implements of war. This is a ban upon ALL contributions. As it stands, it even means that no medical aid or humanitarian contributions may be extended.

This rider has absolutely no place in the bill, even if one were to accept the general purposes of the bill. This so-called Neutrality Law is really a supposed Peace Law; that is, it is aimed at halting war trade that may entangle America in an international war and at keeping American ships from running amuck so that the government shall not be dragged into a war by a new naval incident.

Violates Spirit of Bill

The soliciting of funds for a foreign government at civil war, can not by the longest stretch of the imagination, ever involve the U. S. Government in a war. How can the sending of ambulances, or clothes, or food, or canned goods, or bandages, or even a million dollars (not loaned but contributed) ever involve the

Food For Fansteel Fighters



This photo was taken before the sit-down strikers at Fansteel were driven out of their plant by vomit gas fired from behind the safe protection of a "moving tower." The "food question," which played such a big part in the Flint stay-ins, is proving to be the center of much attention in all these strikes. During the week, "food to the fighters" was a problem in Hungarian and Australian mines, which were on strike! (See page 3.)

'I Don't Give A Damn; Let 'Em Burn'-Douglas

By GLEN TRIMBLE

A drastic indictment which threatened murder charges against 400 men, one of the largest mass labor arrests in California's unsavory history, an unheard of bail of nearly \$400,000—all these failed to daunt aviation workers in their first week of industrial strife, in America's largest airplane factory and America's worst anti-labor city.

The Douglas Aircraft strikers, inspired by a militant core of the "CIO 400" who sat down three days in the factory, and two days in strike headquarters on the ninth floor of the Los Angeles "Hall of Justice," intend to fight it out if it takes all summer.

The strike began at 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 23rd, and affected 5,600 Douglas workers. Bill Busick, Southern California's representative of the CIO, walked in with the workers, punched a card, picked at random, and retired to the gentlemen's waiting room for an hour and a half, a one man sit-down. At nine he emerged to

carry the strike message, previously authorized by the Douglas committee of the aviation division of the UAWA, from department to department of the vast plant. Strike action was forced by company discharge of leading unionmen.

For three days "CIO 400" held the fort while labor-hating Los Angeles capital massed its forces. District Attorney Byron Fitts, after an all night conference with Donald Douglas, brought indictments against all known strike leaders and sit-downers to the Grand Jury. The charge was one of "conspiracy to commit trespass," a felony carrying two year jail sentences.

Four hundred police armed with

(Continued on Page Two)

As labor "stays in," the capitalist state—courts, cops, and militia—get ready to crack down.

The "moving tower" attack upon the

Sit-Downs Spread To New Spots

By JACK FAHY

The loudest noise on the labor front in recent years was made by the United Automobile Workers Union in Michigan. The famous 42-day sit-down strike finally won most of its demands. Within a week after the strike ended payrolls jumped \$100,000,000 in the Detroit area alone.

Proving once again that the wider the labor front is the better are its chances for success, dozens of strikes were speedily settled following the victory at General Motors. In many sections big corporations are voluntarily granting wage increases rather than risk a shutdown.

Other companies however, are die-hard conservative and would rather spend a fortune than share even the crumbs of their big profits.

Leather

Most important victory outside the automobile industry was that won by 17,000 members of the United Shoe and Leather Workers Union in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The union, a CIO affiliate, put across a 15 per cent wage increase after less than a week of strikes. Powers Haggood was instrumental in bringing the dispute to a successful conclusion.

War Goods

Makers of war materials have gained a reputation for brutal tactics in dealing with labor. Since they don't sell to the public they don't worry about public opinion. So it is only natural that the hardest struggles are going on at the Groton, Connecticut, plant of the Electric Boat Company, makers of submarines, and the Douglas Aircraft factory in Santa Monica, California.

At the Douglas plant president "Donald Duck" Douglas quacked so loud he got 341 strikers thrown into jail until the CIO arranged to free the men on bail of \$1000 each. Though the sit-down tactic failed, a heavy picket line has been established.

Steel

The long-awaited battle in steel is coming to a head. Suddenly

(Continued on Page Three)

Fansteel sit-down at Waukegan, Illinois, was a military tactic no more ancient—Julius Caesar used it—than the legal philosophy behind the ouster.

Courts, governors and cabinet members of the United States announce shamelessly that the law of master and slave must be preserved—and the weapon's of "our democracy" must be used for the job.

Says Secretary of Commerce Roper, a member of Roosevelt's cabinet: "My attitude is that any sit-down strike that undertakes to take over personal property is a very serious and fundamental thing, and, in my opinion, will not long be endured by the courts."

Says Governor Cross of Connecticut: "There will be no sit-down strikes in Connecticut while I am Governor."

In this he is merely echoing the words of Governor Hoffman of New Jersey, Governor Horner of Illinois and Governor Merriam of California.

The New York Times, careful spokesman for capitalist interests in America, with greater truculence than heretofore, nods a beaming approval to all government officials who are cracking down. Thus on February 28:

"It is reassuring to find officials doing their duty to maintain the law. The District Attorney of Los Angeles County got indictments against the band of sit-downers that had held the plant of Douglas Aircraft for three days, sent a competent posse, convinced the strikers that he meant business and lugged them to jail . . .

"This (attack upon all sit-downs) is the kind of talk for a public officer at this time . . . One can not help feeling a certain pity for these misguided strikers. Most of them are young. They enjoy the camera. They like to think they are heroes and rebels. None the less they are law-breakers, and the law must be enforced."

A gentlemen's call for blood and violence!

Once more King Canute tries to hold back the sea.

Neutrality Bill Aids Fascists

(Continued from Page One)

U. S. Government in a foreign civil war?

It may be claimed that the "solicitation" of contributions is what must be avoided. Solicitation involves propaganda for one side in the civil war. Quite true! But what prevents the Hearst press today from making propaganda quite strongly for the Fascist side—without raising contributions. The law does not stop propaganda. That will go on anyhow. It stops the solicitation of contributions.

Its purpose is one: to stop aid to defeat Fascism in Spain.

Discriminatory Law

Nor does the law possess the virtue of applying uniformly to all civil wars or civil strife. It is clearly a discriminatory resolution—aimed particularly at Spain.

And the proof that it is discriminatory lies in the delegation of discretionary powers to the president.

Suppose that a "civil strife" should break out in Germany! Is aid to the government immediately embargoed? Is there an instant ban on arms, ammunitions and other implements of war? Is it illegal to solicit funds for the Hitler government?

Or suppose that Chiang Kai Shek, in China, comes into clash with the radical workers and peasantry and begins to swing his executioners' swords again! Is there an automatic clause that goes into effect stopping the shipment of arms, etc., to the Chinese rulers?

Not at all! The President may decide to boycott any government he pleases, may decide not to boycott any government he pleases, and may lift, and extend and curtail, may add and subtract from any ban—just as he pleases.

The mere outbreak of civil strife in a foreign country does not automatically mean the proclamation of a ban against it. The clause, in this connection, reads:

President's Powers

"Whenever the President shall find that a state of civil strife exists in a foreign state and that such armed conflict is of such magnitude or is being conducted under such conditions that the export of arms, ammunitions or implements of war from the United States to said foreign state would threaten or endanger the peace of the United States the President shall proclaim such fact, and it shall thereafter be unlawful to export arms, ammunitions or implements of war."

The bill also provides that the President shall have the right to embargo "other articles and materials," except on a "cash-and-carry" basis.

According to this bill, then, it is up to the President to decide just which governments shall and shall not be boycotted. It is up to Him—the President, in his infallible omniscience—to determine when a civil strife is good or bad.

The McReynolds' bill is a clear attempt at injuring the cause of the Spanish workers and peasants while empowering the President to reverse the procedure at some future time should the reactionaries be the government rather than the Rebels.

In a curious error in the drafting of the bill, the House Foreign Affairs Committee permitted itself to be betrayed by what psychologists call "the subconscious."

The section prohibiting the solicitation of funds only talks

Dr. Nicholas M. Butler



President of Columbia University is honored again. For what? Well, most lately he came out against ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. He is also trying to get the American workers to go to war again for somebody's profits. He wants "genuine collective security through an effective world police force" to "make the world safe for democracy." Like a voice from the grave!

Party Auto Strike Work Is Praised

By LAWRENCE VAN CAMP
Secretary, SP of Michigan

The following motion was passed by the Michigan State Executive Committee: "That the secretary be instructed to write the National Executive Committee in appreciation of the excellent cooperation received from the National Labor Secretary and the national work in Flint."

The feeling is not only that the work was well done in this case, but that wherever possible Trager, National Labor Secretary, should make personal visits in other such emergency situations. Michigan will do everything in its power to hasten the day when finances will permit full-time labor secretary as distinguished from labor and organization; for obviously, if the new emphasis in the party is to be carried out, there must be a great deal of personal attendance to such situations by the national office.

of "any such government, or political subdivision, or any person acting for or on behalf of such government or subdivision."

As the law now stands, formally, it would be illegal to tender aid to the Spanish Government or any of its parties, but it would not be illegal to give aid to Franco, since he is not the "government, or any political subdivision." He claims to stand outside the jurisdiction of the government entirely.

No doubt, the law—should it be tested—would apply to both sides. It is just a poor draft. But a poor draft which reveals the motives as well as the intent of the worthy gentleman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

'Let 'Em Burn' Says Douglas In L. A. Ouster

(Continued from Page One)

enough gas and ammunition to take an actual fort prepared to attack. Machine guns were smuggled in under blankets and set up to command a sweep of the plant.

Corporation President Douglas was warned that bombs and explosives among the acids and inflammables throughout the factory were almost certain to cause a fire that would burn alive every worker there. His prompt reply was: "I don't give a damn! Let 'em burn!"

Threats

Added to the menace of fire was the threat that injury or death to any of the police attackers meant murder or attempted murder charges against every man under indictment. After exhortation by the union's legal counsel and Doctor Nylander of the Labor Relations Board, the strikers decided to walk out.

They were loaded into buses and hauled to the county jail.

Buron Fitts, endorsed by the reactionary leadership of the Central Labor Council in the recent campaign, obviously intends to "make a record" for the Merchants and Manufacturer's Association, and a "horrible example" for the worker's in the city who are showing increasing response to the widespread CIO drive.

LOCAL 544 GROWS

MINNEAPOLIS — Teamsters Union Local 544 has grown in the past two and a half years from 2,000 to 6,000 members, taking on one firm, industry or business at a time until it has the town 90 per cent organized.

St. Louis 'Scab Bites A Man' In ILG Strike

By FRANK N. TRAGER

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Entering the fourth week of picket duty the two hundred girls striking against the National Underwear Company have created by their efforts a militant local union of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Led by courageous organizer Artie Price and assisted by Elizabeth Barker and Doris Preisler, these girls have withstood the usual, vicious strikebreaking tactics of the bosses and the police; company officials slugged girls on the picket line; city police ran off the husbands and sweethearts of the picketers when they joined them on the line to protect them against further beatings.

One company scab bit organizer Barker, but that wasn't news since it was the usual story of "dog bites man." Registered letters were sent, intimidating strikers, and threatening a move to another town. These are tactics which a new union has to face.

Blame Conditions

When I spoke to and with the strikers last Saturday I learned the reasons which prompted these workers (many of them are girls between the ages of sixteen and eighteen) to stage a spontaneous walk-out.

They had to buy their own uniforms, price \$1.35; a badge for 25c; pay regular insurance of 60 cents a month, contribute to the community fund and flood relief in order to preserve the firm's reputation. The factory operated its heating equipment about two full days per week; girls worked in coats, mufflers and where possible, with gloves. They reported for work a half-hour earlier (without pay) in order to provide some general cleanliness and necessary sanitation to the place.

Their pay? They worked at piece-rates, e.g., 3 cents per dozen shirts for pressing and buttoning (2 cents per doz. for boys shirts)! Their earnings ranged from \$1.46 to \$8.00 per week without the above regular deductions, plus such other deductions in full for damages to garments. The average for 28 girls taken from the social security records is \$5.84 per week for 44-48 hour week!

And on top of this the boss threatened a 40 per cent. cut!

NOMINEES

Sofus W. Christiansen has been nominated for mayor of Valley Stream, New York, by the Socialist Party in the village elections to be held March 16. Christine Schmidtchen has been nominated for village trustee.

GET YOUR DEBS STAMPS!

Commissar



Vice-President Valery Mezhlauk, new Commissar of Heavy Industry in the Soviet Union, to take the place of Gregory K. Ordjonikidze, recently dead of heart attack.

Travis Exposes Terror Drive In GM Plants

WASHINGTON, D. C.—General Motors labor policy is still "100 percent antiunion" and more viciously so in some plants than before the recent strike, Robert Travis, United Auto Workers organizer, told the LaFollette committee investigating violations of civil liberties.

Travis told the committee of the numbers of armed guards that patrol Chevrolet plants between shifts. He said these men were placed on duty because the company feared union action while two shifts of men were in the plant at the same time.

Black Jacks

Workers in Chevrolet plant four in Flint have been required to make blackjacks of rubber hose to be stored "for plant protection," Travis said. One of the weapons, a fourteen inch piece of hose with lead filling at one end, was placed in evidence. Since the strike settlement, Travis charged, union men in Chevrolet four in Flint have been threatened with discharges.

Travis recited the history of union organization in Flint, telling the committee that spies had cut down union membership from 26,000 in 1935 to 122 paid up members a few months before the strike. Organization work was carried on in unlighted cellars and strict secrecy for fear of discriminatory discharges, he said.

U.S. Flyer Gives Life

For Spanish Workers

A member of the American Newspaper Guild is the first American known to have fallen in action in the war against Fascism in Spain. He is Ben Laidler, former "flying reporter" for The New York Post, who volunteered as a pilot last September. He was killed in action near Valencia, February 18, according to word received by his brother in New York.

Another American, Leo Fleischman, an engineer, died several months ago in a munition factory explosion reported to have been caused by Fascist sabotage.

WATCH THE WRAPPER

on your copy of the Socialist Call. If the number on the lower left of this notice, or any number less than this number appears on your wrapper it means that your subscription has expired. Renew immediately.

103 EXPIRED! RENEW NOW!

Collection Of Money To Send Men To Spain Found Legal

The work of the Friends of the Debs Column, in raising money to assist persons anxious to go to Spain, was declared legal in a statement of Assistant District Attorney Dailey.

This report was made public after an investigation into the activities of the Friends of the Debs Column, which had been conducted for some weeks.

The Friends of the Debs Column have been raising funds for the purpose of aiding persons of special ability to go to Spain in order to place their services at the disposal of the Spanish Government. Contributions into the International Brigade could be made by the individuals one day

arrived in Spain. No enlistments into foreign armies took place on American shores.

Although there were numerous legal technicalities involved in the settlement of the case, it is believed, that the chief reason for withholding a ban upon the work of the friends of the Debs Column was the Administration's hesitancy in antagonizing the strong anti-Fascist sentiment in many quarters.

The more support rallied for the Debs Column work, the better can it go forward. Contributions should be sent to 22 East 17th Street, New York City.

Sit-Down Strikes Spread As Labor Militancy Gains

(Continued from Page One)

the Carnegie-Illinois steel company announced readiness to hold conferences with the CIO. Carnegie-Illinois heads the list of world steel makers.

The union is demanding a minimum wage of \$5, instead of the present \$4.20; a 40-hour week in place of the usual forty-eight; union recognition with a written agreement; time and a half pay for overtime; no discrimination against union men.

To keep the workers from walking out on them—or, even worse, staying-in on them—a number of other steel companies rushed to announce "voluntary" wage increases. These came so thick and fast, that it is estimated they may pile up to one hundred million dollars.

The steel bosses are scared stiff that their present super-prosperity—thanks to war budget orders may be sadly deflated by a steel strike. And some of the so-called independents want to get the U.S. Government orders for naval steel. That means that the firm must comply with the Walsh-Healy Act providing for forty-hour work week in the plants getting the contract.

Although Senator Walsh, himself, showed a readiness to reinterpret his law for "the emergency" at a time when the steel companies were refusing to submit bids, a few independents may seize the opportunity to save the government embarrassment and to pocket some coin to boot.

Railroads

Sixteen railroad unions combined their efforts to obtain a pay increase of 20 cents an hour for 800,000 members. They also demand that stand-by crews who work only part time be guaranteed two thirds of the pay of full time railroad men. The railroad companies claim that they will deal with each union and each proposal separately, a process that would take many months to accomplish. No strike has been called as yet.

Detroit

In the Detroit section 22 strikes are in progress. Some employers settled quickly; Ferry-Morse Seed Company granted a 40 hour week and upped the hourly rate by 10 to 25 cents; laundries agreed to pay the union scale of 75 cents an hour for men and 65 cents for women.

When a new strike was called at the General Motors plant at Janesville, Wisconsin, officials of the United Automobile Workers Union showed they intend to keep their part of the agreement by ordering the men back to work.

Purses

In Bridgeport, Connecticut, 150 pocketbook workers are on strike in protest against being forced into a company union. They demand that the Style Craft Leather Goods Company recognize the official union.

Fansteel

The most severe blow dealt labor recently was the vicious attack of police on sit-down strikers at the Fansteel plant in North Chicago. Using a tower mounted on a truck police fired vomit gas into the building where unsuspecting strikers lay sleeping at 5 A.M. As the men staggered out, a foreman with twenty years service in the company—and not on strike—cut a hole in the fence. For this the foreman was immediately fired by Fansteel. But the end of the sit-down does not mean the end of the strike.

Pickets will make every effort to prevent scab labor from entering the plant.

Several corporations averted strikes by voluntarily raising wages. The American Aluminum Company gave 10% increase to 1600 workers at Edgewater, N.J. The Eastman Kodak Company at Rochester announced that their employes would now earn as much in a forty hour week as they formerly had in a forty-eight hour week.

Maritime

Scores of smaller strikes are in progress throughout the country. The sit-down tactic has proved effective in many cases. Courts, according to union officials, will eventually recognize it as a legal labor weapon. An example of why the sit-down method must be used is the case of the Lehigh Valley who refused to re-employ striking seamen on their ships. "There is no reason now," said vice-president M.F. Hanlon, "why we should dismiss them (scabs) and take back men who quit their posts." In other words, a man who goes on strike for his rights loses his job for good, according to this executive.

A Pacific Coast tie-up of shipping is again threatened because steamship lines insist on the hated "discharge books" which seamen claim are used to black-list men active in union organization of their fellow workers. The House Merchant Marine Committee in Washington is holding hearings on the issue.

Beware

In Washington the Social Security Board warned workers throughout the country that many corporations are issuing fake blanks in order to get information about their employes. The companies ask about the workers union affiliations and activities though no Social Security blank requires any data of this nature.

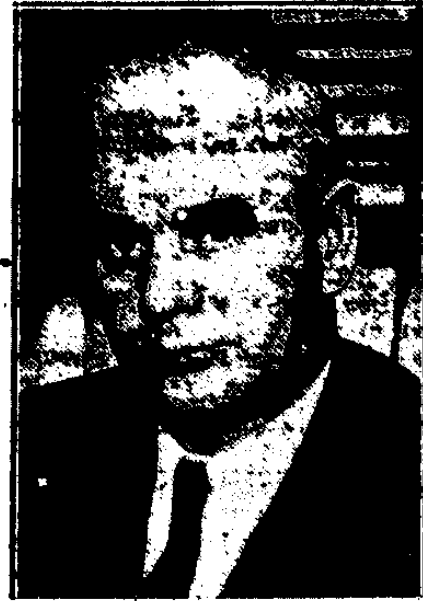
Hosiery

In the Reading, Pennsylvania, region more than 2,000 hosiery workers are out on strike. Union leaders predict that the total will be swelled to 6,000 within the next few days. In five of the mills the sit-down technique is being employed while picket lines have been thrown around two other plants. The American Federation of Hosiery Workers issued the strike orders.

5 and 10

The most significant strike of the week was that called in two

They Bend Steel



Negotiators for the Committee for Industrial Organization in the conferences with the steel bosses, who seem to be ready to talk. Van A. Bittner (left) and Chairman Phillip Murray.

Detroit Woolworth five-and-ten cent stores. Girl employes make organization difficult due to rapid turnover. Now, however, they have made a start. Notoriously underpaid, they demand a 10-cent per hour increase and a forty-eight-hour week. Men are asking for a fifty-four-hour week. The Woolworth Company owns 2,000 stores in the United States.

In Rhode Island 2,000 truck drivers have refused to work until their demands for better working conditions are met.

Miners

Three hundred miners elected to remain below the earth's surface in a coal mine near Uniontown, Penn. Paralleling the recent strike of coal miners in Hungary these United Mine Workers members declare that they will stay in the mine until the Jamison Coal Company signs a new agreement with the union.

Estimates place the number of striking workers throughout the country at between 50,000 and 75,000. In the majority of the strikes now in progress union recognition is the major issue.

The Blind

The sit-down technique has proven such a success that even workers who can not see can see that it is to their benefit.

Thus, sightless employees of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in Pittsburgh started a sit-down strike, demanding better wages and work conditions. 107 are participating.

WORKERS EDUCATION

KATONAH, N. Y.—Prospects for federal aid to workers' education were a topic at the 14th annual conference on workers' education held at Brookwood Labor College. Delegates agreed that freedom of classroom discussion and control by the labor movement should be maintained, whatever system of federal grants might be set up.

Order Ferrero Sent to Italy

Vincent Ferrero, Italian anti-Fascist worker, has been ordered to surrender to Ellis Island on Marsh 12 for deportation to Italy, where he faces prison or death at the hands of the Fascist government. The responsibility for this act is clearly in the hands of President Roosevelt's labor department and Labor Secretary Frances Perkins, who refused to intervene.

Ferrero has lived in this country for 31 years. He was arrested in April, 1934, charged with being a member of an "organization which advocates the overthrow of the government by force and violence." The charge was based by his activity in the anti-Fascist and labor movements and by the fact that he subtlet part of the premises where he was operating a small restaurant to the editor of an anarchist paper.

The Ferrero-Sallitto Defense Conference, composed of numerous trade unions and political organizations, including the Socialist Party, is appealing to individuals and organizations to send telegrams of protest to the Secretary of Labor in Washington.

\$8,000 FOR SPAIN

NEW YORK—\$8,000 was collected to start provisioning a food ship to Spain at a banquet given by The Nation, liberal weekly, in honor of Andre Malraux, famous French author who commands a squadron of international fliers in the service of the Spanish government.

Headquarters for The Nation's Food Ship Fund are at 20 Vesey Street, New York City.

Chicago to Hold Send-Off Party For Volunteers

CHICAGO — Saturday evening, March 6, Chicago Socialists and other friends of the Eugene V. Debs Column will gather at the Cafe Idrott, 3206 N. Wilton Avenue, to give a "Send-Off" Party for volunteers of the Midwest. There will be an excellent program of dancing, singing, brief speeches, and refreshments. A huge silk flag, designed and embroidered by the Socialist Women's Committee, will be presented to the volunteers and will be carried by them to Spain.

Proceeds from the affair will be used to start aid for a squad of miner volunteers as a gesture of solidarity to the heroic miners of Asturias, now besieging Oviedo. Trade union Socialists, who will attend a mass meeting of the Cook County Labor Party earlier the same evening, will come en masse direct to the "Send-Off" Party.

Eye Account Of Fansteel Police Raid

By FRANK N. TRAGER, National Labor and Organization Secretary

WAUKEGAN, Ill. — Smarting under a defeat by the auto workers, Big Business, the courts and police are girding for a showdown fight in steel.

On February 17-18 80 workers in the Fansteel Metallurgical Company took over Plants 3 and 5 by the sit-down method and successfully stopped production. At the end of the first week-end they had successfully repulsed the first gas attack by the county police and rejected an eviction notice. During the week, while CIO organizer Adelman was attempting to meet with the firm at the insistence of Governor Horner, (the labor organizers with Defense Attorney Joseph Jacobs spent days in the State capital waiting for the firm to enter into negotiations) Harold Rasmussen, of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, and Bill Tullar, of the United Rubber Workers of America, were in active charge of the day and night picketing. Rasmussen organized the strikers on a peaceful but military basis to guard, feed, and otherwise take care of the interest of the sit-downers.

Horner Anti-Labor

On Thursday, February 25, near midnight, Governor Horner, elected with the support of labor, called off the negotiations but refused to consider seriously the reports that a serious attack was being planned against the strikers. It was known for example that boxes of chemicals, gases and guns had been shipped into Lake County during the week.

At 5:15 A.M. Friday morning the police of Lake County launched the worst gas attack workers in America had ever experienced. Using a tower mounted on a truck the police fired, for 90 minutes, rounds of nausea, tear and knock-out gas. The workers were driven from the two factory plants, the pickets were dispersed, and Governor Horner—fully demonstrated how much he deserves labor's support—condemned the workers for their failure to accept the eviction notice.

No word from this representative of the capitalist class about the failure of the company to negotiate; no word of criticism for the failure of the company to accept the law of the land (Wagner Act); no word of condemnation for the brutal, and war-like gas attack on the workers.

Workers Protest

The workers came out and that very night at a protest demonstration their rank and file leaders and the CIO representatives Krzycki and Fontecchio expressed their renewed determination to build the Steel Union.

Since then the courts have moved into the picture. Wholesale arrests of all strikers and strike leaders, have taken place. A sweeping injunction has been granted—each injunction that is granted gets progressively worse. The workers are enjoined from picketing, meeting and even talking to non-union workers. Martial law in Anderson, Ind. was no different!

DEPORTED TO DEATH

Thirty Spanish and Portuguese anti-Fascists are at present in the prisons of Sao Paulo awaiting deportation by the Brazilian government. The ships transporting deportees land them in ports held by the Spanish Fascists. Thus two deported anti-Fascists were recently shot on their arrival at ports held by Franco.

Our Own Rogues' Gallery



Spies for the bosses! Eye them, file them, and spot them if they turn up your way. William P. Gernaey or Gurney (left) expelled secretary of Painters' Union Local 37, and F. Arthur Roszel, expelled from the United Auto Workers. Paid by the bosses to stool pigeon for them.

THE SOCIALIST CALL

Published every Saturday by The Call Press, Inc. Address all communications to The Socialist Call, 21 East 17th St., New York City. Telephone: GRamercy 5-8779

By subscription: \$1.50 a year; \$1 for six months. Foreign, \$2 a year. Special rates for bundle orders and club subscriptions.

Editor: August Tyler Managing Editor: Bruno Fischer
Business Manager: John Newton Thurber

EDITORIAL BOARD

Jack Altman, Justus Ebert, Max Delson, Robert Delson, Hal Siegel, Herbert Zam

Vol. II Saturday, March 6, 1937 No. 103

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The employment of children in factories is a crime. The exploitation of child labor, when millions of men are unemployed, is twice a crime.

Ratification of the proposed child labor amendment, giving Congress THE POWER to curtail and regulate the exploitation of youth, is an elementary progressive task.

Behind the ratification stand the trade unions, the progressive, the radical elements, and—the overwhelming body of public opinion in America.

In New York State, where public sympathy is clearly on the side of ratification of the amendment, a handful of legislators are being bullied by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, which has openly declared its opposition to state control and regulation of child labor.

Our opposition to the Church statement is not simply derived from the fact that we are of divergent opinion. Individual bishops have a right to their point of view on child labor; they may state it; and we will disagree with it, criticize it, and name these individual bishops as reactionary tools of the business interests.

But when these Catholic bishops throw the organized weight of the Church as such against the legislation, when they make voting for the amendment a violation of cardinal religious precepts, they are taking the first step out-of the realm of religion into the sphere of politics.

If the Catholic Church insists upon identifying itself with reactionary politics, it is taking a serious step, and must be prepared to suffer the consequences when the forces of progress sweep aside the forces of political reaction.

NEUTRALITY ON CLASS LINES

The civil war section of the Neutrality Bill as approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee vests abnormal powers in the hands of the President of the United States.

The provisions on the "civil strife" powers of the President differ from the powers vested in the President in regard to normal wars. When an ordinary war breaks out, the president need merely proclaim the fact—and the embargo on arms goes into operation. But when a civil war breaks out, the President must first decide in his own mind whether or not he believes that aid from the U. S. to the Government will endanger or threaten the peace of America.

This gives the President the right to decide—in his own way—what government he will aid in putting down a rebellion and what government he will not aid.

Thus the President can—on his own say-so—declare a boycott against the Spanish government fighting Fascists, and at the same time withhold any ban against shipping arms, ammunitions, and other implements of war to the Chinese Kuomintang Government in its suppression of the Chinese masses.

The civil war sections of the Neutrality Bill legalize a prejudiced, a partisan, and class interest use of the Presidential power in throwing the weight of the United States Government on the side of reaction in civil wars abroad.

The vicious character of this provision is all the more apparent when polished off with those clauses of the "neutrality" bill preventing the solicitation or receipt of contributions to a government in a civil war, embargoed by the President.

This unprecedented, and far fetched, clause has only one purpose: to stop all aid to Spain. Not even humanitarian aid, in the form of bandages or food or clothing is possible, should this outrageous bill be carried.

The McReynolds Bill dare not stand. Use every method of pressure—letters, telegrams, from persons or organizations—demanding that this vicious action be stopped.

The president is still silent. The voices of those who do not wish to see themselves made silent partners of Franco in his brutal murder of the Spanish masses and world progress must be heard.

NATIONAL SHARECROPPERS WEEK

The celebration of National Sharecroppers Week brings to the fore once more the demands of King Cotton's slaves for a better life. They are asking not merely to be freed from the physical violence, the lawlessness and the petty thieving of the planters. It is a sound economy that they want.

While they ask for the restoration of civil liberties and the right to organize, the abolition of the commissary stores in which they are cheated and the requirement of written contracts to protect their earnings, they insist on the elimination of the plantation system and the establishment of cooperative cotton farming. They recognize that the chaotic individualism of the present system makes life intolerable.

In their program of demands, which appears on the back of the membership cards, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union includes the building of a cooperative commonwealth. That is the road to justice, and all lovers of decency will help them on their way.

America—1937!



This picture was taken in Groton, Connecticut, after the submarine workers had been arrested for staying-in. But it might have been taken in any one of a hundred places in America. Standing-up, staying-in, lying-down, American workers are fighting for their rights. (See story on strike wave, page 1.)

Another Roosevelt Flim-Flam

To the Editor:

"Why don't you Socialists get excited over Roosevelt's revolutionary plan to change the Supreme Court?" bellowed a conservative friend at us. We wondered why ourselves, until we read the Nation. It favors the plan—and then kicks holes into it. We quote:

"His present plan does not touch judicial power and does not change the relation of the court to Congress . . . It does not go to the root of our judicial oligarchy, but by reorganizing it seeks to perpetuate it . . . It can be used as effectively by a reactionary President as by a liberal, and ultimately it may produce simply a bench full of younger reactionaries—just as blind and stubborn in their fifties as in their seventies."

What's there in all this to get excited about? Evidently, just as Roosevelt aimed to preserve capitalism, via his "revolutionary" NRA, so he aims to perpetuate "the judicial oligarchy" by his "revolutionary" old age retirement plan.

And the Nation calls this "Purging the Supreme Court!" Worse, it nominates six candidates for the bench. Of the six, three are law school deans and professors. Next to corporation lawyers, law school heads reek with conservatism and can, in no way, to judge by their histories, be relied to revolutionize anything, more particularly their own legal misconceptions.

Get excited? It makes yours truly disgusted. Another Rooseveltian flim-flam say we; rich in "revolutionary" atmosphere, but as reactionary as the Rooseveltian anti-Fascism, as illustrated by his "neutrality" in the case of Spain.

BRUCE STALLING

New York.

National Office Needs Support

To the Editor:

I have been visiting in Chicago for several weeks and have been at the National Office several times. I am very much impressed by the amount and kind of work done there, and am shocked at the lack of financial support given the workers by the Party as a whole.

I feel very strongly that the Party members are in ignorance as to the financial situation there, think of the National Office as something outside themselves, and do not realize their responsibility to those people who are doing the work so essential to the life

of the Party; if the situation were known, it could not be tolerated.

There are ten people on the staff in the National Office. Most of them give their entire time from nine o'clock in the morning until usually late in the evening; they thus have no private lives of their own. Their lunch and supper hours are keyed up, alert, and industrious. These men and women give their entire time and talents to their jobs for as little as \$1.00 a day (which they get daily, as the money comes in the mail—or does not come in) and their rent paid. They have no incomes whatsoever outside this. I need not go into what these people don't have; you know full well what you don't have if you have \$1.00 a day to spend on the job of living.

This is a letter of condemnation and appeal; this potentially demoralizing condition must not continue to exist. This, it seems to me, is basic: our comrades who, because of their devotion to the movement, have thrown themselves into the intricacies of managing the business of the Party must be paid regularly and sufficiently by the membership they represent, just as the rest of us in other fields expect to be paid for our work. This is their field, and the membership must be responsible for their support.

The Debs Stamp Drive covers an emergency budget which includes salaries for these workers in the National Office up to the time of the Convention. Up to the present time the membership has not responded sufficiently to insure even a very small percentage of the salary quota (which of course is only one item of the budget). The Debs Stamp Drive must be seriously and conscientiously considered by our members; it is a fundamental job that can be done.

MARY DOUTY

BALTIMORE

PWA Workers Hold Stay-In On Project

CINCINNATI. — One hundred PWA workers have staged a sit-down protest against lay-offs on a sewing project since February 17. The militant women, with their children and husbands, have remained in the reception hall of the County Welfare Building in spite of two attempts to evict them.

The strikers, most of whom are members of the Workers Alliance, are led by Lee Morgan, local president of the WA. Paul Rasmussen, national board member of the WA, has come from Illinois to aid the strike.

Lay-Offs

The strike began February 17, when the WPA laid off one hundred women from a sewing project charging they were inefficient. In a conference with WPA director Gillette, Morgan insisted that WPA produce the work records of these women. This Gillette was unable to do as practically no records had been kept. It is their militant strike which had halted the 400 more proposed layoffs.

Funds have been donated by the local union of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and by the powerful Norwood Chevrolet local of the Auto Workers.

The strikers under the able direction of Lee Morgan and Paul Rasmussen are well organized. They have set up a kitchen in the Reception Hall where meals are served to the strikers.

The women and children have slept on newspapers and blankets on the hard-wood floor for thirteen nights. If the floor is too hard for some of the older folks they lie on the soft pine tables. Taps is sung every night at 10 P.M. and reveille at 7 A.M.

SUBSCRIBE and CONTRIBUTE!

CALL PRESS, Inc.
21 East 17th Street,
New York, N. Y.

I wish to subscribe to the SOCIALIST CALL and make a contribution toward the DRIVE FOR \$10,000. Enclosed is \$1.50. Send me the CALL for one year and credit me with a donation of 50c.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____

WORLD SOCIALISM

By Herbert Zam

TO MEET some of the pressing problems confronting French Socialists, the National Council of the Socialist Party met in Montrouge, February 14 under the chairmanship of the new Minister of the Interior, Max Dormoy. There were also present Leon Blum and the members of his cabinet, Faure, Lebas, Spinasse, Monnet and Riviere.

The proposal to accept the Party of Proletarian Unity (PUP) into the Socialist Party was unanimously accepted. In addition to this question, two other matters were considered. One was the attitude of the government toward the Fascist leagues. In this connection, Marceau Pivert accused the government of a capitulatory attitude.

The other matter discussed was the Spanish question. Jean Zyromski introduced the question by emphasizing the dangers to all of Europe should Franco win in Spain. As is known Zyromski is in opposition to the government's neutrality policy. He was answered by Leon Blum, who emphatically denied that France has any secret treaty with any Mediterranean power (probably referring to Italy). The only solution for the problems raised by the Spanish civil war, he declared, is the complete suppression of arms shipments. Only if this proves impossible will other measures have to be taken.

Leadership Upheld

A motion carrying a vote of confidence in the government was carried by 4642 votes against 702 for a critical motion by Pivert. A motion by Zyromski, asking for a re-consideration of the Spanish question, was also overwhelmingly defeated, receiving only 900 votes. A motion by Grumbach, calling for the re-establishment of trade relations with Spain should conditions change (presumably, should the non-intervention policy fail), received 4200 votes and was carried.

This meeting represents the complete acceptance by the National Council of the Party of the government policy regarding Spain. At the meeting two months ago, a motion was unanimously carried asking the government to disrupt the non-intervention pact and give all possible assistance to Spain.

The meeting further testifies to the almost complete annihilation of the Zyromski group, which at one time had as many as one-third of the votes in the Party. Zyromski mustered only 200 out of the 5,000 votes cast. The Revolutionary Left, led by Marceau Pivert, is far stronger than the Zyromski group, because it has fought the government's coalition policy more consistently, although it has also lost support because of its timid tactics.

French Unions Meet

The previous week there had taken place in Paris the annual convention of the Trade Unions of the Seine District (Paris and vicinity). This was a very important congress, since it was the first since the unification. The fact that there were present representatives of the trade unions of England, Soviet Union, and Spain (both Socialist and Anarcho-Syndicalist) further attests to the importance of the congress. Paris being a Communist stronghold, the congress was largely dominated by Communists.

Most of the business of the congress was carried through without incident. However, when a representative of the metal trades began to discuss the conditions in the Soviet Union, and praised the social achievements there, he was heckled from all parts of the hall. Many delegates demanded that he explain the recent trials. A representative of the Paris Gas Workers Union in discussing this question, declared that the Soviet Union can not be considered a democratic country, because the internal opposition has no possibility of voicing its point of view. A representative of the printers spoke completely in favor of the Russian opposition, amidst great heckling and protests by the Communists.

After much confusion, a compromise was finally achieved, by which all references to the Soviet Union in the report of the Executive were expunged.

This incident should serve to indicate how much damage has been done to the cause of working class unity by the Moscow trials. These trials have on the one hand given all the enemies of the Soviet Union a serious weapon, and on the other have thrown great confusion and demoralization into the ranks of those who should be in the front ranks of the friends and defenders of the Soviet Union.

In Fascist Hands



This anti-Fascist prisoner was one of those who could not escape from Malaga when it fell into the hands of the Franco forces. The fall of Malaga seems to be a recent high water mark of reactionary success. During the last week, the anti-Fascist army has taken up the offensive again, recapturing numerous points and towns.

WORKERS, CABALLERO URGE UNITY IN SPAIN

Largo Caballero, Socialist premier of Spain's anti-Fascist forces, has repudiated actions of the Madrid Government in attacking the Party of Marxist Unity as unauthorized, according to a statement of Fenner Brockway, leading British member of the Independent Labor Party, appearing in *The New Leader* of February 19, 1937.

The Communist forces in Madrid have been disrupting the unity of the workers' front against Fascism by constant attacks upon the revolutionary Party of Marxist Unity. They hoped an action of the Madrid government outlawing the POUM would lead to the annihilation of the latter.

Militia Protests

Brockway reports: "The effect in Spain has been the opposite to that anticipated. Protests have poured upon the Madrid Government at Valencia from militia men and ambulance units, at the front and from CNT, UGT, and Peasants Union branches. Caballero has obviously been impressed. He has announced that the Madrid Committee acted without any authority from his Government."

Brockway also reports that the Anarchist trade unions, the CNT, refused to support the suppression of another workers' party by the Madrid Government. "As soon as the report (of the suppression) appeared, the CNT headquarters denied it as incredible, and when the secretary got in touch with the Madrid CNT they indignantly repudiated it."

All the important working class organizations in Catalonia, except those dominated by the Communist Party, have issued a joint appeal for united action of the workers against Fascism:

"We undertake not to make use in our political campaigns of defamation or calumny against other anti-Fascist organizations. We agree to avoid all action which may foment discord in the anti-Fascist front."

This declaration was signed by the Syndicalists, the Anarchists, the Radicals, and the POUM of Catalonia. Only the Communist party and the Communist-controlled trade unions refused to sign.

Disruption

The American Communist Party paper, *The Daily Worker*, contin-

ues with its attacks upon the Party of Marxist Unity in Spain, hailing every reported attempt to suppress it.

In an attack upon the American Socialist Party for urging the cessation of all fratricidal warfare in Spain, the *Daily Worker* declares: "The American Socialist leadership finds it in its province to condemn the Spanish Socialists for arresting and jailing the traitorous Trotskyites in Madrid. . . Caballero and the Spanish Socialists simply had to smash Trotskyism. . . There is not a single observer in Madrid who would not admit that the seizure of the Trotskyites has been greeted with joy by the united defenders of Madrid."

Latest news reports prove that the Communists now stand alone in "greeting with joy" the suppression of another workers' party.

Craftists Revoke Columbus Charter

COLUMBUS, O.—The long-anticipated showdown between craft and industrial union forces in city central bodies came to a head as the Columbus Federation of Labor's charter was revoked by Francis J. Dillon, representative of President William Green of the A.F.L. The action foreshadowed the possibility of similar steps in other parts of the country.

Dillon was sent to Columbus after the Building Trades Council objected to the central body's endorsement of the General Motors strike and asked "investigation of Committee for Industrial Organization activities." The strike had been endorsed 39 to 7. After revoking the charter, Dillon announced the removal of the board of control of *The Labor Tribune*, official newspaper, and its editor, Lew Johnson.

A fight to regain the charter or formation of a C.I.O. council loomed as possibilities. All officers of the local federation had recently been re-elected.

CROPPERS CONVENE

(We present here excerpts from the stenographic record of the third convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, held last January at Muskogee, Okla.—Editor.)

Welcoming Address by Odis L. Sweeden, President of the Oklahoma union: Mr. Chairman, as I see on the agenda that I am to welcome the delegates, I feel that I am put in a peculiar position because I am not used to welcoming people in this manner. If you were in my home I would know what to do; I would offer you some flour gravy, corn bread and fatback.

I feel that wrapped up in the blue shirts and brown overalls of the people who actually produce the wealth of this country there is plenty of brain power, and that you don't need a dictator to solve your problems. I believe with the militant background that you have, inside of a couple of years, you will be able to make demands and the big boys will have to answer. Here you have an organization with a militant background and you have something to boast about. I say to the delegates assembled at this convention to do constructive work and have a good time.

After Blaine Treadway, assistant director of the Delta Cooperative Farm spoke on the work there, Lee Phillips, a delegate from the local on the farm, spoke: We wonder sometimes if it is true or not. But five of us came to bear witness about the Delta Cooperative Farm and every word he said is true. When we came down there in March, they told us about these good things, and we found that we had our own homes. We thought they were lying, telling us so many good things.

McKinney (STFU vice-president) told us about these things, and we said he was a lying Negro who was bought by a white man. He told us, "You can believe it or not, and if you like, you can stay." We could not see how it could work out. But it did work. We colored folks and the white folks have learned to work together, to love one another.

Claude Williams: The first general strike was called by God Himself. The Lord sent Moses to organize the people. Pharaoh would make a temporary concession, as our rulers do. He said, "You can go out of Egypt a little way, but you must leave your children behind." Moses said, "You have exploited us and you have killed our children." And that night the best demonstration in history was put on, and the first-born children of the Egyptians were killed by God. But there was no compromise. The Southern Tenant Farmers Union may welcome the gestures of the Tenancy Commissions, but you should say that "we accept no compromise." We are going to abolish the plantation system. We want a regime in which there are no plantation owners.

Prayer by Rev. O. H. Whitfield, delegates from Missouri: Heavenly Father, You know us and we know You. We are calling upon You because You are a Union God, and we need You because You will lead us out of our troubles. Oh Lord, we have been in the storm so long until we made up our minds to come into this Union, and to seek an end to our many troubles. Almighty God, we are asking You to give us guidance, to aid us in our many deliberations. We are not asking You to come down here to think for us. But Almighty God, we ask You for Your aid.

Acario Zosa Olquin, delegate from Texas: Gentlemen. In the first place, I want to say this. I want to beg your pardon if I do not speak the English language so well.

They appointed me as delegate to represent them, and I say this much. I am glad, and I thank all who put me in this place, and I say this much, I have never been in my life happier, hearing you talk about unity. I think it is time to do action, and not with the tongue. This is the first time I have heard anything like this, and if I live 55 more years I shall still be with you.

We must get someone to take our place when we are gone. I say to my father: "If you did this for me when I was small, I would not be in this shape now." And if my son would come to me and say this to me, I think I would dig in the ground and go in it.

A. B. Brookins, delegate from Tennessee: They shot up my house with machineguns, and they made me run away from where I lived at, but they couldn't make me run away from my Union, which is this great union here. And until the end of my life, as I climb up to the highest hill of elevations, I will always be singing my Union song, that we shall not be moved.

When I lived in Marked Tree, Arkansas, the nightriders broke into my house, and they shot a bullet that just went through my daughter's hair. But I am not afraid to go on being a union man. And all of us are going to stand up like union men should all our life.

'Land For The Landless'

By AARON LEVENSTEIN

It was on New Year's Day of 1863 that a stroke of the pen wielded by Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the freedom of 3,120,000 slaves. Today the children of those slaves and the children of their white masters, working in the soil of the same cotton fields, are struggling for a freedom that so far has been illusory.

At the convention of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union last month in Muskogee, Oklahoma, Negro, white, Indian and Mexican sharecroppers living in six Southern states, reaching from Tennessee to Texas, recited in a Ceremony of the Land:

"We who are Indians lived here before other races came and drove us from our homes and land. Now we are disinherited.

"We who are Negroes were brought from our native homes in chains. We have always been landless.

"We who are white men came to make ourselves homes. We are now homeless and landless.

"We who are Mexicans were lured here by promises of a better life. Now we are homeless and as strangers in a strange land.

"Together we cry: Land for the Landless."

It is not mere desire for possession that leads these men and women to lift their voices in a demand for land. Bound as they are in the toils of the Southern cotton system, they know that as long as they remain propertyless they will continue to be the slaves of the plantation.

SLAVES THEN, SLAVES NOW

Indeed, it is no rhetorical trick to call them slaves. For actually, they have none of the rights that mark free men. Basic in freedom is the power to move where one wishes. In the days before the Civil War, when slavery enjoyed its unholy legality, a Negro did not dare to leave the land of his master. If he wished to go to town, he had to carry with him a written license, signed by his master, permitting him to make the journey. Any Negro found on the highway without such a permit was immediately apprehended as a runaway.

I have before me a curious letter of reference, given to me by an Arkansas sharecropper. Because of his membership in the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, he had been evicted from the plantation where he inhabited a wretched, wind-swept cabin. His "boss man," not wishing to be too severe with him, had given him a note on the printed stationery of the plantation, addressed "To Whom It May Concern" and reading:

"This boy, _____, has been with me four years. He is a good worker and is out of debt and it is satisfactory with me for him to move."

The note is in the handwriting of the planter, signed by him, and dated December 20, 1936. Without this permission to move, the sharecropper, whose name is withheld lest he suffer reprisals, would have been unable to seek a new home and a new plot of ground to work. Through such devices, the planters can keep their labor in virtual slavery, making it impossible for them to move to new enterprises.

The stories of unprovoked attacks on sharecroppers, particularly Negroes, are too numerous to be unconvincing, and the impossibility of punishing any of the planters or their agents in the state courts too obvious to leave any doubt but that killings and assaults are committed with impunity.

Norman Thomas, describing a tour that he made personally in that area about a year ago, reports a conversation he had with the family of a white sharecropper who had been evicted from their home because the father had

sought criminal prosecution of a plantation "riding boss" for violating his 14-year old daughter and holding her prisoner for two weeks. The only result of the father's complaint to the authorities was his own imprisonment on a trumped-up charge of "stealing two eggs," and after his release he was brutally beaten for his audacity.

The criminal, on the other hand, was not even embarrassed by questioning at the hands of the officials.

LAW AGAINST SHARECROPPERS

The sharecroppers are stripped not only of a large measure of their physical freedom but of the protection of the law. So far as the courts are concerned, they are even deprived very often of the right to counsel and adequate time to prepare for the defense of their legal interests. If charged with crime, they find themselves frequently forced to stand trial immediately without being given opportunity to notify friends or relatives. They have a word for such "courts"—kangaroos.

It is more than civil liberties that the sharecropper needs. It is no less than the abolition of slavery that he requires. For what else is slavery if not the compulsion to work without remuneration? And to a great degree, the sharecroppers labor without reward.

One has only to examine the "settlement" accounts, in the hand-writing of the planters, to see the book-keeping of slavery which the crude ingenuity of some men has devised. It is not a difficult task under the sharecrop system to balance the record of "furnish" provided to the victim through the planter-controlled commissary store against the amount of cotton to which the cropper is entitled and leave him with nothing for his year's work.

The padding of the sharecropper's account is effected in a variety of ways—exorbitant rates of interest, high prices at the commissary, charges for additional labor hired in busy seasons, etc. One statement of settlement, dated

December 2, 1936, shamelessly reveals that the cropper was charged eight dollars interest on an advance of \$40 which was made, not in cash, but in coupon books that could be used only at the planter's commissary store where the cost of food and other necessities was far above that generally prevailing. In addition to the usurious interest rate of 20 per cent, the victim found charged against him the sum of \$1.00 as his donation to the Red Cross.

A Missouri sharecropper first told me of a practise which I heard later from tenant farmers in Arkansas. The landlord generally provides the implements for working the cotton fields, including necessary livestock like mules. It seems that greedy planters never suffer financial loss for the death of their animals.

"I got a mule from the planter," is the account of one cropper, "and two hours later it took sick and died. The Boss Man charged me \$150 on my settlement for it. He said I overworked it."

PLANTER KEEPS RECORDS

The victimization of the sharecropper in the settling of accounts is easily accomplished by the planter who wishes to do it. He keeps all the records. If there is written contract between him and his cropper, he has the only copy, and woe betide the audacious cropper who demands to see it. The planter owns the store, or controls its management. He fixes the prices, and under his system of credit extension through "doodlum books" or scrip, he exercises a monopoly over the supply of life's necessities.

Neglect of education in the South serves to aid the planter in defrauding the sharecropper. Most of them can barely write their names much less maintain a book-keeping system to check the planter's records. Pitiful indeed, are the pathetic efforts of the victims to make up written statements to protect themselves.

One sharecropper tell the story of how his settlement was made.

"Well, Sam, how many bales of cotton do I credit you for?" asked the planter.

The sharecropper showed six bale tickets.

After writing columns of figures with his "crooked pencil" for several minutes, the planter looked up.

"It just balances even, Sam," he

said. "You can't get anything this year. Better luck next time."

"It balances even? Fine!" answered the cropper. "Then I get some money, because I made more than six bales. I made nine."

The planter expressed disgust. "Why didn't you tell me that before?" he shouted. "Now I've got to figure it all over again."

A revolution was once caused by "taxation without representation." What will be the effect of "labor without remuneration?"

WHEN A DOZEN SHARECROPPERS MET

It was some two-and-a-half years ago that a dozen sharecroppers got together in Arkansas, and calling themselves the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, hurled their sling-shots at the Goliath of the South, the plantation system.

Under the leadership of native Arkansians like H. L. Mitchell, who has since been executive secretary of the Union, J. R. Butler, its present president, Rev. E. B. McKinney, an eloquent Negro preacher and sharecropper long known as a leader of his people, they swelled their ranks until they now include members of four races—Negroes, whites, Indians and Mexicans—from Tennessee to Texas.

Their task required heroism. McKinney's house was machine-gunned by planters, and he, together with the others, was ultimately forced to flee to Memphis, where the national office is now maintained. Since then, "Box 5215, Memphis, Tenn.," has become the target for appeals for help from sharecroppers, the port to which tales of injustice are addressed and from which aid comes. Through that post-office box have passed letters recounting the worst of crimes, from petty robbing of sharecroppers to their brutal murder.

Glorious as are the pages of union history, none are so heroic as those that tell of the courage of these sharecroppers in seeking to organize. From the start, they had to face violence at the hands of law officers as well as planters and their "riding bosses," the mounted foremen. Some of the incidents that occurred in the "Arkansas Terror" are well-known: the conviction and final release of Ward Rodgers, a young preacher, on charges of anarchy; the flogging of Socialists Claude C. Williams and Willie Sue Blagden for attempting to investigate the murder of a union man, Frank Weems, whose body disappeared shortly

after he was beaten down on a picket-line during the cotton chopping strike; the raiding and assaulting of union meetings by night riders and the conviction in one such case of a union member, Jim Ball, on charges of assault with intent to kill, because he defended himself against deputies who perpetrated such an attack and shot down two other croppers.

STORY STILL UNKNOWN

But the whole history of what occurred during the sharecroppers' strike last May, which resulted in an increase in remuneration even though the Union was not recognized, is still unknown. Even as late as January of this year, new accounts of violence during that period have continued to come in to the Union offices from victims who did not have an opportunity to report before.

For example, two months ago, a sharecropper presented himself and displayed bullet wounds in his back where planters and deputy sheriffs had shot him because of his union activity. "The men weren't drunk," he told me when I questioned him.

It was only this month that the mother of an eight-year old child reported that her husband, Will Bailey, had never returned from the picketline at Earle, Arkansas, the same picket-line on which Frank Weems was clubbed to death last June. In her terror and ignorance, the poor woman had not dared to seek any official investigation of the disappearance. Inquiries among friends produced the information that her husband had been last seen fleeing from planters by Jim Reese who was himself so badly beaten that he is still incapacitated.

In spite of these things, the Union has continued to grow. There is an almost religious fervor for unionism on the part of these people that makes it possible for them to undergo the martyrdom of union membership.

At the Muskogee convention, I heard the story of one man, Baxter Howard, who had escaped from vigilantes into Tennessee but had been seized there by Arkansas deputies, illegally carried across the state line, and so cruelly assaulted that he still cannot do heavy work.

"That's all right, though," he said. "That's what it takes to build a Union."

Flea Teasers Local, STFU



A meeting of the Flea Teaser's Local of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. The name is descriptive of the sharecroppers' lives, fed flies fleas, only enough to be teased. This organizer is addressing them in defiance of plantation owners at a school-house in Crowley's Ridge, Ark.

DEBS COLUMN

"FACTS"

FOR CLASS-CONSCIOUS WORKERS

By Edward Grove

12 PAGES

Order From:

FRIENDS OF DEBS COLUMN
41 Union Square, N.Y.C.

3c Per Copy GR. 7-4975

SAVE

SUNDAY MARCH
TWENTY-FIRST

It's the second
Anniversary of the
SOCIALIST CALL

COCKTAIL PARTY!

10c Admission

WATCH

for MORE details
NEXT WEEK!

LID Power Conference Adopts A Broad Socialization Program

By McALISTER COLEMAN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—They hammered out an honest-to-God Power Program—the delegates to the Workers and Consumers Electric Power Conference meeting here last week. Consumers from all parts of the country at this momentous gathering held under the auspices of the League for Industrial Democracy had their long delayed chance to tell of the skulduggery of the Power Trust in their respective commu-

unities.

Utility undercover men well back in the audience, moved uncomfortably, as workers, farmers, engineers stood up and pledged themselves and their organizations to unrelenting war on the Trust.

And then they went on to setting up a fighting front against the solid ranks of the privateers in the shape of continuing committees to press for a comprehensive plan of nationalization of electricity.

The program adopted by the conference after three days of brass tacks discussion is as follows:

A WORKERS AND CONSUMERS PROGRAM FOR ELECTRIC POWER

Immediate Demands

1. A demand that Congress investigate "new and insidious methods of propaganda and intimidation now being adopted by the privately-owned companies and their financial and industrial allies in their attempt to preserve the lucrative special privileges which they have wrested from the people."

"This investigation would cover the attempt to intimidate economists and others who have written books and articles unfavorable to the privateers, by bringing libel suits against authors and publishers. It would look into the practice of threatening Congressmen by deluging them with letters from "widow and orphan" investors. It would expose the vicious practice of menacing the workers in the industry with wage cuts and loss of jobs in the event of rate reductions.

2. A demand that there be no compromise with the private companies in the Tennessee Valley.

"The members of this Conference have noted with grave concern the willingness of some government officials within and without the TVA to retreat before the bitter attacks of the Power Trust and to enter into such pooling arrangements as will prevent the people of the Tennessee Valley from obtaining electric power at cost. No such compromise, or any other compromise, will ever stop the leaders of the industry from continuing their attacks against efforts toward a policy in the interest of the consumer. The Power Trust will inevitably persist in its fight through sabotage, injunctions and every other means at its command to rid the industry of any effective social organization, management and control."

CONTINUING POLICIES

1. The appointment of a committee to make a comprehensive study of Federal, State and municipal laws and ordinances regarding electricity.

This committee to determine changes in laws necessary in order that the people may acquire power properties from private interests at reasonable cost rather than at socially and economically unjustifiable valuations; and to make such recommendations as will aid in the removal of the legal obstacles which now stand in the way of the full use and enjoyment by the people of electric power. It shall study the laws of the states and nations that they apply to the requirements of the people and the methods of today abusive and perverted."

2. The establishment of a permanent committee "to determine, together with representatives of

other public groups, the best means of coordinating all activities which aim towards the use of the power facilities of the nation for the public benefit; and to determine how best there may be provided a clearing house of information on power problems for consumers and the rendering of technical assistance to public groups."

3. "Low cost and abundant electricity can be obtained by the workers, farmers and homeowners of America only through the efficient integration of national, state and municipal generating, transmission and distribution systems.

"This integration must be achieved through public ownership and democratic organization. Representatives of technicians and other workers in the electric industry together with

representatives of the consumers must be included in the actual management of the publicly owned and operated systems. The right of the entire rural population to the benefits of electricity requires that Congress liberalize the Rural Electrification Act to promote electrification of all farms in the immediate future on a publicly-owned and operated basis."

"In the establishment of national, state and community owned and operated systems, it is essential that with the construction of power facilities there be also broad coordination and unified development of flood control and other related matters of public interest."

"A series of regional conferences shall be held under the auspices of the League for Industrial Democracy to diffuse information as to the present critical situation in the world of electrical power and to aid in the formulation of policies affecting the public welfare."

The first of these regional conferences will be held in Trenton, N. J., in the near future.

Dinner Held

The keynote to the Conference

was struck in the vigorous speeches of Norman Thomas, Harry Laidler, Paul Ward and Congressman Amle at a dinner at the National Press Club on the first night.

On the following days such experts as Professor James Bonbright, of Columbia University, Carl Raushenbush of N.Y.U., Phillip Broughton, formerly with TVA, Carl D. Thompson of the Public Ownership League and George Slaff and Raymond Travis of the Utility Users League of New Jersey discussed various phases of the power problem. Government representatives speaking at the Conference were Congressman Bolleau, Pierce, Voorhis and Rankin, Oswald Ryan, Chief Counsel for the Federal Power Commission and Hon. Carmody, newly appointed Administrator for the Rural Electrification Administration.

The Conference's plans for the future, if vigorously pressed, will give the privately-owned utilities plenty to think about. The meeting itself set a new landmark along the difficult march of the people towards ownership of their own resources.

Southern Socialists Lay Base For Organization Campaign

By PHILIP OGLESBY

The South has many working class organizational problems not experienced elsewhere in the United States. Its background of peasantry and slavery and the development of the sharecropper system for cotton farming create in some respects the feudal system of the Middle Ages. At the same time industry, discovering the necessity for new exploitation fields, is beginning to rush southward. We thus have that period in historical economic growth in which there combine the peasant fear and hatred of his master with the horrors of the early, brutal stages of industrialization.

Southern Conference

It was in recognition of the unique problems of the section that the Southern Socialist Conference was held. Out of that conference came a delineation of some of the problems, a discussion of techniques for meeting these problems, and the determination to build a unified and flexible organization which would in ideal and in effect represent the aims and desires of the working class.

Among the vital needs of the Southern arm of the working class and its politically nature representatives are:

1. Recognition of the fact that rapid action is the order of the day in the South. The experiences of the North and of Europe have penetrated the South.

2. Recognition of the historical nature of race prejudice as affects the Negro.

The problem must be met in a more profound fashion than it has been met elsewhere. From the beginning the South has built and refined its exploitation methods principally on the basis of race hatreds. The theory of racial inferiority is one of the major devices of the Southern economic system.

Worker's Activities

3. Recognition of the importance of the various activities of the working class and their relationship to the development of a new social order.

These include the fight for civil liberties, workers' education, political action, library and cultural activities, progressive trade union activities, cooperatives, direct and sharecropper unions and the farmer labor party. There is a great

need arising for the planning of these activities and for their coordination through the Socialist Party. In more advanced and more stable sections coordination might follow organization or might come about in haphazard manner. In the South the coordination must come in the beginning, and must operate immediately toward a wide-spread revolutionary class consciousness.

4. Recognition of the necessity for discipline and for centralizing Socialist action.

This means the curtailment of states rights. It means section-wide and nation-wide activity. It means the elimination of public cross-purposes. It means, in short, unity and flexibility.

New Approach Needed

5. Recognition, therefore, of a new organizational approach based on the above needs.

There is necessary an organizer or party functionary who is capable of planning and coordinating those activities, who can find and develop personnel for the activities, and who can help demonstrate to the workers that the Marxist approach to problems is the most logical approach.

The South therefore hopes, in order to meet those needs, to acquire a full time field secretary, representing the NEC or the Action Committee, who will direct southern organizational work.

George Lambert, State Secretary of Tennessee, is at present receiving pledges for the necessary funds, and reviewing the possibilities of the field secretaryship. If he demonstrates the advisability and the possibility of that form of organization, the southern comrades will probably introduce proper resolutions to the March Convention, and will set about to discover the qualified candidate for the work.

A LIBERAL

Government back Liberal of Pennsylvania has the showing of "Spain in Flames." He claims that "it is pure Communist propaganda dressed as a plea for democracy"

Sharecropper Meeting Held In New York

National Sharecroppers Week will come to a climax in New York with a series of mass meetings which will be addressed by the leaders of the Southern Tenants Farmers Union.

On Saturday, March 5, a luncheon at Rosoff's, 147 West 43 Street, Manhattan, will be addressed by J. R. Butler and H. L. Mitchell, president and secretary of the STFU, as well as by Charles E. Houston, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The following afternoon, at 4 P. M., there will be a rally at the Harlem Labor Center, 312 West 125 Street. Besides officials of the STFU, speakers will include Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, Walter White, secretary of the NAACP, and Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr.

Other meetings at the end of the week will be held at the following places:

Thursday, March 4

W. L. Blackstone, sharecropper representative on the President's Special Committee on Farm Tenancy, Mrs. Frank Weems of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and Aaron Levenstein, Memphis representative of the Workers Defense League, speaking on "What Next For The Sharecropper?" at New York University, Washington Square, under the auspices of the American Student Union. At 3:00 P. M.

Mrs. Marie Pierce of the STFU, speaking on "I Am a Fugitive From the Hiding Boss," at the Brooklyn Central Branch, YWCA, 30 Third Ave., Brooklyn. At 5 p.m.

J. R. Butler, president of the STFU,

ANTI SOVIET Centre
TRIAL \$1
VERBATIM REPORT POST PAID
The judicial, human aspects of this historical book will astound every reader.
Published by
MOSEV, Inc. 1937.
BOOKNIG CORP.
235 5th Ave. N.Y.C.

speaking on "Conditions in the South," at a National Sharecroppers Week Rally at 615 Second Ave., Manhattan. At 8:00 p.m.

W. L. Blackstone, sharecropper representative on the President's Special Committee on Farm Tenancy, John Handcox, sharecropper singer, and Mary Fox, secretary of the League for Industrial Democracy, speaking on "The Sharecroppers Speak," at the Church of Holy Trinity, 157 Montague St., Brooklyn. At 8:30 p.m.

D. A. Griffin and Mrs. Frank Weems of the STFU, speaking on "America's Disinherited," at National Sharecroppers Week. Rally at 1703 Pitkin Ave. At 8:30 p.m.

W. R. Purcell and Mrs. Marie Pierce of the STFU, speaking on "The Sharecroppers Fight for Freedom," at the Consolidate Tenants League, 209 W. 125 St., Manhattan. At 8:30 p.m.

Friday, March 5

H. L. Mitchell, Secretary of the STFU, and Aaron Levenstein, Memphis representative of the Workers' Defense League, speaking on "Civil Liberties in the Cotton Belt," at a dinner at the Cooperative Cafeteria, 54 Irving Place, Manhattan, under the auspices of the Workers' Defense League New York branch. At 6:00 p.m.

Edwin Mitchell of the STFU, speaking on "Youth and Cotton" at a National Sharecroppers Week rally at 615 Second Ave., Manhattan, under the auspices of the Hunter College Young People's Socialist League. At 8:00 p.m.

J. R. Butler, president of the STFU, speaking on "What Next for the Sharecropper?" at the East Side Labor Center, 34 Second Ave., Manhattan. At 8:30 p.m.

Odin L. Sweden and W. R. Purcell of the STFU, speaking on "Slaves in Cotton," at a National Sharecroppers Week rally at 167 Tompkins Ave., Brooklyn. At 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 7

W. L. Blackstone, speaking on "The Solution to the Sharecropper Problem," at the Village Forum, 107 McDougal St., Manhattan. At 8:30 p.m.

J. R. Butler and Mrs. Marie Pierce of the STFU, speaking on "Terror in the Cotton Belt," at the Midwood Forum, 1609 Kings Highway, Brooklyn. At 8:00 p.m.

D. A. Griffin and W. R. Purcell of the STFU, speaking on "What Next for the Sharecropper?" at the Community Church, 550 W. 110th St., Manhattan. At 9:30 p.m.

BRANCH DIRECTORY
RATES: 3 lines, 25c, 5 cents per additional line.
Minimum 1 Month.
Deadline: Monday at 2 P.M.

MANHATTAN
LOWER EAST SIDE. Meets every Wed. 31 Second Ave. Ruth Fischer, Sec'y, 40 Monroe St.

POLISH BR. (Oddzial Potega). Meets 1st and 3rd Friday each month; 25 St. Marks Pl. (bet. 2nd and 3rd Aves.). F. Fiolek, Sec'y.

VILLAGE BRANCH meets every Thurs. night at 107 MacDougal St. Ellen Loeb, Sec'y, 303 West 4th St.

Chelsea Br. Meets every Wed. Grand Opera House, 23 St., and 8 Ave. Council Rm. Rhoda Pearson, Sec'y, 333 W. 16 St.

YORKVILLE, meets every Thurs. night. Open meetings at Imperial Lyceum, 35th St. and 3rd Ave. Business meeting 1359 1st Ave. Mary Bowers Red, Sec'y.

BRONX
2ND A.D. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays, at 1401 Jerome Ave. Sophie E. Nelson, secretary.

8TH A.D. Meets every Wed. 7 West Burnside Ave. (near Jerome) Rm. 26. Ruth Auerbach, Sec'y.

AMALGAMATED, Upper 8th A.D. meets every Wed., at 9:00 P. M. at home of Comrade Maximon, 80 Van Cortland Pk. So. Apt. 7-P-22.

BROOKLYN
DOWNTOWN KINGS. Regular meetings every Thursday at 8 P. M., 42 Smith Street. A. Walsh, Sec'y, 140 Warren Street. Clifford Clark, Treas.

BORO PARK BRANCH, 4914 New Utrecht Ave. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8:00 P. M. Edith Keferholtz, Sec'y

LONG ISLAND
SUNNYSIDE. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. at 3008 48th St., Sunnyside, L. I. Emily Oxtandler, Secretary.

DETROIT
BRANCH ONE meets every Wednesday, 5 P. M. People's Home, 3946 Trumbull St. Phone 2-6512.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
MEETS every Tues 8 P.M. 1693A So. Johnson Ave. Bus. meeting 1st Tues. Class in 501 1/2 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tues. Labor Forum every Sunday 8 P. M.

Bulk Of American Families Live Below Health Standards

What is the division of national incomes among American families? What proportion of American families have an income sufficiently high to maintain a decent and healthy standard of living? What is the minimum income necessary for a decent and healthy standard of living?

The excerpts from four surveys printed below are attempts to answer these questions. Although authorities disagree as to what minimum standards should be, all are agreed that the bulk of the American population does not earn enough to live in decency and health.

Brookings Survey

"At 1925 prices, a family income of \$2,000 was sufficient to furnish only the basic necessities of life, and yet we find that 60 per cent of the total number of

families were below this level. If we accept the model diets worked out by the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture as standards, we find that 74 per cent of America's urban and village families lacked sufficient income in 1929 to provide an adequate diet at moderate cost." (Income and Economic Progress, Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 1, Prepared by Maxwell S. Stewart on basis of Brookings Institution Study.)

AFL Survey

"In 1933, 70 per cent of American families received an income of less than \$1,500 a year; 23 per cent had from \$1,500 to \$3,000; 5 per cent had from \$3,000 to \$7,500; and six-tenths of one per cent had \$7,500 or more.

"Comparing actual incomes in 1933 with the budget necessary for adequate living (that of Professor Nystrom of Columbia University, adjusted by the NRA living cost index—\$1512 yearly for a family of five at 1933 prices), we find: 55 per cent of American families were living below the minimum needed to maintain health; 15 per cent had enough for health but not for comfort; one 25th per cent had an income sufficient to provide any degree of comfort." (Monthly Survey of Business, American Federation of Labor, October, 1935.)

\$1,907 Minimum Needed

"In 1926, the National Industrial Conference Board reported that in its opinion a wage of \$1,907 a year was essential for a decent living for a family of five in New York. The U. S. Department of Labor Minimum Health and Decency Budget (established

in 1921 and 1922) for a family of five varied from a little more than \$2,000 to somewhat above \$2,500, depending on the city." (Harry W. Laidler, "How America Lives," League for Industrial Democracy, 1924.)

Unattached Individuals

"This Study (Brookings Institution) brought out that the distribution of income among unattached individuals and one-person families in 1929 was similarly diverse and similarly concentrated—only more so.

"For example, about 10 per cent had incomes of less than \$500, as compared with about 7.6 per cent in the case of families. About 46 per cent received returns of less than \$1,000 as compared with about 21 per cent among the families. About 82 per cent, or 8 out of every 10, received under \$2,000." (Laidler, "American in the Depression," Supplement to "How America Lives" League for Industrial Democracy, 1935.)

Play of Spain Is Scheduled By Rebel Arts

There has always been a lot of talk among left-wing writers concerning the possibilities of plays and novels which treat working class enemies in a way to increase our understanding of them. This means that such plays, for example, cannot make caricatures of these enemies, but rather make them human beings with human wants, and frustrations who nevertheless, for one reason or another, stand in the way of workingclass progress and victory.

In the ranks of the Fascists the class struggle continues, and it is this struggle which is dramatized in "The Brave and the Blind" by Michael Blankfort which the Rebel Arts will bring to Labor Stage in New York on March 21 and April 4.

Scene in Alcazar

The scene is the Alcazar in Toledo on the fiftieth day of the siege. Inside the Alcazar are many members of the blind rank and file who stand to lose by a Fascist victory. Even though some of them are also brave, their bravery and heroism are wasted because the ideas they are fighting to impose on Spain are oppressive and reactionary. And outside the Alcazar are those who are brave and not blind. The struggle between the Fascists and the People's army is intensified by the contradictions inside the Fascist lines.

Tickets for either of the two nights, March 21 or April 4, can be obtained at Rebel Arts headquarters, 35 East 18th Street, or at the Call Book Store.

ARE YOU LISTED?

SUBSCRIPTIONS
The following comrades have sent in subscriptions during the past week:

S. P. Illinois	14
Local Wayne Co., Mich.	9
John Thurber	8
S. P. Tennessee	4
Sam Bojanovich, Chicago, Ill.	4
Jos. Dushkowsitch, Racine, Wis.	2
Jerome Tucker, Baltimore, Md.	2
Central Br., Newark, N. J.	2
W. H. Tidrick, E. Akron, Ohio	2
Emil Kesselring, Erie, Pa.	2
Henry Weiss, Bklyn., N. Y.	2
Hayes Beall, Eugene, Ore.	2
N. Y. S. P.	2
Local New Britain, Conn.	1
Henry Pinch, N. Y. C.	1
S. P. Cuyahoga, Ohio	1
L. V. Farnsworth, Wadsworth, O.	1
S. P. Michigan	1
Oxford Co. Local, Maine	1
Gus Holmstrom, Bronx, N. Y.	1

"Party Affairs"

A Magazine for Party Members ONLY!
William GOMBERG,
Murray GROSS,
Gus TYLER
and James BURNHAM
A LABOR PARTY
On Sale at
STATE OFFICE,
21 E. 17th St., N. Y.
ALF. 4-8261 10 cents

Push The CALL By Pushing The Barometer Up

By THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Last week it was announced that the CALL Drive for \$10,000 would be extended for a month. Our reasons for doing this, were explained.

Apparently many people felt that the Drive was for six weeks, not for \$10,000.

The CALL Drive is for \$10,000.

The CALL must have a better response to this Drive. We have to do some talking with some banker friends very soon, a talk which promises not to be enjoyable if you don't get behind us.

This week's Drive has been notable. It marks some new states coming in with good donations, but it marks a new low for the week's donations.

Push It Up

We haven't stood steady. We have pushed the mercury up in the barometer another notch. But it should have been pushed a lot farther. It must be!

We have heard stories about locals and branches over the country holding affairs for the CALL. We have carried news stories in various issues about some of these. We have heard of several of them which made good profits. But some comrades have been slow in getting these profits to us. Don't wait a day with these funds! Rush them in!

The statistics for this week show some interesting facts. Kansas and Oregon, with relatively small memberships, are among the top four. These two have both sent in as much money as the powerful Wisconsin state organization!

California, which is maintaining its own weekly paper, is standing in second place in the CALL Drive, while Reading, which has almost as many members as California, has sent a total of 50 cents up to now!

Where Are They?

We are glad to see some donations starting to come from Philadelphia. What about Baltimore? What about Washington, D. C.?

Detroit and Cleveland stand close together. They are neighboring cities, and from private information, Detroit is going ahead of Cleveland next week—unless Cleveland does something about it!

Statistics for the week: Previously reported, \$1,075.82; Received this week, \$112.81; Total thus far, \$1,188.63; Must be raised in this campaign, \$10,000.

Incidentally, we are still interested in getting new subscribers! Keep selling CALL subs to your shop mates, union brothers and sisters, associates, neighbors, friends and relatives! The CALL is carrying on Socialist propaganda in good weather and bad! Help keep us going!

Standing of states and cities in the CALL Drive at the end of the sixth week:

State or district	Quota	Paid In	Per Cent
Boston	\$300	\$149.50	49.83
California	150	49.75	32.50
Kansas	50	11.50	23.00
Oregon	50	11.00	22
New York City	2670	576.93	22
Illinois (state)	300	60.00	20
New Mexico	30	6.00	20
Pittsburgh	200	39.00	19.5
Maine	40	7.00	17.5
New Hampshire	35	6.00	17.2
New York state	400	55.50	13.87
Cleveland	150	18.50	13.1
Texas	30	3.50	11.67
Florida	40	4.50	11.2
Detroit	150	15.75	10.5
Indiana	100	10.50	10.5
Tennessee	30	3.00	10
Idaho	30	3.00	10
New Jersey	400	39.81	9.95
Iowa	50	3.50	7
Connecticut	600	34.59	5.76
Pennsylvania (state)	300	16.25	5.4

FREY ON GRIDDLE

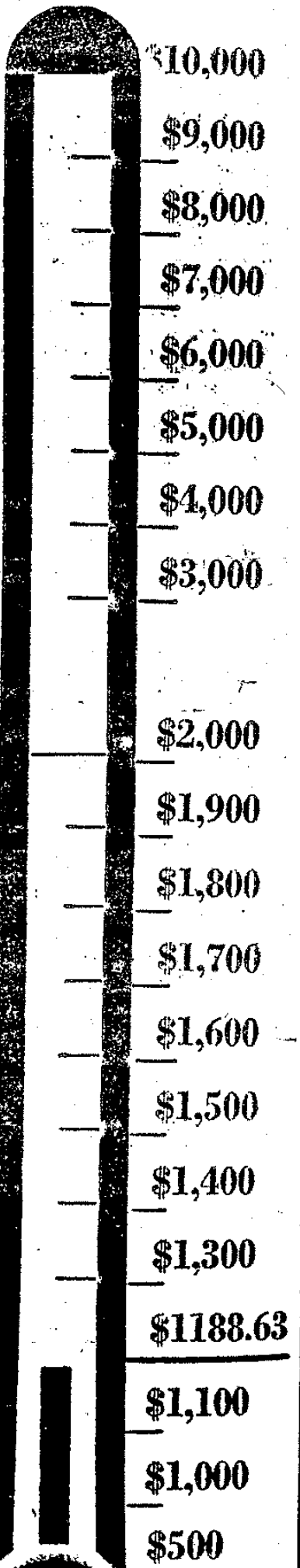
MILWAUKEE.—A protest against the action of John P. Frey, president of the AFL metal trades department, in attacking the sit-down strike during the General Motors walkout, was adopted by the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council.

Maryland	100	5.00	5
Philadelphia	400	16.00	4
Colorado	50	2.00	4
Kentucky	50	2.00	4
Ohio	150	5.75	3.8
North Carolina	20.00	.75	3.7
West Virginia	35	1.00	2.8
Missouri	250	6.00	2.67
Oklahoma	40	1.00	2.5
District of Columbia	125	3.00	2.4
Massachusetts (State)	400	8.50	2.1
Chicago	400	8.50	1.5
Wisconsin	800	11.00	1.3
Arizona	40	.50	1.25
Michigan (state)	150	1.25	.83
Washington	75.00	.25	.3
Reading	300	.50	.16

10,000 1188.63 11.89

\$10,000

For The CALL



To Aid the Call Drive a Limited Number of "Thunder Over Jerusalem" by Allen E. Cross

A recent volume of stirring poems of the class struggle, for social justice, have been donated by the author to be sold at 50c each, regular \$1.00

Order From Call Book Store 21 E. 17th St. New York City

CENTER HOTEL Formerly Hotel Delano

REFURNISHED REDECORATED Now Open For Bookings WEDDINGS - BANQUETS LECTURES - MEETINGS DANCES

Rates Reasonable Service Supreme J. E. SALTZMAN Banquet Director 108 W. 43rd St., N. Y. C. BRyant 9-2466

With The Party

MARYLAND

Local Baltimore will begin a series of Sun. afternoon forums beginning this Sun. at party headquarters, 105 No. Eutaw St.

Card party and bingo Sat., Mar. 13 at above address.

MICHIGAN

Detroit Socialists have begun publication of a local news bulletin, the Detroit Socialist, which it is hoped will later develop into a Detroit Socialist newspaper. No. 1 was published Feb. 22. A full discussion of various views on the Labor Party question was included in the first issue.

Herman Berman will discuss "The Place of James Farrell in American Literature" at the People's House, 3946 Trumbull Ave., Detroit, on Mar. 7. This is a part of a series of Sunday classes in the relation of literature, art and drama to the revolutionary movement.

A red card meeting of Detroit Socialists will be held on Mar. 22 at which Wayne County delegates to the national convention will participate in a final discussion of issues confronting the convention. All branches are now holding pre-convention discussions in Detroit at this time.

The dinner reported a few weeks ago to be held by the Jewish Branch of Detroit for the CALL and the State office of the party. \$25 was raised for the CALL at this affair.

There will be a membership meeting on the constitution of the party at Detroit headquarters, 3946 Trumbull Ave., on Wednesday, March 10.

MISSOURI

At a party meeting preceding the excellent dinner and second anniversary celebration of the CALL, St. Louis comrades reported: Carpenter Saunders—his local defeated the referendum; Auto Workers Kerne and Von Romer described the militant stand-down after the G.M. settlement in order to fight against discrimination; SWOC organizer Joe Morris and steel lodge president Wamack reported the growth in membership; Labor Attorney Demmler still performing active work in Missouri for Pitt miners as well as other strikers; Teache Preiser is getting more progressive labor support for his non-partisan candidacy than ever before, and Lechner, intensive organization work in the Workers Alliance. Labor is rumbling in St. Louis and Socialists who are beginning to carry out the line of the party are in no small way making it rumble. Frank N. Trager, National Labor and Organization Secretary, spoke at the CALL banquet.

NEW YORK

The third of the series of three party pre-convention discussion membership meetings will be held Mon., Mar. 8, Stuyvesant Casino, 2nd Ave. and 9th St. Subject: Trade Union Policy. Speakers: Murray Gross, Herbert Zam, Arne Swaback, I. Laderman, Mary Hillier.

Election for national convention delegates held between Mar. 1 and 15. Arrangements are being made for

reduced round-trip to the Convention in Chicago.

Enrollment books for New York City are off the press and may be obtained from the city office.

Recommendations for members of the various standing committees of Local New York should be submitted for consideration to the city Executive Committee.

J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, will be the main speaker at a mass meeting in support of National Sharecroppers Week, held under the auspices of the 12 A.D. Manhattan branch, 615 Second Ave., near 34th St., Mar 4 at 8 P.M. Brendan Sexton, chairman of the New York Workers Alliance, will also speak.

Gus Tyler, editor of the CALL, will speak on the Moscow Trials at the Brighton Beach Branch, Fri., Mar. 5, at 3068 Brighton 3rd St., Brooklyn. Social and dance for the Aid of Women and Children of Spain, given by the Italian-American Committee to Aid the Spanish People, will be held on consecutive Fridays, Mar. 5 and 12, at 17 McDougal St., NYC.

Circle 5 of the YPSL will hold a dance under the auspices of the New York University Socialist Club, Mar. 6, in the Green Room of the East Building, 241 Green St.

OHIO

Max Wohl is leading a discussion on People's Front at a membership meeting of Local Cleveland, Mar. 7.

PENNSYLVANIA

Norman Thomas will be one of the speakers at a symposium on "Why Labor Should Be Organized Industrial and Political," sponsored by the Socialist Party of South Langhorne, Wed., Mar. 10. Eloise Fickland will speak on "Citizens Community Cooperatives" and John Edelman, industrial director of the Hosiery Workers Union, will speak on "Fraud of Company Unions." The meeting will be held at Red Mens Hall.

Leopold Somlo's 50th birthday and 32nd year in the Socialist movement will be celebrated jointly with the 35th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Jewish Socialist Branch, at the Hotel Schenley, Sun. evening, Mar. 7, at 6 P.M. Norman Thomas will be guest speaker.

The Greater Pittsburgh branch is holding a series of discussions on important problems facing the party. The branch meets every Sun. afternoon, at the Mayfair Hotel, 423 Penn Ave., Rm. 909, at 2:30 P.M.

Paul Cotton, state secretary, has been doing organizational work in Allegheny County with excellent results.

Norman Thomas will have a busy calendar during his stay in Pittsburgh: Sun. afternoon, Mar. 7, he will address a CIO group; at 6 P.M., main speaker at a party dinner; Mon. noon, talk on the Tech campus; 2:30 P.M., the Pitt campus; at 5 P.M., radio address for 15 minutes; 8 P.M., Community Forum.

TENNESSEE

The striking garment workers at the Hardwick Woolen Mills plant in Cleveland, Tenn., last Thursday enthusiastically applauded a showing of the famous labor picture, Millions of

Support Party Work! Buy Debs Stamps

Thirteen states have now bought an average of one Eugene V. Debs Organization Fund stamp per member; according to a report made by Marjorie Kipp, secretary of the Organization Fund committee to Norman Thomas, committee chairman and other members of the committee.

Illinois, New Jersey, Missouri, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, Wyoming, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Alabama, Nevada and Oregon are the states reported as leading in the drive.

In analyzing the report on the drive, Comrade Kipp said: "No state has done as well as it should. Some locals within some states have done the job conscientiously and well as is indicated by a letter

Us," by the Socialist Party of Tennessee. The workers also heard a number of labor songs played from the Socialist Party's sound truck. Franz Daniels, member of the national executive committee, is in charge of the Cleveland strike, and reports that the organization there is growing rapidly.

Elaine Wright, Socialist candidate for State Senate in Troy, New York, in the last elections, and now a member of the Socialist Party in Tennessee, is one of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers organizers in Lafollette, who led a successful strike against the Atlas Shirt Co. there.

Herbert Harris, state organizer, spent the week working in and around Nashville. He exhibited the picture "Millions of Us" to the Nashville Trades and Labor Council and to the Hosiery Workers Union there.

convention. No matter what kind of an aggressive program for Socialism is planned at the special convention at the end of this month, it will be extremely difficult to work it out on a national scale if the party finds itself disorganized financially, facing a heavy burden of debt due to the deficit piled up during these days before the convention. Each party member must make himself responsible for buying his share of the stamps and for seeing that the matter is brought up in his branch until a complete report can be made from the branch. This is our responsibility, comrades, we cannot fail!"

The assessment schedule is as follows:

Income per week	Assessment in stamps
\$10 or less	1 Debs stamps
\$10-\$20	2 " "
\$20-\$30	4 " "
\$30-\$40	8 " "
\$40-\$50	16 " "
\$50 and above	32 " "

SAM WEINER

Lecturer and Writer

"MARK and BAKUNIN"

VANGUARD FORUM

22 West 17th St.

FRI., MARCH 5-8:30 p.m. Adm. 15c

Support Work

"This drive is being conducted to support the national work of the party until the time of the

Andre Malraux

Author of "Man's Fate" and

Leader of the International Air Squadron of the Loyalists Government

Louis Fischer

Foreign Correspondent of The Nation will discuss "Spain's Battle for Democracy"

at MECCA TEMPLE

133 West 55th Street, New York

on Thursday evening—MARCH 11—at 8 o'clock

Admission: 55c, 35c, and 25c. Tickets at

North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy

361 Fourth Avenue, New York City MURRAY Hill 5-9477

Sunday, 2:30 p. m. March 14th

PROTEST MEETING

MECCA TEMPLE

133 West 55th St., N.Y.

Against Mussolini's Fascist Invasion of Democratic Spain!

Program

Special Showing of Amkino's Dramatic Film

"SPAIN IN FLAMES"

Speakers

ELISABETH GURLEY FLYNN

REP. ARTHUR W. MITCHELL OF ILLINOIS

REP. JOHN T. BERNARD

GIROLAMO VALENTI, Editor

Editor 'La Stampa Libera'

Admission; 99c; 40c; 25c

TICKETS on sale at all bookshops, or office of Italian Anti-Fascist Committee, Room 300, 7 E. 15th St.

Members — Comrades

Meet us on Friday, March 6th at

7:30 P.M., 35 East 19th St.

HEAR THE STORY OF OUR

PROGRAM and PLANS

Join us in our Co-operative Venture.

SHARE OUR ENTHUSIASM!

Refreshments Served!



CAMP THREE ARROWS

112 E. 10th St., N.Y.C.

AL. 4-2438

MUSICALES

Followed by Studio Party every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Two hour program of masterpieces. Refreshments, dancing, fun, frolics. 29 cents lets you in.

LEAGUE OF MUSIC LOVERS

11 West 18th St., N.Y.C.

\$5,000.00

PRIZES

ARE OFFERED BY THE NEW HISTORY SOCIETY

for the best papers of not more than 2,000 words on the subject:

"HOW CAN THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL DISARMAMENT?"

Everybody is Entitled to Compete!

There is no registration fee or obligation of any kind. For rules and further information enclose a 3c stamp to:

New History Society
132 East 65th St., New York, N.Y.
Contest Closes May 1st, 1937!
Add Your Voice to the World's Cry for Peace!

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

BROOKLYN

UPHOLSTERER

JOHN P. CARSTENS, 517 Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn Upholstery slip covers, furniture repaired, refinished. IN. 2-6345

MANHATTAN

SODA FOUNTAIN

DEBIST DRINKS 27 Union Sq. (next to the Ritz) Soda fountain—Orange & Pineapple drinks, Cigars, cigarettes, candy.

now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party

and we don't mean the s p in this particular instance . . . you are cordially invited to the rebel press cocktail dansant for the benefit of the socialist call . . . on saturday evening april 17th at 107 maddougal street, sponsored by the chelsea and village branches . . . save the date . . . more details next week . . . watch the call.

The Compass Travel Bureau

Takes Pleasure in Announcing Its 3rd Summer Travel Seminar to the

SOVIET UNION

Under the Leadership of PROFESSOR BERNARD J. STERN

Editor—Science and Society

Sailing From New York July 3, 1937

62 Days — All Inclusive — Ocean \$515

Passage in Modern Third Class

A selection of other conducted and independent tours to Europe, Mediterranean and Soviet Russia, covering two months' trips ranging from \$398. For Descriptive Pamphlet and Full Details Apply

COMPASS TRAVEL BUREAU

55 W. 42nd Street, New York City

LOngacre 5-3070

As Comrades to Comrades let us advise you that it pays to be insured where it pays.

Join

The Workmen's Sick & Death Benefit Fund (A Non-Profit Seeking Fraternal Organization)

RELIABLE — SOUND — PROGRESSIVE

Protect Yourself and Your Family

Against the Hazards of Life. We Pay

SICK — ACCIDENT — DEATH BENEFITS

We Provide for Medical and Hospital Care

Emergency Relief — Juvenile Insurance

Recreation Farms

For Further Information Write to

WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND

714 Seneca Avenue

Brooklyn, N. Y.

THOMAS J. ATKINS & SONS

Official Florist of Socialist Party

1371 EASTERN PARKWAY

Cor. HALPH AVE., BROOKLYN

FResident 4-1030

635 SUTTER AVENUE

near Pennsylvania Ave., Brooklyn

Dickens 6-6093

FLORISTS

BASKETS OF FRESH FRUITS

FOR ALL OCCASIONS

WEDDING BOUQUETS, HALL

and CANOPY DECORATIONS

Greenhouse

MAYWOOD, N. J.

Member:

Florists Telegraph Delivery

SPECIAL RATES TO CALL READERS

Consumers' Cooperation

By BENJAMIN WOLF

One of the illusions which cooperators and social reformers of various shades of pink share in common is the alleged prosperity of Sweden under the aegis of consumer cooperation and the Social Democratic Party. It was a source of constant reassurance to these evolutionary gradualists to be able to point to the steady improvement and progress the Swedes were making toward the Cooperative Commonwealth. Compared with the bloody struggles of the working classes of every other European nation, the entire Scandinavian peninsula shone like a beacon.

The incomparable Swedes got themselves press agented all over the map with the result that liberals and radicals throughout the world at some time or other during the last year or two have probably sighed and wished themselves transported to this modern Eden.

The state of affairs in Sweden may still be the finest in the world. It may well be that 20 per cent of all the retail trade is carried on by cooperatives, and that the government owns and runs practically every public utility in the country with the liquor business thrown in for good measure.

No Such Eden

Maybe they do it with mirrors after all. Several reports indicate that it may not be much of an

Eden, at that. A special correspondent for the New York Times gives very edifying items to put in your evolutionary pipe and smoke.

For instance, a commission studying the birth rate made a report recently which contained several highly interesting items. Overcrowding in many Swedish towns and in most rural communities in greater than in England. More than half of all working class families with more than three children live in tenements of "one room and kitchen."

"The average income of each Swedish wage earner is 85 pounds sterling," says the Times correspondent. "Yet between two-thirds and three-quarters of all Swedish wage earners of 15 years and over earn less than this, and more than half earn less than 50 pounds sterling."

Politically Neutral

Concerning the Swedish cooperative movement, a comrade has recently written that the task of giving it a Socialist trend is quite hopeless. "It prides itself on being politically neutral and never takes sides with the workers in labor disputes," he writes. "Many of its pioneers were radical Socialists, but now it caters to all classes, and the membership is, I should think, on the whole as much bourgeois as working class. It very carefully avoids all claims to a Socialist aim, but there still are many Social Democrats who honestly believe that a Socialist society can be built through the cooperative movement."

Please Patronize
Our Advertisers

HERBERT RUSS
Optician
Prescriptions Filled
Examinations Arranged
Workers' Prices

16 W. 44 ST. NEW YORK CITY
ROOM 702 MURRAY HILL 6-2785

Ban On Red Agitation Price Of Chinese Faction Peace

By HAROLD R. ISAACS

When Esau sold his birthright, he at least got a mess of pottage for it. What are the Chinese Communists getting in return for the sale of their birthright to the Kuomintang?

At its plenary session in Nanking (February 15-21), the Kuomintang Central Executive Committee announced its readiness to accept the "submission" of the Chinese Communist Party and laid down the following terms:

1. Break-up of the Red Army.
2. Liquidation of the "Soviet Government."
3. Cessation of propaganda for Communism.
4. Renunciation of the doctrine of class struggle.

To all but the first of these, the Chinese Communist Party had already agreed in advance. It had not only agreed but had already begun to put them into effect. Mao Tse-tung, the CP leader, has announced that the confiscation of land by the peasants has been stopped and that the workers were being and would be restrained from struggle against the capitalists.

Not yet entirely satisfied with this capitulation, Chiang Kai-shek has demanded the dismemberment and dispersal of the Red Army, which has now been deprived by its own leadership of the political program which distinguished it for years from every other military force in China. It is today like any other military force, occupying territory held in fief from the Nanking Government. Not even its verbal anti-Japanism distinguishes it, for there is not a general in China, from Chiang Kai-shek down, who does not pay lip service to the slogan of "resistance to foreign aggression."

Parleys for Formula

The CP will demur on the demand for dispersal of its army — but only because it is a little too early in the game to play its last trump. They have agreed so far to stop calling it "Red Army" (it will become the "People's Army") and to place it unconditionally under the orders of the Nanking general staff, headed by Chiang Kai-shek. Parleys for a formula will proceed but eventual agreement is now certain.

What is the quid pro quo? What is the CP getting for its birthright?

1. It demanded freedom of speech, press and assembly.

It got a resolution, which departs not a whit from established Kuomintang practice, proclaiming free speech and free press for all — with the following incidental exceptions: (1) Communist propaganda; (2) attacks on public order and the safety of the State; (3) disclosure of military and diplomatic secrets; (4) dissemination of false news.

2. It demanded the liberation of political prisoners.

It got a resolution promising amnesty to all political prisoners — with the incidental proviso that liberation will depend on "complete repentance" for past crimes and iron-clad guarantees that all future anti-government activity will be abjured.

3. It demanded a National Congress.

It got a promise of a National Congress in November, packed, like all Kuomintang congresses, at the pleasure of the dominant clique. Last summer the CP said it wanted something more "democratic." A formula will not be hard to find.

4. It demanded, above all, preparations for war against Japan.

It got a resolution, similar in tone and phrase to a dozen such resolutions since 1931, promising to make the "supreme sacrifice" in case of "insupportable aggression" but clearly offering Japan an understanding in return for a partial moderation of Japanese demands. This represents no change whatever in the established policy of the Nanking government. It may stiffen a little, as indicated by the resignation of Foreign Minister Chang Chun, but if Japan softens a little, as it well may, the door remains wide open to a new bargain.

Peculiar Phrasing

These were the results for which Chow En-lai, CP leader at Sian, hailed Chiang Kai-shek as the great peacemaker. Our own local pundit, Harry Gannes, wrote: "The united national front, regardless of the peculiar phrasing (!?) of the Kuomintang plenary session resolution, has made great gains." Gannes refrained from publishing the "peculiar phrases," perhaps because it would be difficult to explain how the Chinese Communist

IM 4-Page Photo-Offset

BULLETINS \$10.00

Shop Papers - Pamphlets - Booklets
Multigraphing - Addressing - Mailing
Equally Low Rates - Union Shop
FEDERAL LETTER CO.
8 E. 12th St. STuy. 9-5730

Party could accept such conditions and still be "a Communist Party." The answer is, of course, that it will not be.

The name of the party is going to be changed, and the label "Communist" is going to be dropped.

In fact—and this is not the least significant of recent developments—the British and American imperialist press in Shanghai has come out in support of a deal between the Kuomintang and the CP and has saluted the voluntary liquidation of the revolutionary struggle. "Certainly General Chiang and the National Government are against Communism," wrote the American Shanghai Evening Post on January 8, "but if the ex-Communists are too, that makes it unanimous. It is hard to see how Nanking can keep on fighting people who don't want to fight and combating ideas already thrown overboard voluntarily."

"It does appear to be more and more generally realized," said the same paper on December 29, "that the Communists of China are not now Communists in any remaining essential... What is there about this so-called Communist program of the present day which warrants refusal to make peace with a group no longer committed to anything fundamentally Communist?"

Friendly Enemy

And even the arch-reactionary British North China Daily News, the most consistent and hysterical enemy of the workers' and peasants' struggle, advised the Nanking government on December 28 that "it will do well to ascertain how correct is... (the) contention that the so-called Communists are ready to come to terms." A day later it said "The Government may be well-advised to consider... some form of liaison with the Communists, provided, of course, that its supreme authority is fully safeguarded."

The imperialists are quick to realize that the "ex-Communists" and "so-called Communists" have given up the main weapon of serious anti-imperialist struggle—i.e., a revolutionary agrarian program to be carried out under proletarian leadership. Without this program, the "Communists" (or ex-Communists) are safely utilisable, like all other Chinese generals and politicians, as pawns in the inter-imperialist rivalries. Such has always been the traditional imperialist method.

Now as Then

But let us not forget that ten years ago the "national united front" operated on the slogan, "Down with British imperialism." On this basis an immense mass movement swept the country. The Communists surrendered their own programs and this made it easy for the bourgeoisie to establish its Nanking government and come to terms with Britain.

Where To Dine

JOHN'S

ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Lunch and Dinner, Wines and Beer Served. Favorite rendezvous of Eugene Victor Debs. Popular prices.

302 E. 12th St. NEAR 2nd AVE.

• PRIVATE DINING ROOMS FOR PARTIES •

RITZ DINER 27 UNION SQ. (cor. 16th St.) We deliver phone orders. Tel. STuyvesant 9-8616. OPEN DAY AND NIGHT. Private Dining Room for Ladies and Gentlemen

5th Ave. Cafeteria and Bar
54 FIFTH AVENUE. The very best food—Most reasonable prices. Large Beer 5c

HARTFORD DRUG CO. AND LUNCHEONETTE
Cor. 17th and Union Sq. W. Complete Luncheon 35c. Fountain Specials. Prompt Delivery. AL. 4-6326

RHODA'S LUNCHEONETTE, Inc., 837 Broadway, cor. 17th Street. Candy, Cigars, Cigarettes. We deliver orders. Snappy Service. BR. 7-9272-9288-9410 I. FEINSTEIN, Prop.

PITKIN CAFETERIA, 1781 PITKIN AVE., NEAR STONE AVE., BROOKLYN. PHONE Blooms 2-2589

Invaluable for Pre-Convention Discussion

Socialist Perspectives—1937—

The series of Party Perspectives — which has been running from week to week in the Socialist Call — has been reprinted as an attractive eight page folder.

Every party member must read it in preparation for the National Convention. Every branch should sell it.

5 cents per copy—
12 for 50 cents—
30 for 1.00 — 100
for 2.50—2 cents per
copy for 500 or more

Order From
SOCIALIST CALL
21 East 17th St.
New York City

'POWER' RATES HIGH ALONG 'WHITE-WAY'

'Kilowatt-Klan' Loses Insull-ation

POWER—Federal Theatre Project, Living Newspaper unit. By Arthur Arent; music by Lee Wain-er; staged by Brett Warren; set-tings by Howard Bay; super-vised by Morris Watson. Ritz Theatre.

By McALISTER COLEMAN

If in my enthusiasm I urge you to take an axe and break your little child's savings bank and extract therefrom 55 cents and hurry with it to the box office of the Ritz Theatre on West 48th Street, you will be shining like a little candle in this naughty kilowatt world. In short you will be seeing one of the most exciting and altogether heartening productions of the current season.

When the history of this 1936-37 theatrical season is written he will be indeed a negligent historian who does not establish the WPA productions of the year as far and above those of Broadway. Such performances as "Murder in the Cathedral," "Dr. Faustus," and the bulk of the "Living Newspaper's" shows stand head and shoulder above anything that the hired hands of the West Forties have produced.

Give Us More of Arent

To hell with Kings and their sad death and all the English actors who swarm behind our footlights. Give us any day a play like that of Arent's that comes straight from the good Tennessee soil and presents us with an indigenous American hero such as the hard-bitten George Norris of Nebraska. For he is the hero of "Power" and you could range far without finding a more heroic figure.

The play's villain is the power trust. To dramatize the struggle of the people for their own resources is no small job as this reviewer can testify. Superficially it sounds dull to spend an evening with ergs for ohm. The "Living Newspaper" has taken electrification, which Lenin said once meant socialization, and made of it a thrilling theme that brought the spectators to their feet with justly merited cheers.

"Will the Edison Finance Its Tour?"

What is needed now is to take "Power" in theatres, barns or what have you, throughout the country to indicate to the down-trodden consumer what a dirty job is being done to him by the "Kilowatt Klan."

No philanthropic foundation could do a better job than to finance such a barnstorming tour.

The Answer Is 'No!'

It is doubtful, however, if the Edison Electric Institute will donate any considerable funds towards this laudable project. The poisoners of public opinion who work in that house of prostitution took a look at the script of this play before it was produced and crashed into a collective state of nervous breakdown which has landed one of their leading spokesmen into Westchester County's most prominent monkey houses.

On Broadway



GERTRUDE FLYNN

Who appears in the Theatre Union productions of John Howard Lawson's "Marching Song" which is now showing at the Nora Bayes Theatre.

DOCUMENTARY FILM HISTORY OF RUSSIA AT FILMARTE SAT.

"Tsar to Lenin" will have its world premiere at the Filmarte on Saturday, March 6, following the successful run of "The Eternal Mask."

The new film is a documentary history of Russia from 1912 to 1925, reflecting upon the screen the turbulence of those troubled days during the World War and the Revolution, tracing through the attempts of the new Soviet Union to place itself on a firm internal basis, outlining in an authentic history the story of the birth of a new nation. The bare facts of history have been made into a stirring document, collected over twelve years. All the films used are authentic and a commentary in English is used.

The film was also set to music. The "International," "Marseillaise" and other revolutionary songs are played throughout.

TO ORGANIZE

PROVIDENCE, R. I. — The united forces of craft and industrial unionists will be thrown into an organizational campaign in Rhode Island, whether the governor likes it or not, speakers declared at a mass meeting of strikers of the Perennial Dye & Print Works of West Warwick. Support was pledged the strikers by Pres. William L. Connolly of the Rhode Island State Federation of Labor and Joseph Sylvia, Committee for Industrial Organization representative.

'The Sun And I' Worthy Offering Of WPA Theatre

THE SUN AND I by Barrie and Leona Stavis. Staged by Edward Goodman; music by Thomas K. Scherman; settings designed under supervision of Tom Adrian Cracraft; presented by the Popular Price Theatre; a Federal Theatre production. At the Adelphi Theatre.

A remarkable feature of the Federal Theatre Projects is that they can also be satirical. And Sex-interesting.

This play is all about Joseph, the well known Hebrew speculator who cornered the wheat stocks of Egypt. It was Joseph, it seems, who thought up the first holding company. And Pharaoh who represents in this play the ultimate consumer, had as tough a time with Joseph as the Congressional investigating committee with the elusive Hopson.

All in all, despite some pretty obvious satire which sounds like a couple of bright boys from DeWitt Clinton High School, the play comes off. And so do most of the clothes of Potiphar's wife, who does a strip act worthy of Gypsy Lee.

On the whole this is something worth going up to 54th Street to look at.

—McALISTER COLEMAN

Rebel Arts Drama Group Debut Set for Mar. 21 At ILGWU Labor Stage

The opening of Michael Blankfort's drama of the siege of the Alcazar, "The Brave and the Blind" has been deferred from March 14 to March 21, is was announced today by Manny Ralces, director.

A second performance of this timely play featuring the Rebel Arts Dramatic Group, will be given Sunday, April 14.

'THE INFORMER' with VICTOR McLAGLEN, MARGOT GRAHAME

A blazing drama depicting the Irish Revolution. In it flames—plotting—rebellion—murder and a love that was stronger than the revolution!

also 'VIRTUE' with

Carole LOMBARD, Pat O'BRIEN is this girl of easy virtue a victim of circumstances or is some man responsible for every girl WHO TREADS THE PRIMROSE PATH?

New Playing—FOUR DAYS ONLY!

WALLACK THEATRE

42nd Street, Near 8th Ave. Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mar. 4-5-6-7 Matinees 15c Evenings 20c-25c

World Premiere Saturday, March 6th

TSAR TO LENIN

Daring, Authentic, Living History!

See The Men Who Made Russia's Revolution In a Stirring, Thrilling Document English Narrative

Filmarte

58th St., W. of 7th Ave.

Sabotage Is Theme of Latest Silvia Sidney Film At Roxy

THE WOMAN ALONE, a GE production with Sylvia Sidney, Oscar Homolka, John Loder and Desmond Tester. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. At the Roxy Theatre.

Directed with considerable skill by Alfred Hitchcock and acted to perfection by Sylvia Sidney, Oscar Homolka, John Loder and Desmond Tester, "The Woman Alone" will appeal to those grizzled fans who thrive on suspense and impending catastrophe.

AUTHOR ARRIVES; TO ATTEND OPENING AT RADIO CITY

Clemence Dane, famous English writer who collaborated on the screen play of "Fire Over England," which has its American premiere at Radio City Music Hall on Thursday, March 4, is coming to New York to attend the opening performance.

Among Miss Dane's successful plays are "A Bill of Divorcement" and "Will Shakespeare." She is also the author of many best-selling novels, including "Broome Stages" and "Regiment of Women."

Erich Pommer produced "Fire Over England" for Alexander Korda from Miss Dane's and Sergei Nolbandov's screen play of the A. E. W. Mason book. The cast includes Flora Robson, Raymond Massey, Leslie Banks, Laurence Olivier, Vivian Leigh and Tamara Desni. William K. Howard directed this film of Elizabethan times and United Artists will release it.

'PRISONERS' HELD OVER

The Soviet psychological film, "Prisoners," is being held for a third week at the Cameo Theatre.

The subject of Hitchcock's latest opus is sabotage, a subject he takes to like the proverbial duck to water. Foreign agents dogged by Scotland Yard, time bombs ready to burst and murder by a tragical beauty are the familiar paraphernalia in the director's kit. Of course, much of the suspense is nullified by a happy ending—a vulgar concession in this type of film.

"The Woman Alone" is a personal success for Hitchcock and its cast. There's a possibility, though, that it will bore you to death, what with a technical superstructure far too ponderous for its flimsy foundations.

To Show 'Spain in Flames'

"Spain in Flames," a pictorial history of the present People's Front government, showing the heroic stand of the Spanish people against the foreign Fascist invasion, will be shown at a protest meeting against Mussolini's invasion of Spain and Ethiopia at Mecca Temple Sunday afternoon, March 14th at 2:30. The meeting is under the auspices of the Italian Anti-Fascist Committee.

STAGE

STAGE

SAM H. HARRIS presents

"A MAGNIFICENTLY FUNNY SHOW" —Time Magazine

"You Can't Take It With You"

A Farical Comedy by MOSS HART and GEO. S. KAUFMAN

BOOTH THEATRE

45th St. W. of B'way

Evenings 8:40

Matinee: Wed.

and Sat. at 2:40

MARCHING SONG

THEATRE UNION'S THRILLING DRAMATIC HIT

"A powerful and exciting social drama of inescapable interest." Richard Watts, Jr., Herald Trib.

"Brilliant scenes etched with savage humor." Brooks Atkinson, Times

By JOHN HOWARD LAWSON

LOWEST PRICES ON BOARDWAY \$1.50 NO TAX

Best Orch. Seats

BAYE THEA., 44 St. W. of B'way

Bry., 364th, Evng. 8:40, Mat. Wed., Sat.

Prices: 45c, 60c 75c, \$1, \$1.50, no tax

WPA FEDERAL THEATRE

Evenings Only 25c to 55c NO HIGHER Med. 3-5962

Living Newspaper POWER RITZ THEA., 48th St. W. of B'way Evng 8:00

Popular Price THE SUN and I LEONA STAVIS By BARRIE & ADELPHI THEATRE, 54th St. East of 7th Ave. Evenings: 8:30

891 Presents DR. FAUSTUS By CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE Evenings at 8:00

MAXINE ELLIOTT'S THEATRE, 30th Street, East of Broadway Evenings at 8:30 "THE SHOW OFF" 131st & 7th Ave. LAFAYETTE THEA.

CHAINS

By H. LEIVICK

ARTEF THEATRE 247 W. 48 St. CHL. 4 7157 Performance Every Evening & Saturday and Sunday Matinee

AT THE FRONT



By **NORMAN THOMAS**

THE PARTY CONVENTION

In the torrent of letters, pamphlets and what-have-you, about our forthcoming Socialist Convention there is a real danger that we shall forget its true purpose. That purpose is not to write a new Declaration of Principles but to organize the Party effectively for its own work in connection with present opportunities, and of course, in relation to other organizations.

Now there are difficulties in the way and honest differences of opinion. That is inevitable if we stick to the idea of an inclusive party of Socialists with unity of action but freedom of discussion. Such a Socialist Party is the only kind that is today possible in America. It is, moreover, a party which may avoid the dictatorial centralization of the Communist Party of which the Stalin-Trotsky feud is one bitter fruit.

But in the main I am surprised at the wide area of general agreement among us Socialists—an agreement too widespread to afford any excuse for treating the Party as if it were loose league of factions. There are very few differences that are the inevitable result of difference of principle. Let me illustrate.

We all agree on work in and with mass organizations. The question is how. We want every Socialist at work in the place where he can work best and we want him to have advantage of Socialist cooperation and direction in that task.

There is no a priori formula on this derived from Marx or even our own theoreticians. The Convention must take account of realities. A plan for Socialist League that may work in New York may not work in a factory town with very few Socialists in a union. Certainly small Socialist locals with little experience with unions or cooperatives cannot satisfactorily improvise a detailed labor or cooperative line and force it on a union through some Socialist league of a couple of members. These are the realities we must face in planning work in unions and cooperatives.

We must all agree on a greater degree of democratic centralization and the building of a party-controlled press. Again the question how is not determined by deductions from rival theories on the precise "road to power."

Most of us agree on the three principles that should guide us in relation to a labor party:

1. Such a party is a highly desirable next step in the American working class movement and promises to be the logical next step in terms of strength at the polls. It should be supported by Socialists.
2. But by its nature such a party cannot take the place of the Socialist Party which must preserve its identity not merely in a vague educational sense but for effective action in the face of developing situations. There may soon include crisis born of new catastrophe which will leave little opportunity for nose counting as its major solution.
3. The conditions under which we must combine preservation of our identity and function with support for a farmer-labor party (and that is not the same as a "popular front") are not uniform. We have no national movement as yet for a farmer-labor party but a series of local movements very different in character, strength and sincerity. These are the factors which we must con-

sider in adopting a plan of action at Chicago.

In considering them we may also have to adopt certain statements or amplifications of principle which apply to present problems. We shall utterly fail if on the one hand we are fools enough to let the Communist Party write our program in terms of its very peculiar enthusiasm for a more peculiar "democracy" or if on the other we write our own program in terms of such negatives as the hate of the "poison of Stalinism."

We have positive Socialist job to do. That means supporting morally and financially the Party first and not a faction.

FASCIST McNUTT GETS A JOB

Some folks, even some workers, seem to think it was a praiseworthy example of smart politics for President Roosevelt to ship the Hoosier Hitler, ex-Governor Paul V. McNutt, off to be High Commissioner to the Philippines. It is, on the contrary, unfair to the Islands and dangerous to the United States. An able militarist and potential Fascist of the type of McNutt cannot only teach the Filipino politicians some tricks about government by military law, but might in some sudden emergency increase the danger that the United States may be drawn into war in the Far East.

What have the Islands done to Washington that the President should give them McNutt on top of McArthur, the hero of the war on the bonus marchers? Ask your Senators to vote against confirming the McNutt appointment.

PROPOSED BILL AIDS FASCISTS

In the name of neutrality and peace the House of Representatives is considering a bill which would make illegal any meeting with solicitation of funds to send

medical aid, clothing or food to the Spanish government. This is a long step toward the Fascist ideal of a totalitarian state.

It does nothing whatever to preserve the peace of this nation which is not menaced by acts of individuals who expressly renounce any intention or desire to involve the government. It is pro-Fascist in effect and is a denial of an ancient and honorable tradition which led men to serve great causes the world around regardless of national boundaries.

Probably in this troubled world the best service for peace that we can hope of Congress is to enact into law a principle of mandatory neutrality extending to trade. Exceptions should be made by Congress, not the President. But that principle does not support an intensification of American discrimination against the Spanish Loyalists.

Protest at once against this outrageous provision of the Mc Reynolds bill which would deprive all aid (except possible private, unsolicited donations) to the Spanish government—even the aid of medical units and food supplies. It is a instinct of the American people to keep our government out of war, but to carry isolation to this extreme is not the true way of peace.

THE CHURCH IN POLITICS

The Catholic bishops in Massachusetts and New York have the right of other citizens to oppose legislation. But the nature of their attack on the Child Labor Amendment in the name of a far-fetched fear that Congress will hurt the souls of children in the name of saving their bodies from the exploiter provokes resentment against the whole Church. It puts us on notice to resent clericalism and tends to invite the kind of attack on organized re-

ligion which bishops, of all men, should most want to avoid.

THE ARMS RACE GROWS

The arms race grows so intense as not to be long endurable. It is a prelude to war, not a preventive of it. "Collective security" is an impossible dream among capitalist states which act as England acted toward Spain. Baldwin's bid for a new Locarno is really a proposal to give Germany and Japan free hand against Russia.

Where is the British Labor Party's program in the face of such danger? Is there no one in Europe to make even dictators see that nothing is worth the probable destruction of most great European cities in new war?

WORKERS RIGHTS AMENDMENT NEEDED

Borah's constitutional amendment to give states power in social and economic legislation is wholly inadequate. It leaves national legislation hog-tied by the AAA, the Guffey Act and other decisions. Wheeler's proposal that an amendment give Congress power to override the Supreme Court by a two-third vote of each House would mean that Socialists or a labor party would have to get not a majority but a two-third majority in both Houses to pass really vital legislation!

The President's big court proposal may be better than nothing—I should vote for it without enthusiasm—but cures nothing in the long run. The more one thinks of all this the better the Farmers' and Workers' Rights Amendment looks.

SOCIALIST ROLE IN MINNEAPOLIS

Charles Bunford Walker's American City (Farrar & Rinehart) is an exciting and valuable story of Minneapolis. Local 574 and the Dunne brothers play a role in it that Socialists ought to

understand better and appreciate more fully.

As I write in New Orleans, on a Sunday, the news of Spanish Loyalist gains in Oveide is good. Perhaps keeping more German and Italian troops out by this blockade was the most practicable thing that Stalin and Blum could do once British policy had led to the unnecessary crisis in Spain. But the so-called democracies have made a sorry showing.

CIO to Fight Boss Stooze, Says Martin

NEWARK, N. J.—"We'll fight till hell freezes over and then give them a battle on ice," was the challenge which Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers Union, issued to Governor "Happy" Harold Hoffman in reply to the New Jersey governor's warning that organization of workers in his state would be stifled.

Martin addressed more than a thousand workers in Laurel Garden last Friday as part of the campaign by the North New Jer-



JULIUS EMSPAK, Secretary of the United Electrical and Radio Workers' Union, is chairman of the New Jersey sector of the CIO organization drive. Governor Hoffman says "No Sit-Down!" We shall see!

The Communists Again Direct Their Main Fire On Socialists

The American Communist Party has, once more, turned its main fire upon the Socialist Party of the United States. The new attack is epitomized in a pamphlet entitled: *An Appeal to Socialists*.

Its political appeal is to make the Socialist Party the same sort of reformist instrument that the Communist Party is today.

Its organizational appeal is to repudiate the leadership of Norman Thomas and to remove the editors of the *SOCIALIST CALL*.

Its immediate proposal is to expel all those whom the Communists call "Trotskyites," and to flood the *CALL* with letters demanding the same.

The statement of the Communist Party is a clear declaration from the Stalinists that their chief interest, at present, is to split another working class party . . . and to do it, while calling for "unity" in the ranks of the workers.

Some months ago, Earl Browder threatened that, if we continue with our present revolutionary line, the Communist Party will renew its campaign for "united front from below." The latest moves are all in line with the threat to send Communists or naive persons with Communist phrases into the Socialist Party, crying "unity" always on the basis of the Communist program for the purpose of disrupting the Socialist Party.

Although the Communist program has changed since the famous "third period," when they were smashing unions in the name of unity, breaking up workers' meetings, (for unity), demanding the extermination of the "social-fascists" (in a unity), the Communist method has not changed. The method of struggle against another working class organization and against that of educating, educating, educating.

In the *Appeal to Socialists*, the Communist Party demands that we should not only support the present program of the Communist Party

Spain, of their recent statement, we consider this a proper moment for defining the differences between our attitude and that of the Communists in the matter of working class democracy.

The Socialist Party believes that questions of policy within the working class should be settled by debate and logic. Once this principle is surrendered, no matter the pretense, the organizations of the working class are soon to be cursed by corrupt bureaucratic practices.

As a result of its basically democratic concept of working class organization, the Socialist Party tolerates differences within its ranks, looks upon comradely debate as healthy, and believes that the most fruitful decisions can arise only from such democratic interplay of opinions.

The Communist Party, on the other hand, holding a bureaucratic concept of working class organization, tolerates no differences, converts every deviation from the official line into a split and then proceeds to the use of hoodlum methods for the extermination of its opponents.

Facing a coming convention, the Socialist Party and its membership consciously debate the problems before their class and their organization. They do not meet for the purpose of expelling any person or group whose ideas are not in complete agreement with that of the majority. Socialists demand unity of action and offer, within party channels, freedom of thought!

To the Communist Party we have the task of creating splits and carrying on pogroms within the labor movement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SOCIALIST CALL
Murray Baron, Lazar Becker, Max Dilsen, Julius Ebert, Carl Fichlander, Bruno Fischer, John Ford, Joseph Glass, Murray Cross, James Lipsitz, Marcus Most, Samuel Romer, Brendan Sexton, Hal Shepard, Gus Tyler and Herbert Zana.

sey Council for Industrial Organization to organize the workers of the state. Julius Emspak, president of the council and secretary-treasurer of the radio workers, presided.

The sit-down strike, Martin said, is another means, a more effective means, of paralyzing industry and stopping profits in order to gain the demands of the workers. "The sit-down strike has proved successful, which is what worries men like Hoffman."

New Jersey has for years been the happy hunting ground for New York manufacturers who wanted to evade labor unions. Hard-won labor battles in New York often became wasted efforts when runaway shops move to New Jersey. Now the bosses of the state are becoming panic-stricken at the formation of the New Jersey CIO and are instructing their stooges, Democratic Boss Hague and Republican Governor Hoffman, to make every effort to crush the CIO and its drive.