

Socialist Call

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**WHO ARE
THE BOSSES
OF AUTO?**

PAGE 7

AUTO STRIKERS TAKE MILITANT OFFENSIVE

Men To Spain Get Send-Off

Thomas Hits Pro-Fascist Action of U.S.

NEW YORK.—Fifty anti-Fascists, experienced fighters all, sat among the audience in the huge Hippodrome in New York last Friday at a meeting called by the Socialist Party of New York to send them off to Spain, where they will join the International Brigade. The fifty were the first contingent of the Eugene V. Debs Column to depart for Spain.

For obvious reasons the exact time of their departure could not be announced. And for the same reasons they could not be made known to the audience. But the thousands who attended the meeting knew they were there and cheered every mention of their presence.

Banner Presented

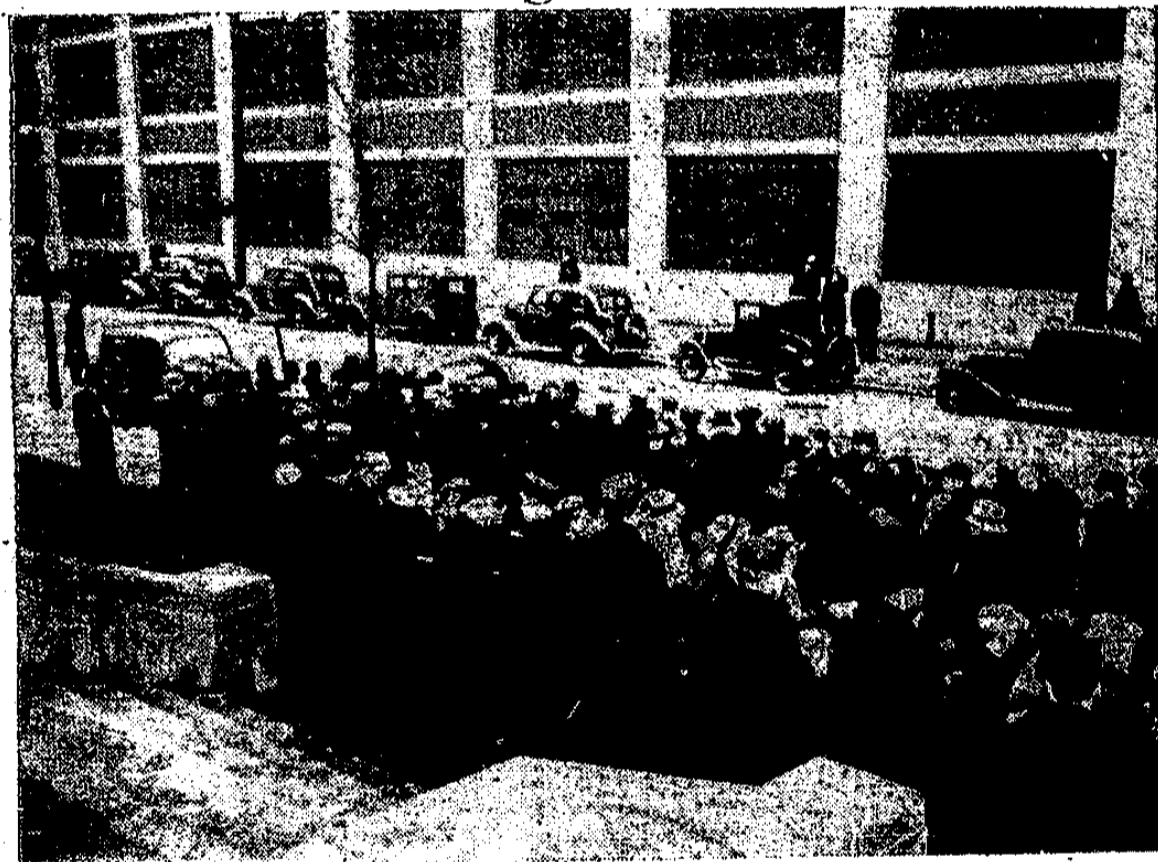
A huge banner was presented to the Debs Brigade by the Socialist Party, which will be taken by the brigade to Spain. It reads: "THE SOCIALIST PARTY, U.S.A., GREETS THE HEROIC WORKERS OF SPAIN."

Twenty-five hundred dollars was raised at the collection. The money was turned over to the Friends of the Debs Column.

Prominent labor leaders and progressives addressed the meeting. The speakers included: Norman Thomas; Roger Baldwin, secretary of the American Civil Liberties Union; Giralamo Valenti, editor of La Stampa Libera, Italian anti-Fascist daily; Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee; Leroy Bowman, professor at Columbia University; Pietro Allegro, secretary of the Italian anti-Fascist Committee; Isadore Laderman, president of the International Pocketbook Workers Union; Louis Fischer, noted European correspondent who has just returned from Spain; Louis Boudin, labor attorney; James Burnham, professor at New York University; Amicus Most, representing the Friends of the Debs

(Continued on Page Two)

Picketing in Detroit



This scene was snapped just a few minutes before the cops went into action on these Cadillac workers, injuring four men and one woman. The way had to be cleared to let the company autos roll through.

Hutcheson Gag Beaten, 300-0

Dictatorial rule in the carpenters' union is meeting opposition from the rank and file of the organization in recent votes. Local 504 of Chicago voted down Bill Hutcheson's amendments to end free speech and freedom of political opinion in the carpenters' union. The vote was 300 to 0.

The central amendments to the constitution give the officers of the union the power to take disciplinary action against any worker who they charge is "disrupting" a meeting and against any worker who is a member of a so-called "revolutionary" party.

Insulted as those in power have the right to decide who is a disrupter and who belongs to the wrong kind of party, every vestige of democracy in the union is endangered. The referendum is still taking place in the union.



NORMAN THOMAS

On the Air

Wednesday, Feb. 10

10:30-10:45 P.M., E.S.T.

WABC (New York)

And the Nationwide Hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System

"WHAT NEXT FOR THE SHARECROPPER?"

Get in Touch With Your Local Station to Make Sure This Program Is to Be Carried

Socialists Map Program In Campaign

By FRANK N. TRAGER
(By Telephone to the CALL)

FLINT, Mich.—Under the spirited leadership of Socialist unionists, Flint auto workers this week took the offensive and, discarding the futile strategy of prolonged conference-table negotiations, carried the historic 5-week war into enemy territory when they successfully carried through a sit-down strike at the important Chevrolet motor plant here. Control of this plant means no production at the bottle-neck.

The tactic of the strikers was immediately met by the military forces of the state when Gov. Frank Murphy, New Deal "liberal," ordered the militia to completely surround the plant and not allow any ingress, even to bring food to the sit-downers.

Food Allowed In

After the men inside the plant declared that they would starve rather than relinquish their recently-won gains, Murphy relented and food was allowed in.

The strike was called after the paralysis of negotiations which lasted more than a week. The failure of peace officials in Detroit, Saginaw and Anderson, Ind., to protect strikers and union leaders from company-inspired mobs and cheap thugs, as well as the possibility of forced arbitration by Government officials made necessary the assumption of the offensive if the splendid spirit of the strikers was not to be slowly liquidated.

To allow GM to continue the offensive, strike leaders realized, would mean slow retreat on the part of the union.

Blanket Injunction

In the meanwhile, a blanket injunction against the sit-down strikers at the two original plants was granted General Motors attorneys over the objection of union officials. Observers expect that the injunction would be used by GM as a wedge finally to force the eviction of the strikers by force.

The strike was carefully planned with all details kept absolute.

(Continued on Page Three)

**Rush Your Funds To Us Today!
The CALL Must Raise \$10,000!**

Thomas Hits Gov't For Blocking Aid To Spanish Workers

(Continued from Page One)

Column. Brendan Sexton, chairman of the Workers Alliance of New York, was chairman of the meeting.

Rebel Arts Participates

The Rebel Arts Chorus sang revolutionary songs. Two huge portraits, 20 feet high, of Eugene V. Debs and Karl Marx, made by Rebel Arts hung on either side of the platform and a 30-foot arm-and-torch hung in the front of the hall.

Norman Thomas, the final speaker of the evening, lashed out against the hypocritical attempts of the Roosevelt administration in its efforts to stop Americans from joining their comrades from every country in the world in the International Brigade in Spain.

"So far as volunteers to aid the loyalists are concerned, the Debs Column is not sending adventurers but men passionately concerned for the workers' cause, men who will take part in no Spanish struggle except against Fascism, men who are genuine internationalists, men who are persuaded that to stop Franco is to help peace," Thomas said.

"For reasons we have repeatedly given, we believe that we violate no law simply by selecting the most fit among volunteers and aiding them to get to Europe. These men, we believe, are in the great tradition of Lafayette or of Tom Paine who said: 'Where liberty is not, there is my fatherland.'

"For them we ask from the government nothing whatever except the right to do unhindered that which thousands of Americans have done and are doing unhindered for far worse causes from the days of the World War until now. It is absurd, and worse than absurd, that volunteers against Franco should be intimidated by the government while Italian-Americans were allowed with impunity to go to fight Mussolini's war against Ethiopia and army officers and ex-army officers have been permitted to take part in the military activities of the Chinese and various Latin American governments. We denounced this attempt at discrimination as Fascist in its effect."

Has Evidence

Giralamo Valenti asserted that he had documentary and pictorial evidence that American Fascists left these shores to join Mussolini's rape of Ethiopia and were allowed to return to this country without any hindrance from the American government.

Isadore Laderman, president of the International Pocketbook Workers, said that "it is true that the struggle in Spain is international in character—between international Fascism and international capitalism on one hand and the international working class on the other."

Louis Fischer, who had just returned from the scene of battle, pointed out that it was the International Brigade which saved Madrid during the second and third weeks of the siege. "It gave an example to the untrained army and helped to mould the army into a well-trained heroic fighting force."

"Our Hearts Are With You"

Leroy Bowman explained how he, a pacifist, could give his heartiest support to the Debs Column. "To fight for a principle you must fight," he said. "Pacifism is a way of doing things; it is not an end in itself."

"I cannot stand still while Spain is being crushed. Our hearts are with you, soldiers of the Debs Column, because you go to fight for principle."

Roger Baldwin asserted that "as one who opposed the last war and will oppose the next war, I can see no distinction between forms

of aid—medical supplies and shouldering a gun. We will not be stopped. We have a solemn obligation to send to those who are fighting for a cause we hold dear a living message of service."

The Highest Ideal

James Burnham said: "If Franco wins, world reaction in England, France, Germany, the United States, Italy and elsewhere will have made a great advance toward barbarism. The ideal for which the Debs Column will fight is the highest and simplest of all ideals—for a higher society."

The mood of the meeting was eloquently expressed by Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee, who said: "We send with the Debs Column our hope for a free Spain—for a Socialist Spain."

More Join Friends Of Debs Column

Daily more prominent Americans join the sponsoring committee of the Friends of the Debs Column. Among the latest who joined are Mrs. Mary Shipley of California and B. H. Higgins of New York.

Chicago Aid For Brigade Is Mobilized

CHICAGO — With a Chicago Chapter of the Friends of the Debs Column now established in Chicago and working under the direction of the mother organization in New York City, Illinois Socialists this week contended for honors in the competition to render the quickest and most effective aid to the Spanish workers and peasants in their struggle to crush International Fascism.

The response in Chicago to the organization of a local group of the Friends of the Debs Column, according to Syd Devin Secretary of the new chapter, was so immediate that steps are being taken to organize four regional groups of the Friends of the Debs Column in addition to the North Side division which is already functioning.

Thomas to Speak

Socialists are enthusiastically seconding the Friends organization and taking a leading part. The South Side meeting for Norman Thomas February 9 at the Shotwell Hall in the heart of the University district has been taken over by Friends of the Debs Column.

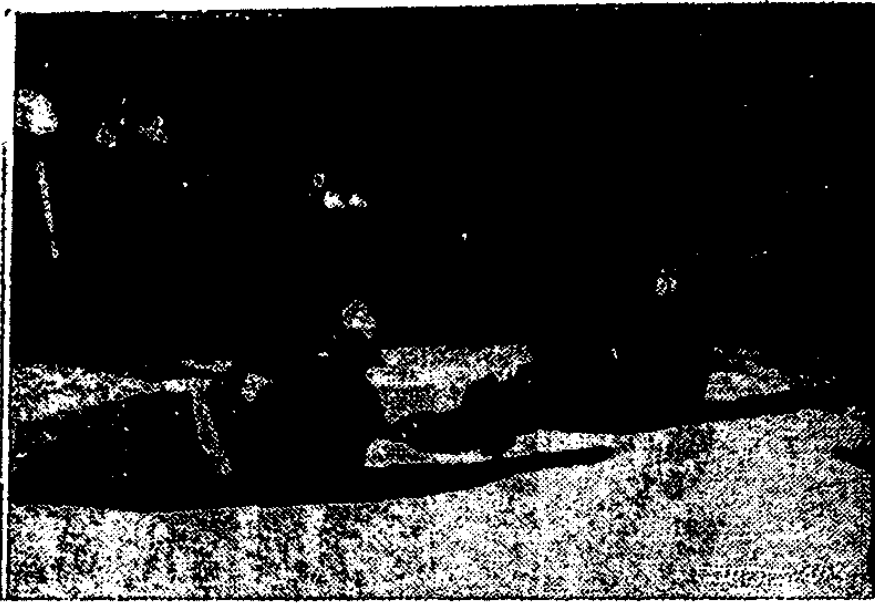
In addition to aiding the Debs Column the Chicago Socialist Party has taken an active part in reorganizing the Chicago section of the North American Committee for Aid of Spanish Democracy in which the Socialist Party is engaged in a united front with Communist and liberal groups in the limited objective of gathering food, clothing and medical supplies for the Spanish loyalists.

SP Headquarters Are Depots

Socialist headquarters throughout the city have been turned into collection depots with full time service in three important spots, Justice Printing, Slovene Labor Center and Lithuanian Daily News, and evening staffs at other party branch headquarters.

John Fisher, Illinois Socialist state chairman, mine worker and President of Local No. 1 of the Progressive Miners of America at Gillespie which alone has raised \$2,000 in cash from its members for the Spanish workers,

A 'Lie-Down' Strike



Strikers outside of the outspokenly Fascist owned Berkshire Hosiery Mills near Reading, Pa. When pushed on by police these strikers just lie down and refuse to "move on." The mills manufacture "Frantone!" Remember that!

Sharecroppers' Week To Win Labor Support

National Sharecroppers Week, to be celebrated during the week of March 1 to 7, will receive a national send-off next Wednesday, February 10, with a radio address by Norman Thomas over station WABC in New York and the nationwide hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Thomas will speak from Chicago from 10:30 to 10:45 P. M. Eastern Standard Time. Subject: "What Next for the Sharecropper?"

National Sharecroppers Week is being sponsored by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the Workers' Defense League. Its purpose is to call attention to the need for a fundamental solution to the problem of farm tenancy and to create nationwide support for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Organizations Back "Week"

Working class and liberal organizations of all kinds are being urged to join in observance of the Week. Speakers, movies, special literature and a variety of special events are suggested as ways of celebrating.

As a result of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union's heroic fight, Congress has finally given some indication of passing remedial legislation. The proposed Bankhead bill, which seems to have administration support, is both inadequate and futile. It will not solve the problem of farm tenancy.

What must be done to bring security and freedom to 10,000,000 sharecroppers and tenant farmers is the educational burden of National Sharecroppers Week. Norman Thomas is Honorary Chairman of the Week, Howard Kester is Treasurer.

Organizations that want to cooperate should write immediately to Secretary, National Sharecroppers Week, Room 110, 112 East 19th Street, New York City. AL-gonguin 4-0346.

Celery Workers Unite in Strike

SAN DIEGO, Cal.—Five hundred San Diego County Celery Workers walked out of the fields and set up picket lines in response to the strike call issued by the three agricultural unions here, Mexican, American, and Filipino. The employers broke off negotiations in which the unions based their demands upon union recognition, 40 cents minimum wage, and the eight-hour day with time and a half for overtime.

Last year's celery workers gave the growers a crop upon which they took a net profit of \$900 per acre, on an outlay of \$150 to \$200 including all costs of production for agricultural workers. Employment is not steady and much of the time workers are able to get in only a few hours a week bringing the total annual income of agricultural workers in this state to an average of \$260 per family.

Plans Ready For Socialist Convention

CHICAGO. — Looking forward to the important, special national convention in Chicago starting March 26, Socialist Party branches and locals have set aside special meetings to discuss the important items on the agenda.

The special convention was called "in order to consider the application of Socialist principles and program to the present time and to formulate plans for meeting conditions that will confront the party in the coming years."

Many Subjects to Come Up

Among the subjects being discussed by Socialists throughout the country are work with other organizations, the activities of the Socialist Party with respect to labor unions, cooperatives and other economic organizations, the relationship of the Socialist Party to labor parties, reorganization of party machinery, party press, finances, and machinery for making the Socialist anti-war, anti-Fascist position more effective.

A sub-committee of the national action committee has made detailed plans to provide for a maximum of discussion time at the convention after which the 150 delegates will, by majority vote, decide the future course of the party. The members of the sub-committee are Roy E. Burt, chairman, Hy Fish, secretary, Arthur G. McDowell and Albert Goldman.

New Discussion Technique

Modeled after the European method, a discussion technique new to American Socialist convention, will be used. Reporters will be chosen in advance to represent the various viewpoints in the party. These reporters will be responsible for presenting resolutions on the various items on the agenda which will adequately represent all those members of the party who adhere to a particular viewpoint.

To insure a full and free discussion, there will be a special pre-convention discussion supplement in the SOCIALIST CALL every week starting February 13. The American Socialist Monthly will devote its next two issues to convention discussion.

Committee Appointed

Local Cook County, the hosts to the convention, has appointed an arrangements committee to secure a proper hall, and arrange housing for the delegates.

The sessions of the convention will be closed to the press and the public but will be open to any Socialist Party member on presentation of his membership card.

TURN-ABOUT

ASBESTOS, Que., Canada (FP) —Using the same kind of justice they had been taught by employers, 500 French-Canadian strikers at the Johns-Manville Co. arrested C. H. Shoemaker, plant manager, as a vagrant threatening to disturb the peace of the town, took him to city hall, found him guilty, placed him on an outgoing train, and told him to keep going. Earlier in the week, P. P. Bartleman, head of the company's employment bureau, was deported from Asbestos as an undesirable alien.

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.

EXPIRED! RENEW NOW!

Auto Workers In Fighting Offensive As Strike Continues

(Continued from Page One)

lately secret. Monday afternoon, timed with the change of shifts, a public demonstration of union strikers and sympathizers outside Plant No. 9. While police were centered around that demonstration, the central plant, Plant No. 4, was to be struck.

Socialist Leads Women

At Plant No. 3, the police, as well as company thugs, greeted the demonstration with a shower of tear-gas inside the plant. The strikers' wives, organized a Women's Brigade, led by Genora Johnson, militant Socialist. A whole line of windows, the entire length of the shop was broken to permit fresh air into the factory. Several were injured during the demonstration.

In the meantime, Plant No. 4 workers, aided by men in Plant No. 6, quickly took control of the plant. They immediately began the job of barricading the walls against possible attack. Kermit Johnson was elected strike chairman.

Well-Known Socialist

With the exception of Robert Travis, militant strike leader, all of the rank-and-file leaders are well-known Socialists. They include Powers Haggood, Roy, Walter and Victor Reuther, Merlin Bishop, Kermit and Genora Johnson. Walter Reuther is the leader of the important Westside Local of the United Automobile Workers in Detroit and led a delegation from Detroit to Flint.

The capture of Plant No. 4 was the answer of the Flint strikers to the GM tactic of "back-to-work." Today, the center of the strike is no longer Washington or Wall Street, it is back in Flint where it belongs.

The auto struggle is, in the most literal sense, breaking through the narrow confines of a trade dispute and spreading into a struggle of classes.

Millions of dollars, derived from the exploitation of workers in America's greatest industries, are being placed at the disposal of the auto bosses—to break the strike.

Hundreds of workers, generally occupied in steel, rubber, chemicals, and minor industries, are reported pouring into the auto fields—to win the strike.

Both bosses and workers feel that the fight in the auto fields is the fight of a class and not just of a few workers and a few bosses.

Active Socialists in the auto union have drafted a program of action, revolving around the three slogans:

- More CIO organizers!
- CIO to the battle-front!
- Solidarity for Industrial Unionism!

The program follows:

Program of Action In Auto Strike

1. The CIO has to concentrate on autos. This means that it must put at the helm of the UAWA 25 to 50 of its trained organizers. If necessary, these men must be taken from the Steel Workers Organization Committee to do the job and the steel workers must be made to understand why. If this is done, if the CIO shows in autos, that it means to win, actually much of the fear and difficulty and doubt that it has met in steel will be overcome and thereby its chances for success in steel will be so much enhanced.
2. Flint, Michigan, should become CIO auto headquarters with secondary offices in Detroit and elsewhere.
3. The CIO should immediately convene an extraordinary session of its national unions and publicly

announce their combined moral and financial aid.

4. John L. Lewis, chairman of the CIO should convey this message in person to gigantic mass demonstrations in the strike centers.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC OPINION

1. Immediate issuance of a daily strike newspaper.

2. Regular state-wide broadcasts on the progress of the strike addressed to the strikers, giving information, encouragement and directives.

3. Regular national broadcasts on the strike to acquaint the public with the real issues.

4. Nation-wide drive to enroll committees for the support and defense of the auto workers.

5. CIO publications, leaflets and pamphlets on autos, comparable to SWOC.

6. Formation of a united civil liberty and legal defense committee.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR STRIKERS

1. Labor representatives on all county relief boards to insure adequate distribution to all strike families of their needed share of Federal and State relief.

2. The strikers must be informed that they have a right to relief (even the federal government said so) and the relief thus required should be regarded not as a dole but as a strike donation!

3. Local labor representatives should demand special relief set-up for strikers, distinct from the frequently disgusting red tape procedure imposed on the unorganized unemployed by county welfare and relief boards. In Flint a GMC man controls the local relief board. Demand changes of Murphy and chairman William Haber of the Michigan Emergency Relief Administration.

4. Where possible the Workers' Alliance should be called in to assist in this aspect of the work. The Workers' Alliance knows how!

5. Special strike committees should be created to set up commissaries and relief depots. They should cover the surrounding rural area to enlist the aid of the farmers. 3000 farmers were organized as a result of this work around Akron during the rubber strike.

IMMEDIATE PROGRAM

1. Establish picket lines around GM plants.

2. Solidarity demonstrations outside of sit-down plants.

3. Construct picket huts.

4. Sympathizer demonstrations outside of GM office and show rooms.

5. Regular daily strike meetings to inform the workers.

6. Fully developed educational and recreational program at all strike headquarters.

Finally, it should be clear that the outcome of the class battle will, to a large extent, determine the future of the labor movement. Nothing must be spared to gain victory. The Socialist Party will take its place in the ranks of those who will spare no effort to help workers win that victory.

WPA FUNDS MISUSED

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Through efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, WPA funds were misused for the erection of a "vocation school building" in Philadelphia, Miss., which is actually a factory building leased to the anti-union Massachusetts Knitting Mills, counsel for the American Federation of Hosiery Workers charged during anti-picketing injunction proceedings brought against the union.

'Confessed'



Vladimir Romm, popular Soviet correspondent to Washington, who "confessed" conspiracy with Radek and Trotsky. Romm was not put on trial, although his crime is similar to that of his alleged colleagues.

Minn. Drivers Sign Walgreen

MINNEAPOLIS. — Surely, and not so slowly, the ranks of the out and out labor haters and fighters of this city are being depleted by the sharpshooting tactics of 544, General Drivers Union. Latest to fall under union conditions presented by the Drivers Union, is the Walgreen Drug store chain, long the bitter enemy of unionization for its workers.

Negotiations had been in progress for almost three months, despite the fact that 544 had the workers organized before negotiations began, which indicates clearly with what distaste the Wholesale Drug Employers viewed union conditions. The bosses signed up, however, without any struggle except in the conference room where Carl Stoglund and Jack Smith represented the union.

The wage scale for drivers is set at 62½ cents per hour, while clerks, receiving and shipping clerks will receive 65 cents, and packers and order fillers 60 cents. The minimum wage is set at 50 cents per hour, and one week's vacation with pay for each employe of one year's service is provided.

Militancy Gains Maritime Victory On West Coast

By JOHN NEWTON THURBER

Voting by separate unions of the West Coast, the 93 day old strike of the Pacific Coast is likely to be ended as this paper leaves the press. A number of important problems are not yet settled, but substantial gains have been made all along the line. Victory has been won by use of militant policies.

Basic advance made by the West Coast workers in their strike is control of hiring halls by the unions for all men except the deck and engine room officers. All unlicensed men will be assigned to employment by the union, guaranteeing that militant union members will not be discriminated against by the employers.

Voting On Settlements

Two of the West Coast unions are voting on settlements based on the 1934 contracts, with important questions to be left to arbitration, but all other unions have obtained contracts covering disputed questions.

On the West Coast the Copeland Fink Book is not due to be issued until February 20. Seamen there are resolute against any acceptance of this book. This may be a source of confusion, for the East Coast maritime workers have decided to accept the book, and may be shipped to West Coast ports in an attempt to break the determination of the more militant West Coast workers.

Reactionary interests on the East Coast have not rested a moment in taking advantage of the collapse of the strike in this area.

AFL Fought Strike

Throughout the East Coast strike, the AFL maintained the

SP HITS REACTIONARIES

The Socialist Party, protesting "vigorously against attempts of the reactionary Democratic state legislature of Arkansas to abolish all vestiges of academic freedom in that state," has addressed Gov. Carl E. Bailey, the speaker of the state house of representatives and president of the state senate. The first target of the Arkansas reactionaries, the letter points out, is Commonwealth College, labor school at Mena.

attitude that it was an outlaw movement and has fought it viciously at every turn. The rout of the strike last week was accompanied with announcement that victory was hoped through the NLRB hearings. Acting on the instigation of Ryan, ILA head and No. 1 strikebreaker in the East Coast district, and Ivan Hunter, reactionary head of the Seamens Union, the AFL Executive Council, intervened in the hearings to suggest that the NLRB conduct a referendum of all maritime workers of the East Coast to see whether they or the Curran group of "insurgents" should represent them.

Although it was hailed by the Communists, who have assumed credit for the East Coast strike, the intervention of the AFL Executive Council into the negotiations of the Strike Strategy Committee with the National Labor Relations Board is a dangerous step.

Reactionaries Consolidate

Hunter and his reactionary colleagues are already consolidating their position on the East Coast by rapidly taking up negotiations for new contracts with their old pals, the shipowners. Hunter confidently states that his new contracts will contain substantial increases in wages and improvements in conditions.

It is certainly to the interest of the shipping interests to collaborate with this group of unionists, in order to take advantage of the hasty ending of the East Coast strike, in the hope that the rank and file will "see the wisdom" of following the old line leaders. Hunter has issued a statement in which he said that if the men had not been foolish and pulled the "outlaw" strike, that he could have secured a couple of pay raises for all of them before Christmas.

Civil War in Jersey

Civil war on an illegal basis has been waging for several weeks in the barony of Mayor Hague, Roosevelt henchman in Jersey City. Throughout the East Coast strike police were used vigorously against all efforts to picket ships docked in his city. Instead of arresting pickets, strong arm methods were used by Hague's police to drive all who wished to picket over the city line into adjoining Hoboken.

These tactics have continued to break picketing against boats in the West Coast trade. In order to force a legal test of this type of reactionary use of the state power against labor, Arthur Garfield Hays has been carrying on a campaign to force Hague's police to arrest him in order to break their illegal strong arm methods.

East Accepts Fink Books

After extended resolutions against the Copeland Fink bill, it was voted that if it is necessary to accept the book in order to get jobs on the East Coast, that the books should be taken, with the understanding that a May Day ceremony be held and the books destroyed next May 1. The shortcomings of this were pointed out last week, including the fact that duplicate books are in the hands of the government and the ship owners, and that these will not be destroyed on May 1.

More hopeful is the attitude which seems to be gaining some headway among the rank and file for a willingness to resort to "job action," the sea going form of the sit down strike, in order to improve conditions for the sailors.

Organizer Slugged



W. L. HYMES, president of the United Mine Workers Union of Uniontown, Pa., together with other union organizers was forced by a mob to leave Bay City and Saginaw, Mich. The men, on their way to Flint, were set upon and beaten.

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Vol. II Saturday, February 6, 1937 No. 99

RACKETEERS IN TRADE UNIONS

The trial of officers of the Locals 16 and 302 of the Hotel, Restaurant and Cafeteria Workers' Union now being held in New York City turns the public spotlight on racketeering and gangsterism in trade unions.

It is with very poor grace that the capitalist propagandists point the accusing finger at the trade union movement for the presence of racketeers who are an open sore on the body of labor. Gangsterism did not spring from the labor movement. Racketeering, high and low, is just one aspect of a capitalist system, resting upon the "dog-eat-dog" philosophy. Time and time again it has been proved that the lowest forms of corruption trickle down from the highest seats of wealth. The public officials of capitalism have aided and abetted the rule of the thug.

"Dutch Schultz" was the incarnation of big business operating in a state of undress. The stature of his thieving enterprize was not vastly different from that of a Rockefeller's; the former just looks uglier because, in its primitive sort of way, it has gone nudist.

As the pest of gangsterism fastened itself upon one institution after another, it also turned parasite upon the body of organized labor.

The job of ridding itself of this parasite is—in the first place—the responsibility of organized labor itself. Labor dare not entrust the police agencies of the capitalist state to cleanse and protect the unions against gangsterism. Too often will the officials make their partnership with racketeers. Too often will "impartial investigators" take advantage of evil practices in some union to discredit the entire trade union movement and "to incorporate" the unions into the capitalist state.

The longer labor delays, however, in cleaning its own house, the fatter grows the parasite of racketeering, the greater grows the danger of outside interference. The sorry state of affairs existing in Locals 16 and 302 is not only due to the organizing genius of a "Dutch Schultz" who was able to build a machine to survive him, but also to the laxity and indifference of a William Green. Repeatedly he was called upon to act; repeatedly he made promises; and—there it ended.

Responsibility must also be borne by Communist elements in the unions. In exchange for petty positions and pretty phrases, they made their peace with the late suicide, Max Pincus.

Only when workers themselves are ready to take up a courageous and stubborn fight against racketeering in unions will the body of labor really be fortified against the return of the disease.

The essentially correct idea—labor must clean its own house—has been sadly perverted by some elements in the labor movement in the course of the present indictments and trials. These elements insist that it is the duty of the workers to defend these men with these ugly records. They would permit the racketeers to obtain a certain immunity by the simple task of slugging their way into a union position.

Thus Louis Waldman acts as attorney for one of the indicted. And, he insists, the issue is not gangsterism, but unionism.

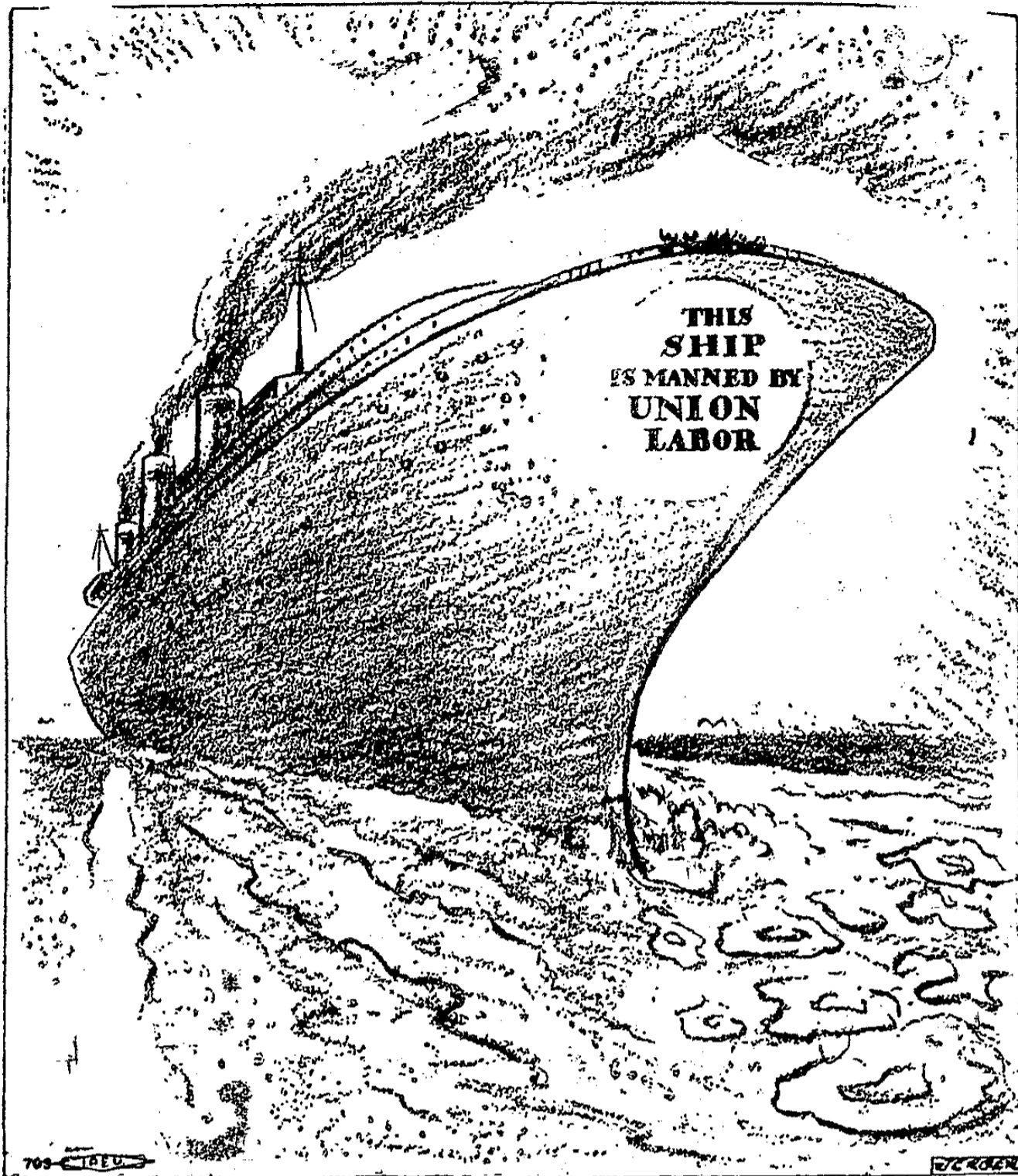
Thus the Communists are calling upon the workers to shell out money from their meagre income to build a legal defense fund for the parasitic pests who have been letting their blood.

It is not altogether to the point to consider what special interests motivate Waldman as a Lawyer or the Communists as the latest "left" stooges of trade union bureaucrats to offer their lickspittle services in wrapping blood stained gangsters in the union flag. That for some other time! But it is very much to the point to realize that when these elements rush to the defense of these men, they are not saving the good name of unionism. They are making the union and the cause of unionism take responsibility for individuals whom labor should boot out of its house with a swift and well directed kick. Before the public, Conleher, Schultz, Pincus, and birds of the same foul nest, are identified with unionism, and not presented in their true light, harpies upon the body of unionism whom labor would like to drive away.

No defense to racketeers dare be given by labor. To do so is treachery to the cause of unionism.

There is only one defense against continual government investigation. It is not protection of racketeers. Workers must sweep the filth out of their union house.

Freedom on the Seas!



The militancy of the West Coast strikers has won them a victory over the maritime bosses.

Socialists and the Cooperatives

To the Editor:

I wish to criticize the attitude of the CALL towards the Cooperative movement. In a recent issue were two articles both which took a highly critical—attitude towards Cooperatives. As the CALL represents and shapes the ideas of hundreds of comrades, I think it should take a more constructive and progressive position.

I readily admit a great many co-operators and cooperatives not only tend to believe that we can buy the "Cooperative Commonwealth" and that cooperation is a panacea for all social troubles, but also tend to be anti-labor and anti-Socialist. But aren't a great many of our labor organizations a bit conservative also?

Socialists should not be too critical of Cooperatives for tending to be reformist, for a conservative coop indicates a labor organization that Socialists have not properly worked and supported.

The "Rochdale" Cooperative movement seeks to replace our present economic order. How many other types of labor organizations can boast of the same program?

PETER WAITIANEN, JR.
Katonah, N. Y.

The Socialist Call and the CALL actively support the cooperative movement. But this does not imply blind support. We reserve for ourselves the right to be critical of these aspects and actions of the cooperative movements which we believe do not serve the best interest of the movement or the working class.—The Editors.

Sorry for the Error

To the Editor:
A recent issue of the CALL reported an election of officers by the

Akron Teachers' Union, and stated that two of those elected—Chalmers Stewart and E. L. Ross—were members of the Socialist Party.

Both Mr. Stewart and Mr. Ross are considered progressive trade unionists by the Akron Socialists, but, unfortunately, their names fail to appear on the Party records as members.

In justice to the men named, as well as to the Party branch, we request that you correct this item as soon as possible.

RALPH M. HOLLAND,
State Sec'y,
Socialist Party of Ohio

Music in Our Ears

To the Editor:

After reading the last issue of the CALL I can say that you are now getting out a paper that 99 per cent of the comrades out this way can go for, and not have to make any apologies for any of the contents. May I congratulate the CALL Editorial Board on its Party perspectives, and Comrade Tyler in particular, for his wonderful answer to the pacifists

which is exactly one hundred per cent correct.

Am enclosing a small donation which I hope will help somewhat to continue the publishing of the CALL in present form. Have been a member of the Party since 1908.

HARRY SHUMAKER
Louisiana.

Sexton to Open Youth School

Brendon Sexton, chairman of the New York Workers' Alliance, will officially open the Spring term of the Debs Youth School next Sunday, February 7, with a talk on the "Roosevelt Relief Policy."

Feb. 14—Harold Siegel: "The Socialist Party and Political Democracy."

The school will convene for the initial session of its third term at 10:30 A. M.

Feb. 21—Margaret Lamont: "Negroes in the American Labor Movement."

Feb. 28—Lewis Corey: "Flight of the American Middle Class."

March 7—Herbert Zam: "A Bird's-eye View of the European Labor Movement Today."

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WORLD SOCIALISM

By Herbert Zam

THE MOSCOW TRIAL

ON February 1 the Soviet Government laconically announced; "The sentence upon the convicted Trotskyists has been carried out." Thus Platakoff, Muraloff and eleven others have been added to the long list of Old Bolsheviks, headed by Zinovieff and Kameneff, who have been sent to their doom because at one time or another they had dared to be in political opposition to Stalin and his personal clique in what was once the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolshevik).

And this trial is not the end. Already they are calling for the blood of Bucharin (whom Lenin called the most beloved man in the Communist Party) and Rykoff, Lenin's successor as premier. Reports and denials about the arrest of Krupskaya, Lenin's widow, are current. Radek and Sokolnikoff were saved, Duranty cynically reports, so that their testimony may be used in future trials against other oppositionists."

Thus it is obvious that Stalin intends to continue the executions. Like Macbeth, he stands in the middle of the bloody stream. To go back or go ahead he must pass through the same amount of gore.

More Farcical Than First Trial

There is no need in going into a detailed analysis of the second trial to show that, if anything, it was even more farcical than the first. The same complete absence of any material evidence. The same contradictory testimony. The same intrusion of spall material proof that the "confessions" are manufactured out of the whole cloth. In the first case, a non-existent hotel; in this case an airplane trip in a non-existent plane. The "conspirators" who "remember" long letters by heart (the material letters are somehow never produced) cannot remember their history and insist on having become agents of the Gestapo before there was a Gestapo.

The main "culprit," the man at whom all these trials are directed, the nerve center and brains of all the complicated conspiracies, begs to be tried before an impartial court anywhere. Refusal. The international labor movement, headed by the Labor and Socialist International, requests that an impartial commission be permitted to investigate the case. Refusal. Slander campaign.

Is any other conclusion possible except that the Stalin clique is afraid to give Leon Trotsky a real trial, is afraid to permit an impartial commission to look into the situation? But why should they be afraid if the "evidence" is so overwhelming? This question answers itself.

In spite of that, each trial assumes more fantastic aspects. In the first trial the defendants were linked to Germany. In the second, to Germany and Japan. In the first trial, the conspiracies were largely against the lives of individuals; in the second trial, hundreds, thousands were to have been slain. Mines were exploded and gassed. Trains were wrecked. Food supplies were poisoned. The indictment reminds one of a pamphlet which Matthew Woll once issued. It was a compilation—with illustrations, of factory explosions, forest fires, automobile accidents, robberies, murders, rapes, infanticides. The title of the pamphlet was: "The Reds at Work."

As in the case of Woll's conspiracies, the "Reds" worked with consummate skill. There were 3500 train wrecks in one year, for which they were responsible. Why trouble to trace a connection? Confession! So well were the plans laid, that weeks after the "conspirators" were in jail, an explosion in a mine took place, on schedule. Were the men who caused the actual explosion in the mine brought in to confront their ringleaders? Why trouble? Confession!

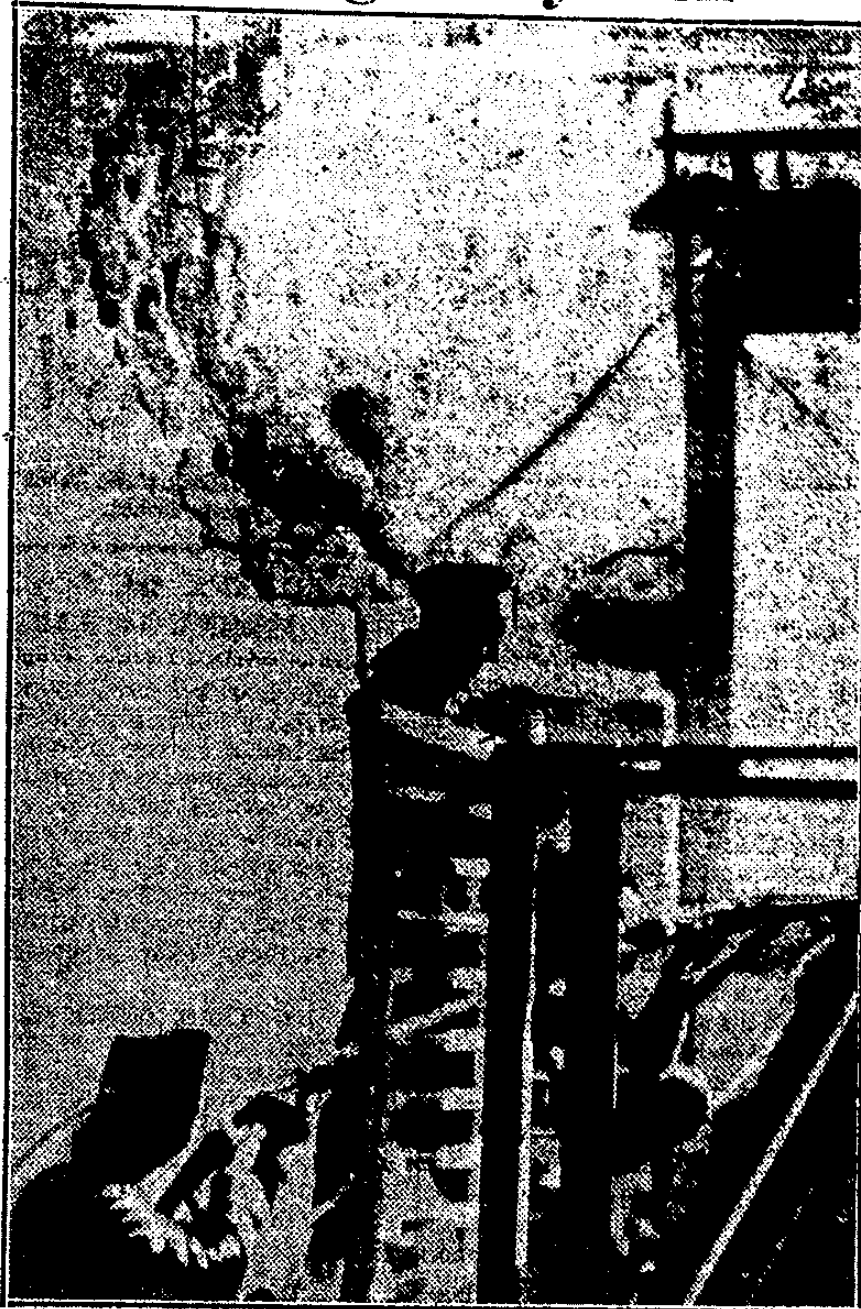
What's Behind It?

What is Stalin preparing? What is the objective of these trials?

To discredit Trotsky and Trotskyism among the Russian workers and in the international labor movement (every non-Stalinist idea is of course labeled "Trotskyism"). That, of course, is obvious. To make impossible the rallying of the Russian workers around any kind of opposition movement by decapitating it in advance. That also is obvious. To divert attention from the "brilliant successes" of Stalinist international politics, both in the diplomatic and in the labor fields. That is the third reason.

But it is necessary to penetrate deeper into the mechanism of Stalinist political methodology. In the past, every "purge" has been followed by a sharp change in policy, internal or external. The first change in the Trotsky-Zinovieff bloc in 1925-26 was followed by the adoption of the five-year plan. The ousting of Stalin's former allies in the fight

Holding Every Inch



The Spanish workers of Madrid refuse to yield an inch to their fascist foes. Here are some anti-Fascist fighters fighting off the reaction in the streets of Madrid, using a bombed house as their fortification. Shortly after this picture was taken, the tide turned against the Fascist forces.

SECOND TAMPA TRIAL CALLED FOR APRIL 19

By FRANK McALLISTER

The Florida State Supreme Court this week heard arguments in the appeal of the convicted Tampa floggers for a new trial.

Pat Whitaker, boss of Tampa, and chief mouthpiece for the battery of lawyers retained by the Ku Klux Klan to defend their paid torturers and murderers, related that the jurors had been served liquor in dry Polk county while considering the fate of his clients. This fact State Attorney Farrior admitted to the justices, but stated that it had been served in "nominal quantities." Whitaker also argued that the evidence was not sufficient to convict and that reversible errors had been made by Judge Dewell. Farrior replied that the evidence had piled up mountain high against the convicted kidnapers and that the only errors were made in favor of the defense.

No Ordinary Way

The high point of the hearing was reached when Roy Campbell, Assistant Attorney General who aided Farrior in presenting the state's side of the case, told the Supreme Court the flogging case was "more than just an ordinary criminal case." Campbell said, "It

presents the question of whether we are to have invisible government or constitutional government. Society of this state must be protected from such crimes as this."

In the event the court denies the appeal for a new trial the five former Tampa cops would have to serve four years each in the state penitentiary at Raiford for kidnaping E. F. Foulnot, Socialist and Workers Alliance leader, who was one of the victims of the flogging band in November, 1935.

Some of the convicted cops are out of the state and may forfeit their bond rather than return to face imprisonment.

Arguments for New Trial

After months of constant pressure on the part of the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, Judge Dewell agreed to set for trial the second flogging case which will be concerned with the murder of Joseph Shoemaker.

The date set was April 19, more than a year and four months after the crime which sent a shiver of fear over the entire nation. State Attorney Farrior did not indicate who would have to stand trial on the charge among the eleven former Tampa policemen and Orlando Klansmen indicted.

against Trotsky-Zinovieff, Bucharin, Rykoff and Tomsky was followed by the "third period" and "social-fascism." The purge in connection with the Kiroff incident was accompanied by the new Soviet Constitution and the Franco-Soviet Pact.

In almost every case, the severity of the "purge" was connected with the sharpness and character of the "turn." Not a single one of the purges referred to was carried out on such an immense scale as the current. Not one demanded so many victims. In the past, the victims were purely political victims. Now they are also victims materially. The very monstrosity of the present purge is eloquent. Stalin is preparing a new change

in policy compared to which all the previous ones will fade into insignificance. It cannot be a change for the better if its foundation consists of corpses of the murdered Old Bolsheviks. It cannot be a change confined to Russia, since the present purge is more for foreign than for home consumption. It will be either a new adventure on a grand scale, such as only Stalin can conceive or what is more likely it will be a new plunge into opportunism also on a grand scale.

Whichever it is, it bodes no good for the workers. It will be well for Socialists, honest Communists, workers everywhere, to be on guard against the new dangers which threaten from the "left!"

A BIG MISTAKE

By McAlister Coleman

JUST as Stalin's firing squad oiks up its rifles to splatter some more of Russia's best brains against the wall of an execution chamber, Tovarich Troyanovsky rears up at a banquet to tell us that it was all a big mistake. I mean the idea that they have Communism in Russia. Or are even shooting at it.

It seems, according to the Ambassador, that what they have there is Socialism. He was very careful to explain the difference and let it be hoped that our own commies will get their lesson.

What a headache it's going to be for the boys on 13th Street, going around telling folks: No, the Russian Revolution was not Communist in its ideology. It was an uprising of democrats. With a small "d" of course. Some of the mujiks and workers thought it was Communist and went around hollering, "Down with capitalism." But they were all mixed up. It wasn't until Joe Stalin came along that the whole business turned out to be nothing more than anti-Fascism. It's just one big League Against War and Fascism, and that's all there is to it. Nothing to worry a capitalist about. So be nice and ask us to your next party.

No thanks. If that be Socialism, we are not Socialists. Just people who don't like to shoot the opposition and who are under the delusion that it is possible to live decently in a cooperative commonwealth. We are probably naive and provincial and un-realist, but at all events we do have faith in our rank and file. Whatever you can say about us, we have stuck to our guns. And we have not turned those guns upon our own people.

Temperamental History

I am growing as weary as you unquestionably are, with the game of treating current events as though they were stage-managed by a branch of temperamental actors. The worst offenders are such magazines as Time and Fortune. And then along comes Guadalla and writes a book called, "The Hundred Years" in which he attributes all the things that have happened since the misty morning in which they told a little blonde girl with buck teeth that she was Queen of England, to the digestions or indigestions of certain leading individuals. To this school of historical hysterics, Marx was just an old meanie with a beard who wrote "Kapital" because he was mad about something.

Currently, the news-interpretation of the CIO consists of the fact that John Llewellyn Lewis's eyebrows beetle. That Georgian Joe Stalin is sore at Trotsky and that Franco has a wen.

Of course, this sort of history makes good reading. It is pretty easy to write too. I've written some of it myself, God forbid. You just pick a name at random and sit down and research around until you find out what his favorite breakfast dish was. Then you do a play or a magazine piece about him and prove conclusively that the Corn Law Acts were the result of our hero's eating. Post Toasties and that the Brazilian Coffee War started because he had grounds for complaint.

Cooperating With Cooperators

Our Feralan cat Xerxes is looking gloomily at us because she knows that, all things considered, we are pretty poor material for the making of anything, to say nothing of a cooperative commonwealth. We agree implicitly with Xerxes. Nothing we can think of would bore us more than to have to cooperate with some of the cooperators we know. These are managing people and we confess that we don't like managing people. Usually we marry them. And then we find that, after all, we do like them and we arrive at what the fancy writers call an impasse.

The impasse is psychological. It consists of going round and round what is called by laymen a "vicious circle." They manage us to the point of sheer exasperation and then we get unmanageable and find ourselves again in their clutches at the end of the fourteenth round.

Join The Socialist Party

For information fill out the blank and send it to the Socialist Party, 549 Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois.

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PARTY PERSPECTIVES—NUMBER SIX

Socialists and a Labor Party

Prepared by The CALL EDITORIAL BOARD

As the mass struggles of the workers in the basic industries bring them into clash with the capitalist state, organized labor begins to grope for a political weapon. Instinctively, they turn to their traditional class weapon in this country, their trade union, and they seek to transform these instruments of economic struggle into political weapons.

This is the basis for the present labor party movement in the United States.

Not in all countries at all times does the working class express its political desires through a Labor Party; that is, a party based upon mass trade unions. The tradition, history, and concrete conditions existing in each country determine the major trends and forms of working class action.

In some countries the first prolonged and important actions of the modern proletariat were conducted on the political level. As a result, a revolutionary political movement, with roots sunk deeply into the working class, developed before or simultaneously with the trade union movement.

In America there exists a great gap between the trade union and revolutionary movements. Trade unionism is 150 years old in this country. During this entire period, the organized labor movement has had no significant or prolonged political struggle in a revolutionary manner. During most of this period, the working class has been functioning within a capitalist democracy, which gave the appearance of being the servant of the "people." The result has been that the trade union—not the revolutionary political party—is the traditional class organ of struggle of the American worker. Faced with political tasks, the American workers seek to perform them through the politicalization of their trade unions.

This phenomenon is not peculiarly American. This same tendency toward converting the trade unions into the essential political instrument of class conscious workers appears in all countries in the same condition as America.

Although the history of the U. S., for over a century, is replete with Labor Party movements, so called, the present and coming period in America is the first epoch in which we could speak seriously of a meaningful movement for a real Labor Party.

LABOR PARTY AND NOT REFORMERS

No Labor Party, worth the name, is possible unless and until the organized labor movement has taken on mass proportions; i. e. a trade union movement broad enough to include the unskilled workers in the basic industries.

Labor Parties of the past were not essentially working class parties but middle class reform parties, lacking class direction. Such parties could not long live. Should such a party win office and responsibility, it was torn by the dissenting class elements within it. Should it win a fight for some particular reform or group of reforms, it had no next step to take—since it had no class orientation to guide it forward. Should one of the old capitalist parties be subtle enough to make a concession, it could wipe the middle class reform party off the political boards.

A middle class reform party can not play any role for a prolonged period, because it rests upon no basic class organization or philosophy. A Labor Party, on the other hand, is able to conduct a prolonged struggle, precisely because it is a class instrument.

The launching of abortive Labor Parties in the past has always tended to discredit the labor party idea. This is especially true in the case of state and local labor parties. The most unsuccessful of these generally unsuccessful experiments have been conducted in the predominantly farm states. These local or state labor parties are either middle class reform parties with some labor backing or rapidly degenerate into local machines of one of the old capitalist parties. These half-baked undertakings have caused a num-

Socialists Must Maintain Independent Party!

(In this week's issue of the CALL we carry a statement on the attitude of Socialists to the Labor Party movement in general in the United States. Next week, the CALL shall carry an analysis of the relationship of Socialists to specific state and local movements. This will conclude the perspectives.)

ber of revolutionaries Labor Party indigestion; every mention of the word "Labor Party" causes new pain.

Socialists differentiate between these 'middle class and abortive moves; i. e. Labor Parties without labor or without nationwide moorings; and a TRUE LABOR PARTY, resting upon a nationwide mass labor base.

LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT IS PROGRESSIVE

The Labor Party movement is today for the first time in American history a real, deep going, and realizable undertaking. We are rapidly approaching the time when a nationwide Labor Party will no longer be merely a slogan for propaganda but a slogan for action.

Socialists must define their attitude toward such a movement, which, with the passing months, will take on momentum which will sweep aside all those who refuse to reckon with it.

The Labor Party movement, like the struggles from which it springs, is essentially a progressive movement.

The positive value of an independent Labor Party lies not in its program, but in its class nature and orientation. Programmatic considerations are secondary. The fact that a Labor Party sets the bulk of the working class into motion, as a class, separate and apart from the capitalist parties, is basic.

Such a party will have to formulate and pose political demands for the entire working class. Thus will it tend to break through the isolated demands of separate crafts or industries and raise general class demands. Restricted struggles for special trade demands can become broad struggles for working class programs.

A Labor Party, by its very nature as a political organization, must raise the question of workers' power. It may not do so instantly, but must do so eventually.

A Labor Party is a wedge and a lever; a wedge to separate labor from capitalist parties, a lever to raise the level of working class action.

The movement for the creation of a Labor Party is a struggle against the continuance of bourgeois politics by the trade unions. Hence, the fight for a Labor Party will meet the stubborn resistance of the reactionary trade union leaders and can only be won by rallying all progressive trade union elements in support of the Labor Party movement.

Socialists, in defining their attitude toward this movement, deal with it as they do with all progressive movements which are not identical with the revolutionary party itself: we push the movement, while maintaining an independent organization and line. So too with the present Labor Party movement.

We must back, support, push, extend, encourage and guide the Labor Party movement. In unions where hide bound reaction has stifled the Labor Party movement, Socialists must raise the question, argue for it, fight for it. In unions where the question has already been raised, Socialists must join hands against the capitalist agents in the ranks of labor by conducting a stubborn struggle against them for a Labor Party. In unions which are on record for a Labor Party, Socialists must fight for the KIND of labor party they want; democratically-controlled, independent, federated, nationwide, etc., de-

pending upon the specific tasks before the Labor Party movement.

INTEGRITY OF SOCIALIST PARTY IS BASIC

To stand aside from this movement, to oppose it, to belittle it means to strengthen the hands of the reactionaries. To stand aside or oppose or belittle the movement is just as ridiculous as to stand aside from or oppose or belittle the movement represented by the Committee for Industrial Organization. We support and extend both movements; strive for influence in them; offer proposals for their conduct.

AT NO TIME, HOWEVER, DO SOCIALISTS GIVE UP THEIR PARTY ORGANIZATION IN A LABOR PARTY OR LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT. THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PARTY ORGANIZATION AND ITS RIGHT TO CONDUCT MASS WORK ALONG REVOLUTIONARY LINES IS GENERALLY, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESENT PERIOD OF CAPITALISM, A CARDINAL PRINCIPLE, IN NO CIRCUMSTANCE TO BE SURRENDERED!

This principle is basic because of our understanding of the nature of a Labor Party movement. We do not believe that a Labor Party can, under its leadership, conduct a successful struggle against war or Fascism or for Socialism. The working class can not conduct a successful struggle against these twin dangers of the present epoch except by taking the road of revolutionary struggle. In the previous perspective we discussed at some length the NEED for a revolutionary party and its role in preparing the masses for the crucial struggles ahead. WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A LABOR PARTY IN ANY COUNTRY, THE EXISTENCE AND INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING OF A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE.

The task of a Socialist Party within a Labor Party is not just EDUCATIONAL. Its task is that of a revolutionary vanguard, translating and carrying its class struggle perspectives, its politicalizing line, into mass work.

LABOR PARTY IS REFORMIST

The task of agitating for a Labor Party must be conceived in the light of our evaluation of the nature and role of a Labor Party. It is politically criminal to do what the Communist Party and Old Guard elements are doing today: to tell the workers that a great labor party in America will save them from war and from Fascism. The Labor Party will, under its leadership, do nothing of the sort. We must agitate for a Labor Party very much as we agitate for the building of unions, or of the American Student Union. We do not tell workers that the union alone can save them from war and Fascism; we do not tell students that the ASU will make life happy for the intellectual; we champion these organizations without exaggerating their potency, without distorting their role, without creating ruinous illusions. We conceive the mass organizations to play a partial role in preparing for a real struggle against war and Fascism; these institutions are training schools, some elementary, some intermediary, some advanced. But WITHOUT A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY THE WORK OF ALL THESE ORGANIZATIONS IS FOR NOUGHT!

LABOR PARTIES IN ERA OF CAPITALIST DECLINE

The late development of a Labor Party movement in this country has raised certain special problems. In most countries,

Labor Parties appeared in a period of expanding capitalism, when these parties were able to win reforms. Hence these parties held out to the workers the possibility of a gradual reformist growth into Socialism.

In America the Labor Party is developing in a period of international capitalist decline. This does not mean that it is impossible in America of today for the workers to wring economic concessions from capital. A simple examination of the books of the giant corporations in auto, steel, chemicals, ammunitions, rubber will reveal that concessions can still be made.

The decisive value of a Labor Party, from a Marxist point of view, however, is NOT "How much can it win?" but "What part does it play in developing the class consciousness of the American worker?"

Regardless of what capitalism in America can grant, the mere formation of a Labor Party or the movement for the creation of a Labor Party help to lift the level of working class consciousness to the political level, to tear millions of workers away from control by bourgeois politicians.

The very fact that in America we can not look forward to a long period of social reform will make it difficult for the Labor Party in America to impress its reformist and gradualist concepts too deeply in the minds of the masses. The early impotence of a Labor Party in the United States in winning reforms will increasingly drive the workers onto the revolutionary road to power. A revolutionary party, operating correctly within or alongside of a Labor Party, can rapidly win thousands of such class conscious workers to its standard—just because such a Labor Party would come into being in a period of capitalist decline.

LABOR PARTY AND THE PEOPLE'S FRONT

The Labor Party or Labor Party movement in America, because of the political dynamics of a capitalism in decline, will have to face the problem of Popular Frontism.

The elections of 1936 were an early but clear indication of what the reformist leaders would do to growing and potential labor party sentiment in the event of a reactionary or Fascist threat. Guiding themselves by the strategy of the lesser evils in the struggle against reaction, reformist leadership will attempt to pervert the mounting desire of class conscious workers for independent class action into the channel of support for bourgeois politicians.

In this attempt to swing real independent Labor Party sentiment to the support of the liberal bourgeoisie there will be a tacit united front of Communists, Old Guard Socialists, and liberal capitalist labor reformers. The Socialist Party alone, in this period, will conduct a consistent struggle for an independent party. The Socialist Party will find itself in the leadership of all those elements who sincerely wish to turn their trade union into an instrument for independent political action.

Concretely estimated in the United States during the coming period, the struggle for AN INDEPENDENT PARTY will be the essential mass instrument in the ranks of class conscious workers for an effective fight against an American Peoples Front.

Not to take advantage of this growing sentiment for independent working class action is not only politically unwise but means a capitulation in a struggle against the reformist trade union bureaucracy. It is impossible in terms of the present level of consciousness of the working class to combat the reformist leaderships by proposing to the workers that they join the revolutionary party on the basis of our thesis on the road to power. Just because the reformist bureaucracy in this period must very quickly betray the logic of the essentially progressive Labor Party developments, the Socialist Party will find that the slogan "For an independent Labor Party" will be a powerful weapon, in fact, probably the decisive weapon in the next few years in the struggle against American Popular Frontism.

Auto Bosses Control A Financial Empire

By ROBERT TYLER

General Motors Corporation is controlled by an alliance of E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co. with J. P. Morgan and Co. The duPont corporation, most powerful of American chemical and

munitions manufacturers, owns 23 per cent of the common stock of General Motors.

Four of the duPont litter are GM directors — Lamot, Irene, Pierre S., and Henry F. Three more on the board are duPont men: Donaldson Brown, duPont in-law and chairman of the GM finance committee, John J. Raskob, who grew up, financially, with the duPont family, and Walter S. Carpenter.

There are 6 of Morgan's men on GM's board of directors: Junius S. Morgan and George Whitney represent J. P. Morgan and Co. itself. Seward Prosser and George Baker are there from the First National Bank and the Bankers' Trust Co., both controlled by Morgan, and Morgan-influenced industry is represented by Owen D. Young of General Electric and Clarence M. Woolley of American Car and Foundry.

DuPont secured control of GM shortly after buying 28 per cent of its stock in 1918 with swollen wartime munitions profits.

Largest in U. S.

General Motors is the largest automobile manufacturer in the United States, turning out 37.5 per cent of all cars used in this country, including Chevrolet, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Buick, La Salle, Cadillac, GM trucks, and Yellow Cabs.

GM does not stop at autos. Ever since 1929 when it bought 50 per cent of the Fokker Aviation Corp., now known as the General Aviation Corp., GM has been a major factor in airplanes. It owns 20 per cent of North American Aviation and 24 per cent of Bendix Aviation, large-scale "advertiser" in the journal of the recent Democratic National Convention. By controlling these aviation firms GM runs Eastern, Western, and Transcontinental Airlines.

GM shares with Rockefeller's Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey) control of Ethyl Gas and has a 49 per cent interest in duPont's Kinetic Chemicals, manufacturer of refrigerators. Winston Engine and Delco Appliance are two more of GM's subsidiaries.

Largest in Germany

General Motors is the largest automobile manufacturer in Germany. In 1929 it secured an overwhelming majority of the stock of the Adam Opel Auto Works, which turns out 42 per cent of all German cars. Fritz Opel, former head of the German firm, now sits on the GM board with power to vote on its labor policy. In 1935, with the aid of Hitler's union-smashing and rearmament, GM made a net income of \$4,705,000 from its German branch.

General Motors is one of the largest automobile manufacturers in the British Empire. It controls Vauxhall Motor Co., Ltd. of Great Britain. In 1929 it got control of McKinnon Industries, Ltd., large Canadian car producers, and in 1931 it merged with an Australian concern to form General Motors-Holden's, Ltd.

One result of this penetration abroad is an international flavor on the GM board of directors, which includes not only Fritz Opel, but also Sir Harry McGowan of Imperial Chemical Industries of Great Britain and Arthur B. Purvis and R. Samuel McLaughlin of Canadian Industries.

1936 Lost Profitable

During 1936 General Motors dividends rose to unprecedented heights. Within the first 9 months of 1936 GM paid out \$128,700,000 in dividends on common stock, or

only \$28,300,000 less than the total for all of 1929, banner year of "prosperity." On November 9, 1936 GM added another dividend slice of \$64,250,000, making the 1936 total at the very least \$193,950,000.

GM common stock dividends in 1936 were at least 23 per cent above the 1929 level and 213 per cent higher than those of 1925, a normal pre-depression year. In 1935 dividends were 55 per cent higher than in 1934.

But while dividends rose in 1935 to 155 per cent of the 1925 level, the earnings of GM employees were 8 per cent below the 1925 level. Supposing that from 1935 to 1936 annual earnings of GM workers rose 10 per cent, we find that in 1936 employee earnings were only 2 per cent higher than in 1925, while dividends were 213 per cent higher.

Annual Earnings of General Motors Employees Compared with Common Stock Dividends

Year	Average Annual Earnings	Index (1925=100)	Common Stock Dividends (in millions)	Index (1925=100)
1925	\$1,642	100	\$ 82	100
1929	1,669	101	157	253
1932	1,233	75	54	87
1933	1,242	76	54	87
1934	1,377	84	64	103
1935	1,525	92	97	155
1936	1,677*	102*	194**	313**

*estimated on the basis of a 10 per cent increase in annual earnings.

**computed from incomplete financial statements. A minimum figure.

Wages Low

A comparison of the annual earnings of GM employees with dividends declared on common stock (see table) makes it plain that workers' income went down further than dividends during the depression and are rising much more slowly in recovery. At the bottom of the depression, 1932, workers' earnings were 25 per cent lower than the 1925 level, but common stock dividends were only 13 per cent lower.

In 1935 the average annual earnings of a GM employee was \$1,515, or \$29.33 a week. This figure exaggerates in favor of the company because the payroll total from which it is computed includes the huge salaries of executives. It is safe to say that in 1935 at least

65 per cent of GM workers made less than \$1,525 a year.

Can GM Afford an Increase?

General Motors was able during 1936 to raise the wages of its workers not merely 10 or 20 per cent, but 30, 40, or even 50 per cent. If GM had in 1936 paid all of its colossal bonuses, executive salaries, and directors fees, had set aside the same surplus as it did, and had paid dividends on preferred stock in full, but had then used the \$193,950,000 it spent in common stock dividends to raise wages, the annual income of GM workers would have increased more than 50 per cent.

If it had followed the same procedure in 1935, raising wages instead of paying common stock dividends, workers' earnings would have gone up at least 29 per cent.

GM directors and officers would not have gone on the breadline if it had failed to pay dividends. In 1935 the 35 directors voted themselves a bonus of \$3,563,929, or \$102,000 each. The three officers were voted a bonus of \$998,868, or \$333,000 a piece.

That meant that in 1935 the income of 4 duPont boys from GM bonuses amounted to at least \$741,000 for them to make both ends meet and save up to buy Ethel an engagement present.

If GM Were a Gentleman

Now suppose GM had decided in 1935 and 1936 to give their common stockholders no more of a dividend than they got in that year of normal prosperity, 1925. Suppose they used the remainder to raise wages.

General Motors could have raised the earnings of its workers 11 per cent in 1935 and at least 34 per cent in 1936, even while paying dividends at prosperity levels.

E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co., which owns, directly and indirectly, 10,000,000 shares of GM stock, made \$22,500,000 on it in 1935 and at least \$44,500,000 in 1936. Given back to GM workers it would have meant a lump of \$104 in 1935 and \$191 in 1936.

That's what the fight's about. Are the duPonts and Morgans to get a couple of extra millions a piece or are the kids of GM workers to get all the milk they need?

CIO WAR CHEST

A war chest of \$25,000 has been raised by the Philadelphia council of the Committee for Industrial Organization to line up mass production industries in this area.

Akron Rubber Workers Aid Auto Strikers

By JACK WILSON

AKRON, Ohio.—Seldom has there been a greater demonstration of growing labor solidarity than that shown by rubber workers here in support of the auto strikers.

Union committeemen are collecting hundreds of dollars in each rubber plant weekly and this money is pouring to the United Automobile Workers of America headquarters.

During the critical week at Flint the United Rubber Workers loaned Organizer W. J. Carney and B. J. Widick editor, to the auto workers and they participated in the struggles of that week until recalled to rubber strikes now breaking.

Each week truck-loads of food can be seen on the highways from Akron to Cleveland and Flint. Progressive rubber workers and Socialists have rallied the powerful farmers union in this area behind the auto workers.

Hundreds of farmers are shipping food of every kind to the auto workers two hundred and fifty miles away. This is how the farmers are repaying the Akron Progressives and Socialists who helped them recently win a milk strike.

Many rank and file rubber workers have journeyed to various battlefronts and aided in picketing during their days off.

A rising sentiment for a 24-hour protest general strike against General Motors policies is evident here. Certainly if trouble breaks on a large scale within 250 miles the rubber workers will be heard from.

Both the workers and farmers here realize that after the auto strike they will need to do even more for the steel workers challenging the highest citadels of capitalism.

In many respects, the activities in behalf of the auto workers are a dress-rehearsal to the coming struggle in steel, important as the auto strike has become.

A harbinger of the relationship between the workers and farmers united in a class struggle program against their common enemy, the capitalists, has been created in this area.

Party Publishes Paper for Jobless

The first issue of "The Socialist Builder" for Socialist members of the Workers' Alliance of America was sent out this week by the national unemployment committee of the Socialist Party.

The object of this bulletin is to coordinate and advance the work of Socialists in the WAA and in other organizations of WPA workers.

It will serve two purposes: 1. To improve and advance the interests of the masses of workers, now members of, or eligible to affiliation with the WAA. 2. To act as a medium of information and discussion of Socialist policy.

Similar bulletins will be issued shortly for Socialists in other fields of activity.

Progressives Win in Phila.

Special to The CALL

PHILADELPHIA, — Progressives won a signal victory at the meeting of the Philadelphia Central Labor Union last week. The entire Progressive slate was elected and a vote of censure passed on Lewis Hines, AFL organizer in the Philadelphia district for a letter he sent all local unions accusing the newly formed local CIO committee of being an "alien and hostile" influence in the local labor movement.

Although the old guard attempted a filibuster by insisting on roll call votes and making 25 minute speeches the delegates waited until midnight to be able to cast their votes for the progressive slate. Alice Hanson, active Philadelphia Socialist and secretary of the local Teachers' Union, was elected vice-president.

CIO Upheld

Protesting his membership in and loyalty to the AFL, Charles Weinstein, manager of the Philadelphia Joint Board of the Amalgamated, led a floor fight to censure Hines for having professed to voice the opinion of the majority of the Phila. labor movement in his letter. Weinstein assured him that on the contrary a majority were behind the program of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The vote of 123 to 101 on a roll call vote showed Weinstein made no idle boast.

Other vice-presidents elected were Alex Ross, former president of the federal labor union which led the strike against the S.L. Allen Co., maker of Flexible Flyer sleds and now a delegate from the Machinists' Union; Isadore Melamed, manager of the silk division of the ILGWU Joint Board, James J. McBride, insurgent Teamsters' leader. No opposition was given to the president of the CLU, Adolph Hirschberg, seriously ill in the hospital, nor to Frank Burch, veteran CLU secretary.

Auditors elected included Franklin McCurdy, III, SP member and president of the AFGE local union on the National Research Project, and Ralph Jones of the County Relief Board Employees union. Trustees included John Batey, president of the Woolen Worsted Union and Robert McWilliams of the Moulders Union.

TO PICKET GM BUILDING

Socialists and members of the Young People's Socialist League will cooperate with a mass picket line of all unionists in New York in front of the General Motors Building, 57th Street and Broadway, Saturday, February 6, at 11 A. M.

The picket line will be under the auspices of the United Auto Workers Union.

Similar picket lines will be held at the same time in every large city in the country.

Majority for a Real Union



Conductors of New York's city-owned Independent Subway System voted for the bona fide A.I.U. representatives in a recent balloting. The union speaks for machinists and streetcar employees.

Denuding Of Forests For Profits Cause Of Floods

By A. CORNELL

The Ohio-Mississippi Valley floods are another gruesome spectacle of disaster indirectly attributable to our ruinously and recklessly exploitive system. This short-sighted and planless system has to its eternal discredit, among other things, the ruin and plunder of our American forests in particular.

One of the advantages afforded by forests is their beneficent influence on the flow of neighboring streams.

Forests Govern Streams

The Lincoln Library of Essential Information says in its article on forests: "Finally, forests exert a very noticeable influence upon the flow and character of neighboring streams. This effect has three principal causes:

"First: The trees break the direct force of the rainfall so that the earth on wooded hillsides is not cut up and washed into the valley.

"Second: Water accumulates in the porous bed of the forest and escapes to the stream gradually, thus tending to produce a continuous flow rather than a series of sudden disastrous flows.

"Third: Trees draw from swampy ground a large amount of water, which is evaporated through their leaves, thereby substantially decreasing the volume to be drained off by streams."

Profit Greed Causes Floods

Why are not the states of Oregon and Washington, noted for their heavy rainfall and snows, visited with disastrous floods? Perhaps their forests, still standing because of the higher cost to cut and market than those of the East and Middle-West, partially explain their immunity?

Let us see if we can find any connection between depleted forest areas and floods. The Encyclopedia Britannica states, "In the United States of America the original forest has shrunk more than 40 per cent in the course of three centuries." I quote the following from the Encyclopedia Americana, "After an enormous exploitation, the original forests are now approaching exhaustion."

Denuded Forests

The Encyclopedia Americana states most significantly, "There are five great forest regions in the United States, three stretch-

Flood



Countless mothers and children were driven ruthlessly from their homes by Mid-West floods for which the profit mad capitalist system bears its burden of responsibility.

ing from the Atlantic Seaboard to the Great Plains, which are destitute of timber, except along the margins of the streams and on occasional elevations; and two west of the Great Plains."

It thus becomes apparent that those rivers having their tributaries in the East and Middle-West flow through regions "which are destitute of timber."

It is obvious then that deforestation, carried on by plundering capitalists and syndicates, is largely to blame indirectly for the repetitive and ever more violent floods which now devastate

the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys almost annually.

Useless Deaths

For instance, from 1881, the year of a flood in the Ohio-Mississippi Valleys which took 220 lives, until 1912, a period of 31 years passed with but one major flood in that region.

However, from 1912 until early 1937, a period of 25 years, there occurred in the Ohio-Mississippi Valley five major floods, the cost of which in death and homeless, in human misery and property damage are enormous.

The recent flood, the most catastrophic of all, claimed 400 lives, left 1,000,000 homeless and caused property damage to the extent of \$400,000,000.

In recent years, the exploiters, reaping in floods the results of the rape of our forests, have tried hap-hazard flood control and levee construction, paid for mostly by taxes at the expense of the people who have suffered or stand to suffer as the outcome of capitalistic exploitation.

It is the people who not only pay in personal misery for capitalist blunders, but it is also the people who pay in taxes to help the capitalists cover up their blunders by building levees, which they in turn order dynamited when some fellow capitalist's property is threatened, for even the capitalistic insurance companies will not insure against flood.

Capitalism Responsible

Is it not clear that as long as there exists the present system, necessarily inhuman and short-sighted in its point of view, so long will such disasters visit us at periodic intervals—now floods, now unemployment, now depressions, now wars, and so on, ad infinitum?

These evils and their consequences we can with certainty look forward to until, as workers, we became sufficiently politically conscious and intelligent to demand the eradication of the barbarism of capitalism and the institution of Socialism.

ARE YOU LISTED?

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following agents have sent in subscriptions during the past week:

- S. F. St. Louis, Mo. 20
- S. F. New Kensington, Pa. 15
- S. F. Cook County, Ill. 5
- W. A. Sandefur, Bobards, Ky. 2
- F. O. Landau, Bronx, N. Y. 3
- O. U. Hess, Rochester, N. Y. 3
- Local Hartford, Conn. 2
- Jerome Tucker, Baltimore, Md. 2
- Ed Davis, Kokomo, Ind. 2
- Upper West Side Br., N. Y. C. 1
- Jack Shaffer, New York City 1
- Isidore Herz, New York City 1
- Mildred Sharfberg, Brooklyn, N. Y. 1
- 23rd A. D. Bklyn., N. Y. 1
- Phil Heller, New York City 1
- Local Genese, Ill. 1
- E. F. Mizins, New Haven, Conn. 1
- E. Wojicki, Conn. 1
- F. W. Farnsworth, Wadsworth, Ohio .. 1

BURN SHACKS OF JOBLESS

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A program for the deportation of transient workers has been adopted by city officials. Chief of Police Morrison recently deported 200 after burning their poor shacks, destroying their stoves and cooking utensils.

case he is mistaken. Socialists have given unstinted support and have helped build the cooperative movement. Nor can the responsibility for any weakness in the labor movement be placed upon Socialists whose every effort has been to build a strong labor movement. But even if the charge were so, this would not disqualify us from making criticisms. Criticisms should be judged by their intrinsic worth not by the person making them.

Many Locals Respond To CALL Drive

By THE BUSINESS MANAGER

Percentages are funny things. They vary so much according to the way you look at them. From the point of view of where we have been and where we are now to go, a huge percentage can be piled up. From the point of view of where we are in relation to where we have got to get, the percentage is still terribly small.

Which means that our appeal last week brought some results, but that we still have to get a lot better response to the Drive which we launched on January 15, if we are to carry on with the CALL.

Last week we reported that in the first ten days of the Drive a total of \$129.95 had been raised, and our feeling and yours certainly was that this is grossly inadequate.

This week we have had a much better response than the first week, but we were deadly in earnest when we set our Drive quota at \$10,000. It has to be raised! A few comrades have made good contributions this week. They are deeply appreciated. But during the next few weeks party branches throughout the country have got to realize that the CALL is a primary obligation of every comrade and that its Drive for \$10,000 has to be supported.

The management of the CALL is delighted with reports which come from various parts of the country on plans which are being made to support the CALL Drive. The State Executive Committee of Maine accepted the quota set for that state and apportioned it among the branches. Local New York is making plans for some special efforts on its \$2,600 quota, and a number of branches are planning special affairs for the CALL.

Party locals in Cleveland, Chicago, Indianapolis and St. Louis are planning special events where money will be raised for the CALL. From far off Oregon comes a check which is appreciated. And in California, where every effort is being made for Labor Action, comrades are making sacrifices to keep the CALL above water. Space prevents us from quoting from the grand letters which have been sent us.

200 Per Cent Up

The barometer this week shows an advance of just 200 per cent over last week, but the standing in relation to where we have got to get in this Drive is now 3.9 per cent of the quota.

What are you doing individually or in your party branch to push the barometer up?

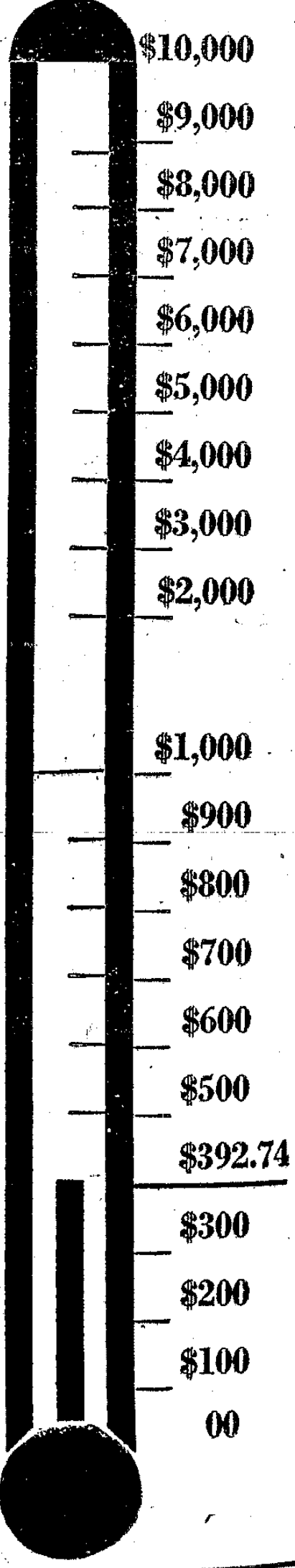
Statistics: Reported last week, \$129.95; Received in the CALL office this week, \$262.79; Total thus far, \$392.74; Must be raised in this Drive, \$10,000.

And here are the standings of the states and districts:

State or City	Quota	Received	Per Cent
Oregon	\$ 50.00	\$10.00	20
Illinois (Outside Chicago)	300.00	55.50	18.5
California	180.00	15.50	10.3
Pittsburgh	200.00	20.00	10
Massachusetts (Outside Boston)	300.00	33.00	8.2
New Jersey	400.00	29.81	7.4
New York City	2600	157.48	6
New Hampshire	35.00	2.00	5.7
Kentucky	50.00	2.00	4
North Carolina	20.00	.75	3.7
Ohio (outside Cleveland)	150.00	5.20	3.4
Tennessee	30.00	1.00	3.3
Texas	30.00	1.00	3.3
Kansas	50.00	1.50	3
West Virginia	35.00	1.00	2.8
New York state	400.00	10.50	2.6
Pennsylvania (Outside cities)	300.00	7.25	2.4
Boston	300.00	7.00	2.3
Oklahoma	40.00	1.00	2.3
Connecticut	600.00	13.20	2.2
Maryland	100.00	2.00	2
Cleveland	150.00	2.50	1.6
Arizona	40.00	.50	1.25
Florida	40.00	.50	1.25
Missouri	250.00	3.00	1.2
Chicago	400.00	3.50	.8
Wisconsin	800.00	6.00	.6
Washington	75.00	.50	.6
Philadelphia	400.00	1.00	.25

Total: \$392.74

\$10,000 For The CALL



Consumers' Cooperation

By BENJAMIN WOLF

The way in which I expressed my position on the new reactionary trend of certain cooperative leaders in last week's column has been generally interpreted to mean that I do not favor continued effort to build the movement. If this is the impression one gains, let me state such was not my intention. I believe and have always believed that the cooperative movement is a very important and worthwhile movement and I will continue to support and help build it. Nevertheless, I believe that reactionary leadership should be exposed and fought with all the force at our command whenever and wherever it appears, because reaction has no place in the movement nor does it serve any purpose but to destroy it.

In fighting reaction, it is my earnest conviction, not only does one support the movement, but prevents its ultimate destruction.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a letter criticising the attitude of the CALL towards cooperatives, and urging that socialists be not too critical of the cooperative movement. Well-intentioned though the correspondent may be, I cannot agree that we refrain from being too critical. Comradely criticism is a service not a dis-

service to the cooperative movement. The movement has grown with such leaps and bounds during the last few years and has attracted the support of so many kinds of organizations, each of which sees some special aspect of the movement which it would like to sponsor, considerable confusion as to the real nature and purpose of cooperation has been the result. It is only by stressing those aspects which are proper and criticizing those that are not that we can clarify this unfortunate confusion.

The argument that the reformism and conservatism in the cooperative movement is due in some way to the failure of Socialists to properly work in and support a labor organization I confess I cannot understand. Does he mean that Socialists have not properly supported cooperatives or does he mean Socialists are responsible for the kind of labor movement we have in this country and that the cooperatives reflect the weakness of the labor movement? In either

Debs Stamp Sales Mean Party Vigor

We have a long way to go on the Debs Organization Fund Drive in order to raise the minimum budget necessary to carry forward the national work of the Socialist Party.

In the last few weeks the correlative and directive activities of national headquarters have increased considerably. Income has not shown a corresponding increase.

Re-newed Socialist Vigor

From New York City to San Francisco we have received praise for the useful ideas and directives sent out. Throughout the country there are reports of re-newed Socialist vigor in the industrial field.

Carpenters, whose attention has been called to the danger of certain proposed dictatorial amendments in the constitution of their union, through the efforts of the national labor secretary and the Socialist press are showing interest in the party which stands for democratic control of workers' organizations. Roy Burt, national executive secretary recently returned from a trip through the North-west, reports the beginnings of organization in the packing house industry which is being given every possible assistance by comrades in the district as well as national headquarters.

Three trips have been made by Frank N. Trager, national labor secretary to Flint and Detroit to help comrades there who are battling hard with thousands of their fellow workers to win the auto strike.

Branch Must Do Share

With workers all over the country on the march we cannot fail to do our part. Locals and branches must multiply their efforts if our important activities all along the industrial front, among unemployed and students, raising aid for Spain, are not to be curtailed.

These activities are vital to the existence and growth of the Socialist movement. There is a pressing need for expanding them. It is the responsibility of each party member to translate this need into action.

Have you done your part by buying your share of the Eugene V. Debs stamps?

Action Needed

Bring this matter up for action in your next branch meeting. The assessment, which is on a voluntary basis, is as follows:

Income per week	Assessment
\$10 and less	1 Debs stamp
\$10-\$20	2 " "
\$20-\$30	3 " "
\$30-\$40	4 " "
\$40-\$50	5 " "
\$50 and above	6 " "

Each stamp sells for 25 cents

Pennsylvania Leads

To date, Pennsylvania has made the best response to the need with a large percentage of locals and branches contributing to the drive. No state has done as well as it should, but among those which have done comparatively good work are: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota and Ohio.

California, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin have not yet gotten under way.

So little work has been done so far by most locals on this drive that there is every reason to believe that when each does its part, we will not have to cut

REFUSE TO DEBATE

After complete arrangements had been made and leaflets printed, the Communist Party withdrew from a symposium on "The New Soviet Constitution" scheduled for Feb. 5, at the Elmsmore Hotel, Bronx, New York. The speakers were to be Roy Tyler and the Holmes.

Burt Trager Dinner In Chicago Feb. 10

CHICAGO. — Norman Thomas reviewing the struggles of the past year and the prospects of the Socialist and Labor Movement for the coming year, first Chicago appearances on the same platform of Roy Burt and Frank Trager national secretaries of the Socialist Party, the finest Italian chicken dinner that the expert chefs of the Chicago Italian Socialist group can produce, the thrilling YPSL presentation of the mass chant "Step

Those War Drums" and a revolutionary musical program—these are the features which are going to crowd the banquet hall of the Workers Lyceum with Socialists and friends on Wednesday evening February 10, at 6 P. M., according to arrangements committee secretary Art McDowell.

JOINS SP AT 85

Jennie Batey, 85 years old, has joined the Hammond, Indiana, local of the Socialist Party. She says that she expects to spend the remaining years of her life fighting for Socialism.

MASS MEETING

LEON TROTSKY SPEAKING!

on the

MOSCOW TRIALS

A One-Hour Exclusive Telephone Address Direct From Mexico

**45 Minutes in English,
15 in Russian**

OTHER SPEAKERS:

ROY BURT, National Executive Secretary, Socialist Party U. S. A.
ANGELICA BALABANOFF, First Secretary, Communist International
MAX SHACHTMAN, Editor of Trotsky's Works, analyzing the trials
GEORGE NOVACK, Secretary, American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9,
at 8 P. M.**

at the

New York Hippodrome

43rd Street and Sixth Avenue

Auspices:
American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky

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Labor Bookshop, 28 East 12th Street**

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... AND BALL**
**SATURDAY
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Dancing from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.
ROGER SMITH BALLROOM
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Auspices: Pharmacists Union of
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Subscription . . . One Dollar

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Sat. Night, Feb. 13
Admission 35c
423 West 156th Street
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12th A. D. MANHATTAN S. P.
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DANCING - GAMES - BEER
FREE EATS!
Saturday, Feb. 13, 8:30 P. M.
ADMISSION 35c

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Also THE MASKED DANCER!
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With The Party

COLORADO

Paul S. Mc Cormick has resigned as State secretary because of his indefinite absence from Denver. Jean Rudd, the previous assistant State secretary has been appointed to take his place until the next State Convention.

The SEC is meeting on February 7 to formulate a statement of the issues before the coming National Convention to be submitted to a vote of the party membership.

CONNECTICUT

The place of cooperatives in a changing social order will be discussed by Abraham Perlestein of Hartford, member of the SEC and vice-president in charge of education of the Hartford Consumers' Cooperative, at a meeting sponsored by Local New Haven at its headquarters, 53 Orange St., Feb. 10.

Weekly educational meetings are being held by Local New Haven on Monday evenings at its headquarters, 53 Orange St.

ILLINOIS

Discussion group on "Activities of Socialists in the Organization of Mass Industries," at 24th Ward Branch, 3400 Douglas Blvd., Chicago. Hyman Schneid will speak.

Open forum at same place Feb. 12, at which Frank Trager will speak on "Unionizing Basic Industries."

INDIANA

The Daily Worker makes much of a statement by a "so-called" group of Loyal Socialists in Indiana. We want all Party members to know that no member of the Socialist Party of Indiana had anything to do with the bulletin sent out by the "Indiana Socialist Action Committee." It was sent out by a very irresponsible group who are working with the Communist Party functionaries in Indianapolis.

The State Committee drafted the following statement for Indiana Locals:

"A group of former party members calling themselves the Indiana Socialist Action Committee have falsely circularized the Indiana Socialist Party members. The members of this committee are not members of the Party and have not been for months. The propaganda contained in their bulletin is the position of the Communist Party and there is good reason to believe that they are acting as stooges of the Communist Party."

"Their bulletin emanates from the office of Perry Wyatt, distributor of Communist Party literature in Indianapolis."

The Hammond local is taking the lead in raising funds to send to party locals and branches which are suffering in the flooded areas of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Funds raised for this purpose are being forwarded to the national office, which will distribute them where needed. The Hammond comrades are opposed

to turning funds over to the Red Cross, as they know the policies which this organization has followed in the administration of relief in several past situations.

MAINE

John Marsh was elected chairman of the newly formed Labor Committee. Other members include Ben Stern, Biddeford; Henry Gagnon, Rumford; Frank H. Maxfield, Portland; Ben Sclair, Bangor; Frank Tupper, Princeton; Beulah Akeley, Presque Isle and Fred Legasse, Waterville.

The State Committee has accepted the quota of \$40 for the Call Drive.

MARYLAND

A house warming party for Local Baltimore will be held Feb. 11 at the opening of its new headquarters, 105 North Eutaw St.

A luncheon for Roy Burt will be held at Elizabeth Gilman's home, Feb. 16.

MASSACHUSETTS

A New England Conference, fourth of a series of regional pre-convention conferences of the party, will be held in the Day Building (Room 202) 308 Main Street, Worcester, on Sat. and Sun. Feb. 6 and 7. The conference will deal with problems to be considered at the coming National Convention, and will also discuss methods of cooperation among the New England state organizations.

MICHIGAN

Harry W. Laidler will address an Austrian Memorial Dinner at the SP headquarters, 3946 Trumbull Ave., Feb. 6 at 7 P.M., Detroit.

MISSOURI

The Friends of Workers Children are working to raise funds for a summer camp for the Red Falcons. Send contributions to Marguerite Getz, Secretary, 5561 Enright Ave., St. Louis.

Local St. Louis is conducting an open forum every Sun. evening at 5561 Enright Ave.

NEW YORK

The Party is presenting its program on the dairy and farm situations to the legislative sub-committees in the following cities: Buffalo, Feb. 3; Rochester, Feb. 5; Syracuse, Feb. 10; Binghamton, Feb. 11; New York, Feb. 18 and 19; Poughkeepsie, Feb. 25; Albany, Feb. 26.

Locals Schenectady, Albany, Saratoga in the Capitol City District, and Locals Syracuse, Auburn, Utica, and Rome in the Central District Council announce the beginning of a series of forums beginning Feb. 27. Speakers scheduled include: Gus Tyler, Herbert Zam, Jack Altman, Phil Heller, Brendan Sexton, David Berenberg, Maurice Spector, John Newton Thurber, Harry Laidler, James T. Farrell, Amicus Most, James Casey.

A new local has been chartered in Albany.

The Hunter College Circle of the

YPSL is throwing a Consolation Party at 130 West 72nd St., Feb. 20, at 8:30. Proceeds to be divided between Spain and the Challenge.

Wallace Campbell will speak on the Future of Cooperatives in America at the Village Forum, 107 MacDougal St., Feb. 7.

John Newton Thurber will speak at the Upper West Side Branch, 113 W. 83rd St., on the Labor Situation in the U.S., Feb. 5.

Phil Heller will speak on the Dictatorship of the Proletariat at the East Flatbush Branch, Brooklyn, 117 Hopkinson Ave., Feb. 4.

House party for the Debs Column at 8630 57th Rd., Elmhurst, Queens, Feb. 6. Auspices, Astoria Branch.

John G. Wright will give a political review of Andre Gide's book, "Return from USSR," Feb. 5 at 31 Second Ave.

OHIO

A benefit dance for the SOCIALIST CALL fund will be held by the Socialist Party of Akron on Feb. 13 at the Party hall, 100 S. Broadway St.

"Behind the Moscow Trials," will be the topic of a public meeting sponsored by the Socialist party in the same place on Feb. 9 at 100 S. Broadway. John Steele and B.J. Wildick are speakers.

Frank Stern and Esther Levine, who have been working in the business department of Labor Action, are resigning from that paper in order to return to Cleveland where they will work as party organizers.

The Forum Committee of Local Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) is arranging forums in the 32nd Ward district, the heart of the heavy industry in the northeast of Cleveland, and in the 18th Ward, in Cleveland's Negro district.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia Socialists initiated a drive for an expansion and sustaining fund to finance future functions with a meeting of 400 members and close sympathizers who were addressed by Norman Thomas.

A goal of \$5,000 was set to place the party on a sound financial basis. Thelma Du Vinage, treasurer, announced that \$1,000 was raised at the meeting and that this was sufficient to hire Michael Harris, former New York state organizer, as local organizer.

The Strawberry Mansion branch, Local Philadelphia, is actively supporting a mass meeting held by the Strawberry Mansion Committee to Aid Spain. David Felix will be chairman of the meeting which will be held Feb. 4 at the Banl Jeshuran Synagogue, 33 and Diamond Sts.

TENNESSEE

Appearing before more than 2,000 people in three weeks, Herbert Harris, state organizer of the SP, just completed a trip around the state with the talking picture projector recently purchased by the state office.

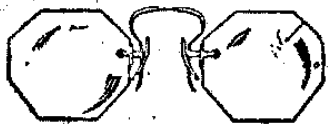
Joint NY Committee Runs Theatre Party

Arrangements have been completed for pooling of effort in all special party affairs which will be held in New York City in the future, between Local New York, the YPSL, the Falcons, Labor Research Front, the American Socialist Monthly and the CALL.

Each organization, under arrangements perfected in cooperation with the Finance Committee of Local New York, will conduct an annual affair of its own. All other affairs, such as theatre parties, dances, picnics, concerts, etc., will be jointly managed and profits divided between the six organizations according to proportions based on the needs of the respective organizations.

The first venture under this joint arrangement will be a pre-view performance of the forthcoming production of the Theatre Union, "Marching Song," by John H. Lawson, which is being presented in the Nora Bayes Theatre on Tuesday, February 16. Tickets for this have been distributed among all New York branches. Tickets can be secured from the CALL for this performance.

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Call Meeting Postponed

Because of a serious conflict in dates, it has been necessary to postpone the CALL association meeting. The CALL Association will meet at 3 P.M. Saturday, February 13, at 21 East 17 St. Only members in good standing can participate.

HAL SIEGAL,
Secretary.

HOLD DANCE FOR SPAIN

Sympathizers with the Spanish Loyalist cause will gather next February 5 at an entertainment and dance for the benefit of the weekly "Spanish Revolution," to be held by the United Libertarian Organization in Stuyvesant Casino, 140 Second Avenue, near Eighth Street.

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YORKVILLE, meets every Thurs. night. Open meetings at Imperial Lyceum, 55th 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. Robert Bloom, Sec'y.

AMALGAMATED, Upper 8th A.D. meets every Wed., at 9:00 P. M. at home of Comrade Maximon, 89 Van Cortland Pk. So. Apt. 7-F-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.

LONG ISLAND

SUNNYSIDE. Meets 2nd & 4th Wed. at 3908 48th St., Sunnyside, L. I. Emily Oxhandler, Secretary.

DETROIT

BRANCH ONE meets every Wednesday, 8 P. M., People's House, 3946 Trumbull. Tel: TERRACE 2-8512.

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BRANCH meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 P. M. sharp, 1603a South Jefferson Ave. Labor Forum every Sunday night—8 P. M.

MODERN MONTHLY

AN OPEN LETTER TO WALDO FRANK

Charles Yale Harrison

THE AMERICAN COMPLEX

V. F. Calverton

JOHN REED'S LAST DAYS

Angelica Balabanoff

ON THE SOVIET PHILOSOPHIC FRONT

Jerome Rosenthal

MR. HUXLEY'S MESSAGE—Henry Hazlitt

BENEFIT

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American Socialist Monthly, Y.P.S.L., Red Falcons,
Labor Research Front, Socialist Party

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"MARCHING SONG"

By John Howard Lawson

PREVIEW

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STAGE

Socialist Call
and

SCREEN

'TIDE RISING' PRESENTED AT LYCEUM THEATRE

Pink Pills For Pale People

TIDE RISING, a play in three acts by George Brewer Jr. At the Lyceum Theatre.

By McALISTER COLEMAN

If the prescription for strike troubles could be written in small-town drug-stores by their well-meaning, middle-class proprietors, all would be hunky-dory and the capitalist and labor lions and lambs would lie peacefully down together. Such seems to be the idea that started Mr. Brewer off to write *TIDE RISING*. Even as he developed this naive concept, he must have seen how fatuous it was, for finally he contents himself with merely presenting the pictures of a petty bourgeois caught in the No Man's Land between the gunfire of the class warriors.

Authentic Americana

Grant Mitchell is the druggist in whose store all the scenes take place. There is a store like his down in Dayton, Tenn., where the town Nestors gather to settle all community matters from the conduct of the constable to the teaching of Darwin. It was there that the famous Scopes case started, as a bronze plaque sunk in one of the serving tables proudly boasts. The drug-store as the social center of a small town is authentic Americana. And the tolerant, kindly proprietor is a typical middle person who can see the arguments on both sides of a strike situation. In higher strata he is a Liberal.

Into the community comes Tamara as labor organizer and daughter-in-law of the druggist and then the strike tide starts rising, finally to sweep all hands into tragedy.

The acting is well above the script and given a tougher theme than this to develop, Mitchell and Tamara would have gone places. At all events it is worth seeing *TIDE RISING*, unless of course, it has gone out by the time these lines are in circulation.

New Picture at Strand

STOLEN HOLIDAY, a Warner Bros. picture with Kay Francis, Claude Rains, Ian Hunter, and Alison Skipworth. At the Strand.

Topical melodrama takes it on the chin at the expense of Love and the latest fashions in ladies' wearing apparel in "Stolen Holiday," now at the Strand.

What might have been an exciting picturization of the details and repercussions of the infamous Stavisky scandal herein emerges as a tame and unconvincing reiteration of the time-honored theories that honesty is the best policy and that true love always wins out.

The picture is held together, however, by good direction and some satisfying characterizations. Claude Rains, he of the meticulous diction, makes a believable and human swindler. The script writer has filled his speeches with epigrams, epigrams and epigrams, but Rains comes through magnificently. Ian Hunter and Alison Skipworth help considerably while Kay Francis wears the latest hats and gowns without the slightest trace of shame or self-consciousness.

Demand Screeno and Bank Night with this one.—M. K. Wein.

Second Week at Belmont

"April Romance," current musical attraction at the Belmont Theatre is being held for a second week.

Berlin's New Musical Comes to Radio City

Irving Berlin's new musical, "On the Avenue," with Dick Powell and Madeleine Carroll in the starring roles, will follow "The Plough and the Stars" on the screen of the Radio City Music Hall, opening Thursday.

The two stars, appearing together for the first time, will be supported by a cast studded with vaudeville performers, comedians and prominent Hollywood character players including Alice Faye, the madcap Ritz Brothers, Alan Mowbray, Stepi Fetchit and George Barbier. Mr. Berlin has written six new numbers for "On the Avenue" which are already becoming hits on the air waves.

Plight of Share-Croppers Is Told In 'Sweet Land'

"SWEET LAND," by Conrad Seiler, a play in six scenes. Produced by the Negro Youth Unit, W.P.A. At the Lafayette, 131st Street and Seventh Avenue.

By SAMUEL ROMER

When Chet Jackson, Negro sharecropper, flings from him his medal for bravery won during the world war and declares his enlistment in the army of the disinherited to fight for a true freedom, "Sweet Land" should go forward to become a powerful and spirited picture of the class struggle in cotton. Instead, however, the curtain goes down, the audience applauds and the actors come out from the wings to take their bows.

The six scenes of "Sweet Land," if concentrated within the technical confines of one act, would serve as a good first act with promise of good things to come. Unfortunately, however, "Sweet Land" as produced can only be considered as a fine idea aborted. The play that will tell America about the most dramatic sector of the class war on this continent is still to be written.

It is described as a drama of sharecroppers in the deep South, and is a portrayal of the bloody background that led to the organization of the now powerful Southern Tenant Farmers' Union. The new slavery feudal absolutism, petty cheating, poverty and terror were the basic factors which finally forced the sharecroppers into an open fight against the plantation owners.

Mr. Seiler, the playwright, presents curious ups and downs. Sometimes, as in the speech delivered by the visiting organizer of the croppers' union, his writing reaches a high point of dramatic finesse and propaganda technique, or else it descends into a combination of bad melodrama and cheap vaudeville dialogue. Even this reporter, who knows of the S.T.F.U. only second-hand, recognized that he muffed a splendid opportunity in neglecting the rich human tradition of the Arkansas sharecroppers and their use of the church in organization drives.

The tempo of the play is incredibly slow, although this fault may be ascribed to the writing rather than to the direction. The acting is quite competent and Doe Doe Green deserves special mention for a fine job as Chet Jackson.

News for Movie-Goers!

Stanley Lawton, formerly of RKO, announces a new policy for the Lyric and Wallack Theatres. On week-ends, these theatres will feature Soviet pictures and others of interest to the more discriminating movie-goers.

Film at Cameo Tells Story of Spanish Revolt

SPAIN IN FLAMES, filmed by Spanish government and Soviet cameramen. Released through Amkino and Film Historians, Inc. At the Cameo.

A partisan anti-Fascist audience, viewing the premiere of "Spain in Flames," lustily booed Hitler and Mussolini and Franco whenever they appeared on the screen and wildly cheered every view of the Spanish workers militia. Unfortunately the picture, on the whole, let the audience down.

Obviously the film was produced only because it was thought that the time was ripe for a graphic portrayal of the Spanish Civil War. The possibilities would be great for arousing sympathy for the Spanish masses through a moving display of their heroic sacrifices. Newsreel shots taken by Spanish government and Soviet cameramen were pieced together, English narratives were written, and there was the film.

The effect of the film is considerably lessened by jumpy continuity, dull narration, and two narrators with the most raucous voices ever recorded on sound strips.

There are, however, a number of splendid shots which almost make up for the other defects of the film. The photography of the second film, which was photographed by Soviet cameramen, is especially effective, in particular the scenes of carnage and destruction in Madrid and Toledo, of children mutilated by Fascist bombs, of the workers militia behind street barricades, of peasants reaping the harvest with guns strapped on their backs, of old women and children fleeing before the Fascist advance.

R.G.

LECTURE

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'The Plough And The Stars' Is Distinguished Picture

THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS, from Sean O'Casey's play, at The Radio City Music Hall.

A galaxy consisting of Dudley Nichols, John Ford, our own Cliff Reid and Robert Sisk went to ploughing on O'Casey's play for R.K.O. They did a distinguished, if not outstanding picture of Dublin's Easter rebellion of 1916.

Here is no "nformer." For one thing here is no bemused titan McLagien. But here is revolution in action with all the heroism and viciousness that revolutions evoke. And because it is stirring, with its

pictures of barricades and street fighting (and ugly looting as well), and because it tackles a theme very much up in the minds of all of us, time is never wasted in the seeing of it.

Abbey Players Add to Production

"Bit parts" taken magnificently by some of the Abbey Players, notably Barry Fitzgerald, give body and flavor to the production, which at times is dangerously threatened by the all too heroic hero and one of the most disagreeable heroines I've watched for a long time. Her unhappy role is taken by Barbara Stanwyck, who has to go squalling and scratching all over the place because her man has gone to the wars. The back of my hand to her and all such keening women, who become between a man and his proper duty to shoot down the dirty Black and Tans.—McAllister Coleman.

'Eternal Mask'



OLGA TSCHICHOWA

a leading player in this dramatic portrayal of a human mind under severe stress and struggle now in its fourth week at the Filmarte.

"SON OF MONGOLIA"

with TSEVEN RABDAN IGIN KNORLO A drama of a man who caused a nation to rise in revolt, and was ready to die for the love of a woman—comes to you in a mighty epic!

RUSSIA'S GREATEST PICTURE In Addition "The Breach of Promise" with Chester Morris Now Playing at the LYRIC THEATRE 42nd St. W. of Broadway FOUR DAYS ONLY Starts Thurs.—Feb. 4-5-6-7 Mat. 15c Eve. 25c

CLIFFORD ODETS' "THE GENERAL DIED AT DAWN"

with Gary Cooper Madeline Carroll Odets' momentous film portraying China's starving millions! This forceful drama will pound on your emotions! In Addition "Tomorrow's Youth" Now Playing at the WALLACK THEATRE, 42nd Street, Nr. 8th Ave. FOUR DAYS ONLY Starts Thurs.—Feb. 4-5-6-7 Mat. 15c Eve. 25c-25c

Spain in Flames

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AT THE FRONT



By **NORMAN THOMAS**

This is a greeting to the automobile strikers, the Automobile Workers of America, and the CIO. The struggle now in progress is of enormous importance to that organization of the workers of America upon which so much of the future depends.

The automobile strikers have been aided heretofore by the obvious arrogance and stupidity of President Sloan and other officials of the General Motors, by the shocking revelations concerning industrial espionage which the LaFollette Committee has brought out, and by the fact that Governor Murphy has until now shown himself more friendly than the average Governor has been.

But it is upon themselves that the workers must depend for victory. The excellence of their own organization, their self-discipline, the justice of their cause, and the persuasiveness with which they make their fellow workers see that their only hope of escape from slavery to the speed-up system, to inadequate wages, to recurring unemployment, must lie in building their own organization.

It is a grim commentary upon the whole failure of our profit seeking order that General Motors smugly boasts that its estimate of an average annual wage for its workers—somewhere between \$1400 and \$1500—is at least \$300 above the general average. It is \$500 or \$600 below what even social service workers estimate is the minimum budget of health and decency for a family of five.

We Socialists have reason to be proud of the helpful service our comrades are rendering in the struggle. They are working in and through the union, and that is the only way to work.

WEST COAST MARITIME VICTORY

The probable settlement of the Maritime strike on the Pacific Coast looks like real and substantial victory for the workers. Even on the East Coast it would appear that out of the strike may yet come a clean reorganization of the union and the amendment of the Copeland strike-breaking law. When the workers get together in a good cause they can win.

HAIL THE NEGRO LABOR COMMITTEE

By comparison with the gigantic strikes of which I have been speaking the efforts of the Negro Labor Committee in New York City to organize the Negro and white pharmacists of Harlem

may seem a little thing. Yet it is precisely these little things, especially when they involve race relations which go to make up the sound advance of labor's forces. Already the company union of pharmacists in Harlem is beginning to crumble as is the drug store owners' association. Congratulations to the Negro Labor Committee!

PARTY MUST HAVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Socialists don't want to be a lobbying party. Our primary concern is not with reforms possible under capitalism. But for much the same reason as it is vital for us to work with labor on the union front so it is vital for us to work on the more narrowly political front for measures which will help labor and show our interest in the immediate well-being of the masses.

From this point, for instance, it is immensely to the good that our Public Affairs Committee in New York is fighting a plan of subway unification which will jeopardize the five cent fare and has other bad features. We have to fight the sales tax. We have to fight for the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment.

In national politics we are deeply concerned in the Constitutional issue; in what can be done for the unemployed; in the improvement of the Security law, etc. To neglect these things is to lose contact with the masses and tends to make us doctrinaire theoreticians if not impossibilists.

That is one of the reasons why it is so important to keep open our Washington Bureau just now.

But that Washington Bureau must be closed and other equally important activities of the Party must be curtailed unless those Debs stamps can be sold and the entire sum raised. Local and state parties and the Party press must also be supported.

No correctness of theoretical program at our next Convention or elsewhere can take the place of a live party, and a live party requires support.

ADMINISTRATION AIDS FASCISTS

Democracy is a word much used and misused these days. Even Hitler had the nerve to talk about his kind of democracy in Germany.

But assuming that our American Administration is in earnest in its enthusiasm for democracy here and in Latin American relations, it has been so far exceedingly short sighted in failing to understand what a victory by Franco, backed by Hitler and

Mussolini, would do to democracy. For one thing it would give an enormous impetus to all the fascist forces that now exist in Latin America as well as in Europe.

Official governmental neutrality to which Congress seems to be wedded and which the Administration wants, with dubious discretionary power for the President, may have its uses but it is not likely to keep our house from catching fire if the whole world rages with war. The best chance of reducing the danger of war is to check the onward march of Fascism where it can be checked, and that is in Spain. There is no greater practical service that can be rendered to the hope of world peace.

MOSCOW TRIALS HARM UNITY

There is no explanation of the latest—not, one fears, of the last

of the Moscow trials which is not incredible. What is worse there is no explanation that does not involve some degree of horrified condemnation of one faction or the other of the group which led the great Russian Revolution. And there is no explanation which can undo the harm that this sort of business does to working class unity or Socialist ideals.

Men may differ as to what truth there is behind these latest confessions. But it is hard to see how any but the blindest partisan can believe that the confessions themselves were the whole truth. Despite the enormous machinery of secret police the government presented almost no corroboratory evidence.

The little that there was did not stand up. Thus, Piatakoff swore that he went by plane to confer in Norway with Trotsky and at once proof positive was offered that in the time named no foreign plane landed in or near Oslo. On the other hand there is no explanation which can clear men of all blame who confessed these things. In this connection I repeat what I said of the earlier trials.

Trotsky's demand for a trial in Mexico on extradition proceedings is made, I think, in good faith although it is practically certain that the trial will not take place. There are obvious difficulties in the way of any sort of competent impartial inquiry, an inquiry to which Stalin's government will almost certainly never agree.

Even so, a fair minded international commission drawn from the friends, not the foes, of the Russian Revolution, might conceivably get nearer the truth than we are now. To make the effort is almost essential to the integrity of working class revolutionary idealism. A country where by official bureaucratic propaganda such a demonstration can be staged as was staged in Moscow against the latest of Stalin's victims is a country in which there will be an inevitable progressive deterioration of any sort of real Socialism.

But Trotsky helps, not hinders

that process by the vehemence of his denunciation of everything in the Russian situation, a denunciation syndicated to the capitalist press; that it is necessary to his plea for justice.

SOVIET BULWARK AGAINST FASCISM

I say this not because of hostility to the government of Soviet Russia, but because of a deep desire to be able wholeheartedly to praise it as against its capitalist and Fascist detractors. I do not believe that there is "an end of Socialism" in Russia. I do recognize in Russia a great bulwark against Fascist triumph.

We cannot dismiss the issues of the Moscow trials, but neither can we lose all sense of proportion concerning them. Above all, let me insist the Socialist Party has its own principles, convictions, discipline, its own work to do.

We are not held together by precise and detailed agreement concerning the Moscow trial. Still less as an organized opposition to Stalin. We have a positive work to do, and for the vindication of Socialism that means among other things a positive defense of civil liberty and the right and necessity of constructive criticism within any Socialist Party and within any government that any kind of Socialist Party may set up.

Only so can we successfully resist tendencies which would diminish that stark and fundamental opposition of Socialism to Fascism upon which the hope of the future depends.

WORK AND SAVE

The duPont family takes out of General Motors in profits (1936) \$7 a second, \$1,000,000 a week, \$50,000,000 a year, figuring a 40-hour working week.

CAPITALIST TAXES

WEIRTON, W. Va.—Ernest T. Weir's mountain mills, which employ 10,000 steel workers in Weirton, are valued at \$75,000,000. For taxation purposes, the property is assessed at \$3,000,000.

Chicago Socialists Back Labor Party

By JOHN BARNETT

CHICAGO.—The third annual convention of the Labor Party of Chicago and Cook County was held Sunday, January 31, with a number of Chicago Socialists continuing the active roles which they have played from the beginning of this thriving movement for independent labor political action.

An intensive organization campaign has been launched in working-class congressional districts and even wards, with an eye toward the 1938 campaigns. This policy necessitates a broadening of the original trade union base, and it is hoped that increased participation by Socialists will make possible the Socialist Party's affiliation as an integral unit.

Those who have held important positions in the Cook County Labor Party thus far include Arthur MacDowell, Teachers Union, and I. A. Anderson, Machinists, on the Executive Committee; George Meade, Enginemen and Firemen, Secretary; and Marianne Alfons, Clothing Workers, Chairman of the 7th Congressional District.

Ink and Lead Mix Well



The white-collared pen pushers of the News Guild are out on strike at the North Shore Daily Journal together with the dark-shirted heavies of lead and type, printers, pressmen and stereotypers. Here are representatives of all the crafts, with some of their

National Confab at South Bend To Discuss Labor Problems

The National Action Committee of the Socialist Party is arranging a series of conferences of members working in the mass production industries. These conferences are to formulate concrete programs of activity to further Socialist coordination within the CIO organization campaigns.

The first of these will be held on Saturday and Sunday, February 6 and 7, at the Hotel Oliver, South Bend, Ind.

Participants will include Socialists who are members of and active in unions, affiliated and unaffiliated with the CIO, officials of the Workers' Alliance, officials of the party, members of labor committees and representatives from national headquarters.

will be strictly confined to party members. Publicity will not be given out.

The following will be the agenda:

Saturday, February 6
1:30 P.M. — General perspectives of the Party. Roy E. Burt. Official party position on labor problems. Frank N. Trager. Discussion.
7:30 P.M. — Meetings of industrial groups. Steel — Harold Rasmussen, chairman. Auto — Walter Reuther, chairman. Rubber — B. J. Widick, chairman. Packing — Harvey Rentfrow, chairman. Craft unions and C. I. O. delegates — Allen G. McDonald, chairman.

Sunday, February 7
10 A.M. — Reports from industrial groups. Discussion of party and the industry in light of the reports. Adoption of recommendations. Discussion on industrial unionism and its possibilities.
11 P.M. — Adjournment.