community at the current national income level.... However it is made, everyone in the community must consciously or unconsciously participate in this investment... even the unemployed, whether they know it or not.

That is the conception that guides the American ruling class, the bourgeoisie and its government in Washington. The collapse and disintegration of the world capitalist system, the carnage and catastrophe of the imperialist war—all this they see chiefly as a "golden opportunity" for American monopoly capital, American imperialism, to come into its inheritance, a sort of glorified "fire sale" in which they will seize and buy up the world cheaply.

But they make their plans without sufficient consideration of the American working class, the American people. The American masses have different aspirations and ideas, not represented by a Sidney Hillman. The ruling class has taken the nation on the "path of empire" only by the most brazen and cynical deception.

As they awaken to the truth the American masses will brush those plans aside.

Let 1941 be the year of the great awakening!

Sunday Worker, December 29, 1940.

III. FREE LUIS CARLOS PRESTES

All true anti-imperialists throughout the Americas will today greet Luis Carlos Prestes on his forty-third birthday as the outstanding symbol of the struggle of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples of this hemisphere for national liberation from imperialist oppression.

Today when our own American ruling class is desperately trying to drag our country into the present imperialist war and is carrying through a policy of economic and political aggrandizement aimed at the further subjugation of the peoples and nations of this hemisphere, the struggle to liberate Luis Carlos Prestes becomes an integral part of the fight for freedom, peace and against imperialist war.

For leading the struggle to liberate his people, Luis Carlos Prestes was sentenced in 1935 to sixteen years' imprisonment. The Vargas dictatorship acting under pressure of the imperialist war-makers and of our own Government, unable to suppress the deep ferment prevailing within the country, and enormous sympathy that the Brazilian people manifest towards Prestes, brought him to trial again in an attempt, through this attack against his life, to further terrorize and enslave the people of Brazil.

The conduct of Prestes before the Vargas "justice," where his life was at stake, is an admirable example of his greatness as a leader of the people. Facing his enemies and the enemies of his country—after being held in jail for more than five years—Prestes used this only opportunity to appeal to his people, encouraging them to unite and to follow the example of the great October Revolution as the only path that can lead to their final liberation.
We Americans can truly be proud of such a great leader and liberator. We must continue the fight for Prestes' freedom and for amnesty to all political prisoners in Brazil. By so doing we will be cementing the bonds that will unite the people of Brazil and America into a solid front against imperialism.

Daily Worker, January 3, 1941.

IV. THE WAY OUT OF THE IMPERIALIST WAR

Lenin died seventeen years ago. But his spirit lives as the beloved teacher and guide of tens of millions in all lands, because he and his party alone showed the way out of the last imperialist war, the way to peace and socialism.

Today, in the midst of the second imperialist war, we commemorate Lenin by applying his teachings in order fully to understand and master the problems raised by this continuation of the first World War.

The first requirement for understanding our problems is to face facts as they are, however unpleasant. And it is a fact, unpleasant indeed, that America is in the war. Most of the current newspaper and radio chatter about keeping out of the war is merely to hide a while longer the fact that we are already in it, that our problem is: “What way out?”

President Roosevelt has submitted to Congress what is called a “defense budget” of seventeen-and-a-half billion dollars, with more to come. It is for defense only in a very special sense that it is a “defense” of the ambitions of Wall Street, of the “sixty families,” to extend their power over the world in a new empire—“the mightiest empire the world has ever seen.”

The President told Congress that his aim is to bring his conception of “liberty” to “the entire world.” That the aim of the gigantic war budget extends to the entire world is not to be questioned. But the quality of the “liberty” involved is more doubtful. That “liberty” is best characterized by the status of the three hundred and fifty