Behind the Housing Crisis

HOW monopoly capital conspired in New York to prevent the building of new homes, to keep rents and interest rates on mortgages high, and to compel Jimcrow in housing has been revealed in the federal government suit against the banks, insurance companies and real estate interests which organized the mortgage monopoly.

In order to compel people to live in slums and pay high rent for them, the mortgage monopoly limited loans for new building. As a result, literally hundreds of thousands of New York rents have no place to live today while slums, which should have been destroyed years ago, are still being used.

The mortgage monopoly, by eliminating competition in housing mortgages, was able to fix arbitrarily high interest rates, thereby pushing up rents for apartment dwelling classes for the home owners.

Most revealing, however, was the fact, long known to us, that behind the segregation policies in housing is big business. The standard wall of the apologists for Jimcrow in housing has been that the people are not ready for an end to segregation, that they would resist it. The suit, long overdue, shows it is the financial interests, not the people, who promote this segregation.

Revealing, too, is the way Gov. Dewey's leading brain-trustee and Commissioner of Banks, Elliot Bell, comes to the defense of the mortgage monopoly by denying it has existed since Dewey took office.

The whole mess is a beautiful example of housing under capitalism. It is a fitting illustration to the series of articles by Daily Worker writer Bernard Burton on Jimcrow and housing which we ran earlier this week.

It brings home the fact that the banks and realty sharks will not provide decent housing. If the present acute crisis is to be alleviated even slightly, the people will have to insist that the job be taken out of the hands of the banks and trusties and be taken over by federal, state and local governments.

Commissioner Fielding's Drive

LICENSE COMMISSIONER FIELDING'S drive on employment agencies following the Logan murder on Long Island has dangerous aspects.

The Commissioner insists that all agencies check thoroughly the past record of every applicant for a job and make that record known. He has taken action to revoke the license of the agency that recommended the alleged murderer, Ward Beecher Caraway, to his employer.

Fielding's crack-down on employment agencies has spread to New Jersey and may go further.

Because the alleged murderer is Negro, the effect of this hysterical crack-down on the basis of a single crime in which the accused has not yet been indicted, may well be to make it tougher for Negroes to get jobs. It is already tough enough.

We would like to see Commissioner Fielding warn the public not to fan the flames of prejudice against the Negro people.

Moreover, this business of emphasizing past references gives employers a handle against workers. They can hold the threat of references over the heads of workers to a greater degree than has been customary.

Commissioner Fielding should, therefore, be on guard against permitting his actions and the Logan case to be used by Negro-haters and by labor-baiters to promote their respective vile causes.

Browder in the 'New Republic'

By Milton Howard

EARL BROWDER, in his first article on the Soviet Union in this week's New Republic, continues to propagate the anti-Marxist illusions which resulted in his expulsion from the Communist Party.

These illusions are all the more pernicious in that they are offered to that large body of public opinion which is eager for American-Soviet friendship. The fight for American-Soviet friendship is crucial to all politics in America today. For it is essentially the fight for peace. But, the fight for American-Soviet friendship, and for a peace based on such collaboration, requires an accurate analysis of the direction taken by the Truman government under the pressure of the Taff-Yates-Amos-Novice forces.

In affirming his desire for American-Soviet friendship, Browder offers theoretical and practical advice which collides with the interests of the peace movement in America, because it collides with political reality. That reality is that the Truman government today, consistently identified on every issue with the extreme Right, is acting as the basic despair of American imperialism's worldwide aggression.

In his first piece, Browder offered this proposition: "Socialism could I detect in Moscow any tendency to place responsibility for this change in America's attitude upon President Truman. On the contrary, there seemed to be an appreciation of the fact that every time Harry Truman has personally intervened in Soviet-American relations the result has been to smooth the road toward agreement and co-operation. The nearest thing to a negative attitude I could find expressed toward Truman was a question as to whether his mounting domestic difficulties might not serve to free him to take command of international relations in the Roosevelt tradition."

This flies in the face of those political developments which have been known to political opinion since Truman took office.

It says that Truman's politics are geared toward strengthening American-Soviet friendship. If that were true there would be an entirely different political situation in the world today, both internationally and within the United States. The headlines in the press would be different. If there were true there would be no bipartisan agreement as there is between the NEA and the Secretary of Commerce. There does appear evidence from time to time of internal friction, disagreement in emphasis, tactics, etc., within this general agreement. Marxist and progressive forces should of course resent the maximum advantage for a democratic peace from such developments. But that is a different thing from saying that President Harry S. Truman is the man to whom the American working class and the peace forces generally must look for leadership.

For it is known to the nation that Truman welcomed prominent leaders of the American labor movement to the White House at the time of the steel strike. It is known that Secretary of Labor and Steel reported the birth of the Anglo-Saxon bloc. It is known that Truman opposes the huge arms program and the rapid expansion of American military might throughout Latin America, Asia and even in Europe. Not only does Browder ignore these political realities, but he advances an all for Truman, the more diametrically opposite to the facts than the theory that Truman is hampered in his desire to establish a Roosevelt policy toward the Soviet Union by his "sustaining domestic difficulties."

These difficulties are undoubtedly the increasing class antagonisms as manifested in the recent strikes wave. The difficulties no doubt include the problem of how to stem inflation upon the United States with a minimum erosion of working class and popular resistance.

If Truman's "mounting difficulties" in working for American-Soviet friendship were embodied in the acts of reactionary monopoly, then one would see no public evidence of this in Truman's struggle against the monopoly bloc. One would see the absurdity that Truman is too busy fighting the trusts to have time to combat the anti-Soviet policy of his own government.

But, since that particular absurdity is mocked by Truman's subservience to the trusts, Browder implies there is only one real means of securing an independent policy for America against the trusts which harms the government's desire to improve American-Soviet relations.

The informed reader will have

Worth Repeating

The "true democracy" of France is attested to by the following passages from a new Cachetian now being taught in fascist Spain's schools: "Should the State be a lay State? By no means, the State has to represent the Catholic Church, which is the only true Church. The State has to be subservient to the Church, as the body must be subservient to the soul or all temporal matters to the eternal bliss."

"Are there any other dangerous freedoms? Yes, freedom of the press, freedom of propaganda and freedom of assembly." Quoted in an article in the June-July issue of the Protestant.
Molotov, Byrnes Speeches At Paris Parley

Excerpts from speeches made by Secretary of State Byrnes and Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov in Paris Peace Conference.

MOLTOV'S STATEMENT

The weeks up to the Council of four ministers the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Soviet, delegate found it necessary to adopt his recommendations by two-thirds majority. How today the United Kingdom representative is proposing to the conference that recommendations be adopted both by a two-thirds and by a simple majority. The Soviet delegation maintains the United Kingdom delegate's amendment unacceptable, as it goes along with the decision which we voted for in the Council of four ministers and for which the United Kingdom as well as three representatives voted.

If one cannot acquire a particular conception to be not bound by one's decision, what are we to do for example tomorrow for some ministerial in this question on non-procedural questions? Indeed you have only twelve votes, and of those three million only eleven votes are required in simple ma-

ny. Why not? Nobody, why prove the two-thirds and three simple majority vote? Does it not vary different options of opin-

ion with the voting of the conference? Would it then not be not at variance with the government of the two-thirds majority. How, in fact, can one conclude that it is necessary for and by all possible means wider, the "game of votes" leads to this.

Molotov also pointed out the importance of the statement made by Mr. Byrnes on the strengthening of the United States in themittel of the conference.

The plea expression must adequ-
ately serve the interests of the entire conference.

We must state that the inter-

censorial relations are based on the strengthening now possible, at least among the Allies in say-

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