

# IN THIS ISSUE . . .

We print an article on Herbert Hoover, Finland and American Youth on Page 2. With it is an analysis of the Stalin invasion of Finland. On Page 3 you will find reports from various youth conventions: the American Student Union and others. "Henry Ford Tells The Youth" also appears

# CHALLENGE

NOT ONE CENT TO DEFEND WALL STREET PROFITS !

Vol. III, No. 20 - February 1, 1940

Twice-Monthly Organ of The Young Peoples Socialist League (Fourth International)

Price 2 cents

# An Open Letter to the President:

# RICAN YOUTH DEMANDS T O A JOB AND A DECENT L

Franklin D. Roosevelt White House Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

It was with considerable fanfare that you and your administration announced the governmental budget for the coming year. This was to be, the American people were informed, a budget for an emergency period, of utmost importance the American people.

With one thing we can agree with you-this budget is of the utmost importance to the American people, to the workers and the youth.

Over a year ago, we revolutionary Socialist youth wrote in our paper: The New Deal, with its attempt to bolster a tottering capitalist system by mild reform, is dead. Its place has been taken by the War Deal, the policy of preparing for an imperialist war in the near future.

This prediction has been confirmed to the hilt. Your latest budget is the latest step in this direction.

What does your budget propose to the American people?

Your budget is a budget of death; it is a budget of reaction. Your budt will mean renewed starvation for undreds of thousands of workers. It will mean tens of thousands of youth thrown into the streets. And your budget will mean more millions thrown into the war-machine, a few steps nearer to getting into the war.

Your budget proposes:



\$72,000,000-

that aid to the farmers be cut \$400,000,000-

We want to know—What is going to happen to these people suddenly deprived of their livelihood? Where will they get the money to pay their butcher's bills, their rent?

You further propose that a total of \$2,300,-000,000-pretty big number!-much money! for war purposes. This is an increase of AIU \$500,000,000 over last years war appropriations, which were themselves the highest peacetime war budget America has ever had.

that 650,000 workers be fired from WPA— No wonder that Ernest Lindley, Washington

tion's screens.

each morning.

ties and black limousines, the most

"Gone With the Wind," hit the na-

The world premiere in Atlanta,

Broadway theaters simultaneously.

New York's police force currently

acts as ushers for the long lines

that await the theater opening

But the film met a different res-

that 250,000 workers be fired from PWA- columnist, wrote "the President's budget mesthat government aid to youth be cut by sage might have been submitted by a Garner, Taft or a Vandenberg. . . ." Because there's not a particle of difference between your budget and the program of the reactionary Republicans in the Senate.

Relief, aid to youth, help for the farmers-

vou, Mr. President, cut to the bone (and then you keep cutting). But you have plenty of money for death and destruction, for poison gas and bullets.

We, the youth of America, have been walking the streets for years now in search of a job. Your New Deal was going to solve our problems, you told us. But it hasn't. All we're getting from you is a smile.

What is going to happen to those boys who'll have to quit school because they won't get anymore NYA aid? What is going to happen to those boys and girls who won't even get the miserable pittance of WPA aid anymore? What is going to happen to those boys who are being kicked out of CCC camps?

You have no answer-except war, except the army. You are dooming a whole generation to misery, to demoralization, to hopelessness, and, tomorrow, to death in the trenches.

How glibly you talk about democracy . . . in Finland. Why don't you take some of the mon-(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)

# LABOR LEADERS

A number of outstanding American labor leaders have come to the defense of the recently convicted WPA defendants of Minneapolis. The WPA trials in Minneapolis came as a result of the militant strike of WPA workers which fought against government layoffs. Since Minneapolis witnessed the most militant of such strikes, the government decided to clamp down on these workers with a special discussed picture of the decade, trial. This trial convicted the strikers of "conspiracy."

On this broad and vague charge, Oscar and Margaret Schoenfeld, Georgia, was a lavish display of leaders of the Youth Section of the Confederate Grey. "General Robert Federal Workers Section of Local E. Lee rides again." In New York 544 (the organization of unem-City the picture is playing at 2 ployed youth which fights for better conditions for such youth) were among those convicted.

The labor leaders who denounced the trial as being discriminatory against the workers included Joseph Padway, attorney for the ponse from the Negro population of the CIO. Also, Joseph Schloss-AFL and James Carey, secretary of the country who saw in it a berg, secretary of the Amalgamatvicious attack on the Negro and a ed Clothing Workers; Ashley Totplea for the "good old days" of ten of the Brotherhood of Sleeping slavery. The Baltimore Afro-Amer- Car Porters; Daniel Hoan, mayor ican an dthe New York Amsterdam of Milwaukee; Dave Reed, district News were among the leading president of the Progressive Miners of America; J. R. Butler, pres-Negro papers to attack the picture ident of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

1940 is an election year so both Democrats and Republicans are coming across with the goods for Big Business. In order to run an election you need a slush fund of 8 to 10 million dollars and the only people who have that much money are the Wall Street Big Shots. Roosevelt started the ball rolling right on the nose of New Year

Analysis Shows FDR's

Budget a Step to War

by calling for "National Unity." "Let's all be friends," says smiling FDR. Let labor join hands with capital. Let's prepare for war without any disturbance and disagreement. Let's all just be good Americans.

The next day, Jan. 4, Roosevelt followed up his love-fest message with a call for war. That is the only way to understand his Budget message.

Roosevelt called for 2 and a quarter billion dollars for armaments and if all the hidden items in the budget, those that are put under all sorts of phoney titles, but really go to the war machineif all these items were counted, the total amount going for war preparations would be closer to 5 billion dollars. 80 cents out of every dollar taken in by the US government goes for war.

Unemployed Suffer

Where is this money coming from? This money for war preparations comes out of the hides of the unemployed. For every penny added to the war budget there is at least one cent cut from relief. Roosevelt admits "we have not yet found a way to employ the surplus of our labor," which in simple language means that there are still 10 to 12 million unemployed. But that doesn't stop him from cutting WPA and NYA. If Roosevelt's cut

(Continued on Page 3)

MacKenzie, leading marine contractors, have begun a drive contributions to the relief (Continued on Page 2)

Labor Fakers to Aid Finn Bosses

# By ERNEST ERBER

An exceedingly instructive news item appeared in the New York World Telegram of January 16 on the work of the Hoover Finnish Relief Fund The same story reports the following interesting

1. "A contribution of \$1,000 by Father Charles E. Coughli 1, in the name of the League of Little Flower, has been received, the relief headquarters announced. Mr. Hoover sent him a telegram of thanks."

2 "Under the chairmanship of John M. MacKenzie of Andersen for \$50,000 for the fund from

# What is the Truth on Opens Showing of Opens Showing of 'Gone with the Wind' Anti-Negro Film With a fanfare of publicity, blazing spotlights, top-hatted celebri-

By MARTIN EDEN

Neither damnation nor eulogy. Neither awed praise nor hysterical condemnation. "Gone With the Wind" simply isn't worth judgment in extremes.

It has a theme of tremendous significance—the Civil War and Reconstruction Days. It's the story of an amazing woman, the beautiful and brutal Scarlett O'Hara. It's four hours of film with every hammy movie formula thrown in-the huge battles, gun play, a rugged hero, a triangle, women without men and vice versa, figures etched against the sky, a city ablaze-all the stock tricks and

In general, my reaction to the picture was "What's all the shooting for?" Only its length is out of the ordinary. It warrants no such hullabaloo as has greeted it. But one aspect of the picture deserves sharp and blunt criticsm The picture implies that the Old South was a land of genteel culture and gallant society where even the slaves enjoyed their lot. And after the Civil War the movie depicts the liberated slaves as swaggering barbarians who ran riot in their new freedom.

These ideas must be rejected as false and malicious. The Negroes, who kept the aristocracy alive with their enforced labor and suffering, hated slavery, rebelled against it many times before the war and fought for their freedom during the war. When they got

(Continued on Page 4)

# WAR--WHAT FOR?

# Straight lalks to American Youth

The boss politicians like to refer to war as being some kind of natural catastrophe, like an earthquake, about which they, nor anyone else, can do anything and which harms all sections of the population equally.

In one sense it is true to say that the entire nation loses by war. But this is only in the sense that the loss of human lives and wealth impoverishes the nation and makes more difficult the task of the working people in building a system of plenty when a workers' government

However, in the immediate sense of war-time gains, there is a definite section of the population who really win the war. These are the bankers and manufacturers who pile up huge war-time profits.

### What the Record Shows

Let us look at the record of these people in the last war in which America participated.

The assets of the Dupont Company (manufacturers of gun powder, dynamite, and other explosives), in the year of 1913 were \$74,817, 826. In 1918, at the end of the war, they were up to \$308,846,297.

Th	eir gros	ss revenues	for the	period of	the war were as	follows:
	1914				\$ 25,179,948	
					131,142,015	
	1916				318,845,685	
	1917				269,842,465	

Their war-time dividends equalled 458 per cent of the par value of the original stock.

The Dupont family, as is generally known, "owns" the state of Delaware and runs it like a feudal lord of the Middle Ages ran his

Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company made \$450,000,000 in 1918

# House of Morgan Makes Out Well

And J. P. Morgan made out very well too. The United States Steel Corporation, in which the Morgan clique holds the controlling interest, paid out dividends on stock for the war years of 1915 to 1918 inclusive to the tune of \$355,000,560. Starting with assets of a billion and three quarters in 1914, they ended up with assets of over two and a half billion dollars in 1918.

In addition to U.S. Steel, Morgan made millions on his other enterprises which include industrial giants like American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T), Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and American and Foreign Power Company.

In Ferdinand Lundberg's book on "America's Sixty Families' (from which figures here given on war profits are taken) he says the following of Morgan's profits

"The war time gains of J. P. Morgan and Company and its associated families were, indeed, so vast as to defy proper descrip-

The figures given by Lundberg include many other big industrial combines and show tremendous war-time profits for all of them. Among others they include Anaconda Copper, Republic Iron and Steel, American Sugar Refining, Central Leather, General Chemical, International Nickel, and International Harvester.

# Government Grows Poorer

Unlike the rich who coined billions out of the blood of the poor, the government of the United States did not get richer as a result in this it succeeds temporarily by of the war. The national debt in 1914 was \$9.88 per person. In 1918 it shot way up to \$228 per person. The national debt consists chiefly of government bonds and other securities held by the bankers. The latter collect their interest on this stupendous sum, year in and year out. The government, of course, gets its revenue through direct or indirect taxes upon the mass of the people.

No wonder Morgan, Rockefeller, Dupont, and the others are so patriotic and love their country so much-particularly in time of war Finland. when they rake in the super-profits. But even their patriotism is only skin deep when they can stick their swinish snouts into the government trough. No matter how many American flags this gang of thieves uses to wrap itself in, their real character still shows through. When the Tea Pot Dome scandal was exposed in the early 1920's, it was revealed that even the idea of "national defense", before which the masses are to bow as a Mohammedan before his holy Koran, means Guard intervention against the Sonothing to this pack of wolves if it stands in the way of profits.

# Plunder the Oil Reserves

A huge western oil reserve had been set aside by the government as a reserve for the Navy in time of war. A combine of Wall Street their associations, such as the maoil kings, consisting of Sinclair, Doheny, and Standard Oil, got the rine transport bosses association corrupt, oil-soaked Harding cabinet to turn the Naval Reserves over to them to plunder at their leisure.

In their patriotism, as in all else, the accent is always on the "pay" By stealing oil from the Navy, which exists for the sole purpose of defending their own foreign investments, the Sixty Ruling Families show that they are capable of stealing from their own grandmothers, let alone from the mass of the people.

# Negro Youth

Five Negro youth were arrested

# Tries to Die

Albert Conway, an unemployed in Alexandria, Virginia, for using youth living in Chicago, was tired the public library. Their great of living. No job to be had, nothcrime was that they dared enter ing. Three times he tried to jump public building to get some off a bridge. Each time he was lowledge. Maybe it's just a co-stopped by a bridge tender. But incidence, but Alexandria is just he got desperate and tried again. 5 miles away from the nation's This time the bridge tender becapital, Washington, D. C., where came annoyed, called a cop and the we pay Representatives and Sen-ators to make speeches on liberty derly conduct. He might be able to eat if he gets a jail sentence....

# Hoover, Finland, Stalin, and the Youth

# FINNISH WAR

### By HARRY FRANKEL

It is now well over a month since Stalin began his Finnish adventure. Here, as in all things, he has demonstrated that Stalinism is the essence of stupid criminality. The beginnings of the Second World War have brought with them in Finland the irrefutable proof of the contention of the Fourth International that proletarian internationalists alone can defend the Soviet Union.

The Stalinist bureaucracy, product of the worldwide wave of reaction and the consequent decay of the worker state, leads a life of fearfulness and apprehension. Frightened by its image in the mirror of capitalist reaction in Germany, frightened by the impending world conflagration, it seeks to surround the Soviet Union with a bureaucratic shell in defense against the imperialists, similar to the shell with which it has surrounded the Kremlin in defense against the toilers. The same methods which we have seen applied so often inside the Soviet Union are now brought to bear in the struggle against imperialism.

### We Shed No Tears

The great difference, it is true, lies in the fact that these methods are now applied in a war with bosses and not with Russian or Spanish workers. We can shed no tears for the hangmen's government of Finland. But it is precisely the callous disregard for the Socialist sentiments of a world of workers that is the best possible guarantee of the victory of the Finnish Mannerheims and American Hoovers and Roosevelts over the Soviets.

To find "safe" harbor for itself during the coming storms the bureaucracy has concentrated, in its foreign policy, on the accomplishment of three main tasks. It has sought to neutralize Japan. The outline of the results in this field is not yet altogether clear, but it is certain that the Chinese national struggle hangs in the balance. It tries to turn Hitler westward, and promising him that it will not become the eastern jaw in the Ango-French pincers on Germany. And it seeks to establish a defensive domination in the Baltic area. The operations involved in the fulfillment of this last task are at present bogged down somewhere in

the development of the second World War, the second White the beginning as we had anticiviets. Roosevelt asks for larger and larger sums of money to be sent to Finland. The American bosses intervene directly through and others. Stocks and bonds fall all over the world with every Red victories in the war provoke a rise value of these bonds depends upon in Russia, and fell to a minute the Bolsheviks stabilized workers rule in Russia.

# Imperialist Attack

with the actual military aid which the imperialists send in increasing volume to the Finnish bosses and Soviet Union.

Throw out the Stalinist bureaucracy!

Defend the Soviet Union!



# Hoover Talks for Youth **But Collects for Finns**

### By IRVING HOWE

The air of the American political scene has lately been rent, with cries: "Support poor little Finland. Support their struggle for demcoracy." The hypocrisy of this maneuver is obvious. Those who are union cannot but experience a feelraising this cry are, for the most part, the most reactionary section ing of utter disgust with the conof American political life. The leader of this campaign is none other than the old friend of America's unemployed—Herbert Hoover.

While we revolutionary socialists do not for one minute condone the invasion of Stalin, we do say that to call now for support to Fin- have betrayed and sold-out the land is reactionary because (1) It means support to a capitalist gov- working class through trickery and ernment which is fighting as a reactionary stooge of British imperialism in a war against the Soviet Union, and (2) It means making ferent labor struggles. But it is more possible the involvement of America in the war . . . just as we difficult to find an instance in were involved in the last war on the pretext that we were fighting which they so blatantly flaunted for poor, little, democratic Belgium.

We say that there's plenty of things to be fought for right here in these United States: jobs, security, peace, etc.

### POOR, LITTLE FINLAND

Now along comes Herbert Hoover, that outstanding progressive, and raves about aid to Finland. And one of his co-ravers is Governor Bricker of Ohio where people were starving lately because relief was

But surprise of surprises—at the same time that Hoover yells for dough for his friend Mannerheim, he makes speeches in America, at the YMCA, about how bad off American youth is, how "youth needs jobs and government help", etc.

Hasn't it ever occurred to Mr. Hoover that the money which he is collecting for the Finnish bankers could be used to help American youth? Instead of sinking dough into the pot of General Mannerheim couldn't it be used to give jobs to high school graduates, to unemployed young workers?

But these plutocrats never think of such things, or if they do they keep dammed quiet about it. The Hoovers—and his friends in Congress who want to aid Finland while acceptnig the proposed cut in youth aid in FDR's budget-are more interested in protecting their BROTHER RATS of Finland than in helping American youth.

If American youth will wait for the Hoovers to help them, then they're sunk. What's the old saying—God helps those who help them-

And don't forget-keep your eye on the ball. Don't let these phonies kid you into falling for this poor Finland stuff. Answer them: We want jobs, not war loans; we want jobs, not guns!



struggle to complete the quotas debts we set for ourselves in the Challenge drive, the staff has decided for Challenge subscriptions as well this issue with a February 1st incontinue to take advantage of the debts. LLL meetings which would tains a single and not a double situation created by the invasion have climaxed the drive, in most of Finland to begin, in line with cases are being held toward the end of the month rather than at pated. This factor, in addition to the slowness with which units have responded compels us to postpone the completion of a very serious task.

With this issue we will have maintained the Challenge as a twice-monthly for seven months. We expanded originally on the ba-Army victory. Reports of Finnish sis of a fund of five hundred dollars. The purpose of this fund was in, of all things, the bonds of the to pay the deficit which occurs updeposed Czarist government! The on the publication of each issue. During the past six months, howthe chance of a Czarist restoration ever, that fund has been used for absorbing the constantly growing fraction of their former value after debts of the units and divisions. Today that debt has reached a total of four hundred dollars. Its complete liquidation would not only ensure the publication of the Take these signs in conjunction paper for several months, but would provide us with a substantial part of our original reserve fund. That is what we have paked you have the beginning of the full the units to accomplish by Janublown imperialist attack on the ary 15th. A good start was made during the first three weeks after the announcement. Since then the

response has fallen considerably. We must make another desperate plea to our members and our

After a month and a half of supporters. Help us liquidate these

difficulties, among them a fire in ficialdom. The many bloody strugto extend until Feb. 15 the contest the office, we are forced to publish gles which the sailors have been The imperialists, meanwhile, as the campaign to clean up back stead of a Jan. 20th dating. It connumber so that no subscriber will any move supported by the ship lose an issue. Every one of our owners is not in the interest of the readers will receive twelve or working people, e ither in America twenty-four papers depending up- or in Finland. If the leaders of the on the length of his subscription. sailors' unions cooperate with the From now on the paper will be ship owners in support of the dated the 1st and the 15th of each butcher Mannerheim, the sailors month; literature agents will have cannot but expect them to cothe paper several days in advance operate with the ship owners in of the date so that sales can be efficiently organized.

# Labor Fakers to Aid Finn Bosses

(Continued from Page 1) ship owners and shipping companies."

3. "Herbert Hoover, as national chairman of the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., Mayor LaGuardia and William Green and Matthew Woll, the latter two representing the American Federation of Labor, today joined with 50 labor leaders in launching a nationwide drive among labor unions

### AFL Treachery

Every honest member of a trade duct of the AFL leaders as reported above. Every militant trade unionist knows that Green and Woll deceit in a thousand and one diftheir disregard for elementary working class decency.

What does the support of Hoover's Committee by the trade union leaders really mean? It means the following:

- 1. They unite with a labor-hating fascist like Coughlin, who recently refused to disassociate himself from the arrested members of the "Christian Front" who plotted an anti-semitic pogrom.
- 2. They unite with the unionbusting, scab-herding shipowners association which has cost the lives of many sailors and longshoremen by bloody assaults upon peaceful pickets.
- 3. They support Hoover whose hands are red with the blood of the bonus marchers, jobless demonstrators and strikers.

# Money for Butcher

4. They send money for the armies of the bloody butcher while not raising a finger to fight for a decent relief program for the jobless millions in America.

The progressive members of the AFL and the CIO must wage a relentless and uncompromising struggle to drive out of office those labor leaders who make themselves allies of the fascist Coughlin and tools of Wall Street's spokesman, Hoover, by contributing the money of working people to Mannerheim, the butcher of the Finnish working class.

It is necessary for the members of the sailors' unions, above all, to wage a struggle against the re-Due to a number of technical actionary designs of the AFL ofship owners have taught them that other matters which concern the interests of the men who go to sea.

# CHALLENGE OF YOUTH

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# **PACIFISTS** SHOW FUTILITY IN MID-WEST CONFERENCE

By JOHN ROGERS

The recent midwest peace conference held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by the Intercollegiate Peace Conference was of some importance as a symptom of the situation existing among pacifist students in America.

As is usual among such milk and water gatherings, no definite actions were taken on anything. The atmosphere was one of utter con-

The Conference had delegates from Milwaukee Downer College, Chicago, Beloit, Carlton, Minnesota, Northwestern, Wisconsin, Milwaukee State Teachers. It was divided into 4 sessions. The first session discussed the U.S. and Europe in relation to the present crisis; the second, Canada and the U.S.; the third, Latin-American relations; and the fourth the Far

Your reporter, who was a delegate, came in at the end of the first session. Utter anarchy prevailed. I took the floor to try to present the Socialist point of view on the relation of students to the war. I got a round of applause . . but nothing was done.

### Labor Action

The discussion of Canadian relations brought out the point of view that Canada was really an appendage to the US and that this country should take Canada over. A Canadian pointed out that the Canadian people didn't want to become subservient to the US. I proposed trade - union action between Canadian and US labor to stop Canadian participation in the war. Again there was support, but since no vote could be taken . nothing was done.

In our discussion on Latin-American relations a Stalinist pointed out how the American government supports Fascism in South America, under the guise of a "Good Neighbor Policy." A superficially good speech! Only he failed to point out that before Moscow had switched his signals, he had been praising Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy."

In the final session on China, my proposal to fight against imperialist domination also got considerable support . . . but nothing happened.

The students at this convention were very conscious of the danger that faces them. Especially in the Midwest there is a considerable anti-war sentiment. But at present There is no clarity; no program of action. It is our job to give it to

# **New York School Budget Inadequate**

of the New York City Board of Education last week as the legislature in Albany and the New York City Council met to consider the New York State and New York City budgets. Describing classrooms with two students occupying one seat, laboratories without missing and covers mutilated beyond repair, buildings with plaster falling and paint peeling, community and recreation centers closed, trade schools without materials. James Marshall, head of the Board of Education reiterated the demands of several million parents and students in New York City an army that way-even with all that the City Council and the State of their ballyhoo and propaganda. Legislature appropriate enough funds to run the New York City school system.

# Stalinist Youth Get Death-Grip On American Student Union; Lash Out

# NEGRO AND WHITE YOUTH of The American Student Union can soon be expected. **ORGANIZE JOINTLY**

sey) about half of whom are young Negroes. Before the plant was organized we Negroes always got the dirty end of it from the management. The dirtiest and lowest paid jobs were reserved for us. When it came to layoffs we were the first to go. In order for one of us to get a job that required any skill and which paid more we per in the plant is an old would have to be five times better than any white that might be in line for the job. And when the slack season came it was the polwere as good at their jobs or bet- so. ter than any of the whites working in the same department and doing the same kind of work.

There was never very much friction to speak of between the whites and blacks who worked side by side in all departments. The management, though, followed a regular policy of discrimination. No Negro, no matter how skilled or how long he was in the plant, could ever hope to become a foreman. No white man who was not known to be bitterly prejudiced against us was even made a foreman. If a foreman's job came open and they couldn't find a white man in the plant who fitted the bill they'd bring one in from outside. It didn't matter at all if he knew what the work was all about. As long as he hated the colored he would do. As an example take the foreman in my department. He's a young punk they imported into the plant. He's been head of the department for over six months and still doesn't know his way around. We have to do all his work for him—but God how he hates us

Played Favorites

The management always count- to the old system!

I've been working for a year in ed on the fact that they played my plant (a steel foundry in Jer- favorites with the whites to stop unionization. It didn't help them much though. It's true the whites were treated a little better but conditions were so bad that even they were ready to organize. While the pay rates in the plant weren't much below what other plants were paying there was no security on the job, no seniority. The suwho'd fire a man as quick as he'd look at him and without reason. The whites had to bear this as well as we and in addition they army? icy to lay off the colored first even resented the dirty way in which if it meant letting men go who we were treated and would tell us

> When the SWOC started organizing in this area and got around to this plant the organization went Negroes joined a little more quickly but when the drive ended in a strike all but five or six men in the plant were members of the day of the strike. It was the longest strike in this area and lasted over two months.

When the strike was called the management just laughed at our demands because they thought that in a few days the strike would fold up and that we'd come crawling back for our jobs. But every man held out 100 percent and we

At the last lodge elections a majority of Negroes were put on the Executive Board. There is absolutely no friction between the men and we all get along fine. Our contract comes up for renewal soon and we have an idea that the management will give us a fight on it. But from the situation in the lodge we know that we'll win out and get an even better agreement. We aren't going back

# U. S. Government Preparing Plans for Youth War Draft

peared the information that the youth to war had been completed.

lion youth between the ages of 21 there is no organized expression of million out of the 3 million youth ideas in this group of students. aged 18 to 21 will be taken. And if that isn't enough they can chop off another 2 million of those between 30 and 35.

These plans were the result of years of study and planning. At first the army had proposed that the first draft between 18 and 21. the first draft be between 18 and 21. But the clever advisors said no. get into the New York Trade One of the most revealing reports was issued by the President would protest. Fathers would strike. There would be demonstrative. tions. The war would be unopopular. After all, 18 to 21 is pretty young and parents hate to see their children taken off to the

First to be called will be the 21 to 30 group. They are older and can equipment, textbooks with pages take care of themselves without their parents interfering.

> No one seriously proposed rais ing an army through voluntary enlistments only. The experience of the last war taught these gentlemen that they could never raise

millions of American youth. The year.

On the back pages of some of | Murder Day draft plans are a plot the newspapers there recently ap- to kill hundreds of thousands of young people. That is why this in-A-Day plans for drafting American formation was kept on the back pages of the newspapers. The plan The first draft will take 5 milof publicity.

marked the direct passage of control of the organization into the be the scene of a "fight" between hands of the Young Communist the Lash-Yard outfit and the Stal-League. After four days of gab- inists, each lining up on the side retary Joseph P. Lash and his present European War. The Stalinside-kick Molly Yard gracefully ists with their superior apparatus

Why Do Youth Join the Army?

Why do American youth join the

Not to fight in a war, nor because Joe Youth wants to get "glory." American youth joins the army in order to learn a trade.

But why, you may ask, should 49. a young person have to join the army in order to learn a trade? pretty quickly. On an average, the Very simple! Because there are no trade schools to speak of where the youth can learn a trade

In the old days not more than 25 to 30 per cent of the army enlodge and they joined on the first rollees took vocational training courses but now over 70 percent perialists on both sides. take such courses. The terrible thing about this is that not only will youth get vocational training egation was unrepresentative of but will also and primarily be trained in preparation to die for chapters are pro-Ally, we can exbosses' war.

Morgan's profits!

# BOUQUET OF ORCHIDS

A bouquet of orchids for Henry Armstrong, welterweight boxing champion!

Armstrong was offered a chance to fight at the famous Hollywood Bowl with Ceferino Garcia, a contender for his title. Among the groups having a promotional interest in the fight was the American Legion which in the past had refused to allow Negro fighters to appear in its Legion Stadium.

Armstrong tossed away a cool \$150,000 in refusing the bout. But, as a man of principle, he considered the rights of the Negro people more important than the money.

Latest reports from the West Coast inform us that the Legion is lifting its ban on Negro fighters. Again, a bouquet of orchids to Henry Armstrong for his stand against Negro discrimina-

The Fifth National Convention ship on the part of the "liberals"

The Convention was supposed to candidates for reelection, while tune of 350 delegates for Hitlertook over the reins, as new exec- berlain-Daladier and Roosevelt. utive secretary. This action symp- Lash however showed the effect of the form of an exodus of member- ing a Unity resolution together with the Stalinists on the War jobs. question which can be interpreted in any manner that the leadership of the ASU chooses. (That means the Stalinists who are now in control can adapt the line of the ASU to meet the needs of the Kremlin question of Finland whitewashed Stalin's invasion by a vote of 322-

The lack of democratic procedure always true for ASU conventions was most glaring in this instance. Discussion was confined to support of either war camp and the floor was refused to delegates presenting the view of the third camp of struggle against the im-

Chapters Rebel

In view of the fact that the delthe national ASU, many of whose pect a flood of repudiations of the American youth must demand national line of the ASU in the FDR BUDGETthe right to learn a trade without form of splits and resignations. having to be prepared to die for This has already taken place in New York University and is symptomatic of the trend.

> At the same time, the possibility taking shape in the form of a resolution introduced in the Seward York which condemns both camps n the imperialist war and cails upon the students to refuse to support the imperialists of America in any war.

Members of the YPSL were exremely active throughout the conset the only clear path for struggle against the war. On the concluding day of the convention they

"Students: Now is the degeneracy and the bankruptcy of the ASU unmistakeably clear. Get off task is to seek genuine leadership in the fight against war. That leadership can be found only in the ranks of the revolutionary youththe YPSL-Fourth International!

# **Mass Job Hunt Proves Failure**

Even a desperate and dramatic publicity stunt by 65 New York youth, which was moreover sanctioned by the city government, couldn't land a job for them. The best reception they could get was We'll keep you in mind."

The East Side Job Council, a gab-gab, the former executive sec- of one of the war-camps in the group of unemployed youth who gotten together in New York's Lower East Side to search handed in their declinations as swamped the convention to the for jobs cooperatively, sponsored this Mass Job Hunt, Starting with Bert Witt, floorwhip for the YCL, Stalin as opposed to 50 for Cham- appropriate publicity, and receiving the official blessing of Borough tomizes the complete Stalinization years of capitulation before the these 65 members of the Council of the ASU and repercussions in Stalinists in the ASU by formulat- set out on a test search to see if this publicity would help them get

> But it was no go. Not one of them got a job.

Of the 62 firms visited, 38 shunted the youth away with the lame excuse: "We'll keep you in mind." This obvious method of getting rid gang.) A separate vote on the of jobhunters without too much bother was interpreted by the papers as meaning that things weren't so bad. But the young people who didn't get the jobs must have known better.

> Of the other firms, 14 were "doubtful" and 10 were "not inter-

> Is any better proof needed that American youth aren't lazy, that they really can't find jobs, that all the speeches of all the Borough Presidents won't help a bit, and that American youth have got to go out and fight for and demand the right to earn a living?

(Continued from Page 1) goes into effect one out of every three WPA workers will be fired in July. Today there are about two of a real anti-war stand on the million on WPA. Roosevelt's budgpart of members of the ASU is et provides for only 1,350,000 NYA and CCC are cut 75 million dollars. CAA, for aviation training has had Park Chapter of the ASU in New by July. Today there are about two It is notable, however, that the its budget tremendously increased. That shows what Roosevelt's real purpose is. During the last year one and a half million WPA workers have been permanently fired. This was done even though there has not been a very great incease vention. Their ringing manifestos in employment and Wall Street predicts a poor year in 1940.

What are the unemployed expected to do? There are no jobs and no relief. Roosevelt is preparing an answer. He is preparing to give us all jobs wearing uniforms and aiming rifles. That is why he raises the war budget and cuts rethe Kremlin merry-go-round! Your lief. He is preparing to make us all \$30 a month men, fighting for Wall Street.

Guns Or Jobs?

Guns instead of jobs is Roosevelt's program. Just as Hitler said to the German people, before he entered the war, that they must tighten their belts because from now on they would get "guns instead of butter."

By throwing 650,000 men off WPA and many thousands off NYA, Roosevelt is trying to kill two birds with one stone. First, he is getting an extra half a billion for the army and navy. Secondly, he figures that if the unemployed are left to starve they will be glad to support a war or anything else that will give them "jobs."

Roosevelt especially banks on the unemployed youth to support such a war.

That is why the best way to fight the war is to demand jobs for the unemployed. Demand that every penny scheduled for the army and navy goes for jobs and homes. Youth must demand jobs instead of guns, the right to work instead of death on the battlefield.

MILWAUKEE - Another large group of mothers have organized to keep their sons out of war.

# tion! STATE BUDGET ECONOMY DEPRIVES N. Y. TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF MATERIALS

By E. VICTOR

Young workers who managed to ery 3 youth of this age there would Schools after an ordeal of postponed registrations, cross-examinations have discovered by this time that their difficulties have by no means been overcome. To this date they have either found it impossible to learn any of the practical aspects of their trade or have had to pay for materials in order to be able to do so.

A startling example is one class Technical Evening High. The students were told at their second for their own metal. meeting that they would have to work with a scarcity of materials. The Board of Education had not which remained from last year would have to be divided among several evening classes and more M Day means Murder Day for day classes for a period of one

No Materials

sessions were taken up with instructions in pattern-making, one of the more theoretical aspects of the work. This was tolerable for the first few weeks, but after students had been working on paper for five and six weeks without handling a single sheet of metal or a solitary tool, mutterings of rebellion arose. The instructor pacified his class by telling them that they would apply one of their patterns to metal soon. He finally admitted in sheet metal work in Brooklyn that in order to be able to use the machinery they would have to pay

Similar scenes have occurred in other evening trade schools in the city. Young workers in the fur appropriated enough money for a shops of Needle Trades High new supply of sheet metal. That School have had to pay for materials. In some courses even tools were purchased at the expense of students.

> Most of the young workers have accepted the stuation mainly be- ever put on an apron in those cause they are prepared to go to shops.

any length in order to learn a The first month of two of the trade and escape from the mental agony of continued unemployment. Rebellion is usually restrained for practical reasons. Should the City or State governments fail to supply sufficient funds to continue the maintenance of these schools after February a really serious situation would arise.

> 'Available in New York are a number of magnificent trade schools stocked with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of expensive machinery, which in many cases is standing as idle as its counterpart in the thousands of idle factories in this country. The students of Central Needle Trades are soon to be moved into a new building replete with new shops, machinery, tools, etc. It is ironic that there are a hundred thousand youth who wuld give almost anything to be able to take courses there, but only one percent will

Mothers In Action

"Mothers Mobilizing Against War," the name of this group, claims that more than 100,000 mothers have signed its petition to keep Ameran youth out of war.

Take an example from your mothers, boys!



### (Continued from Page 1)

their freedom they used it to pass the first progressive legislation that the South had seen. They began to pass legislation in the State legislatures, despite the reactionary attempts of the Northern carpetbaggers to hamstring them and the sabotage of the defeated slave owners, which was strikingly bold the division of the land and giving the land to the landless Negroes and poor whites. Anyone who wants some real information on Reconstruction and the Negro should read Du Bois' book on Reconstruction. The fault was not in excesses committed by the ex-slaves but that the Negroes did not completely wrest power from the reactionary aristocracy.

As a story of people the picture achieves a measure of success. Vivian Leigh is a total success as Searlett. I found her acting quite intelligent and moving. Many individual scenes pack a genuine emotional punch. And the character she creates is a colorful, petulant, greedy, clever and entirely fascinating woman. Clark Gable, whom I have always found a rather boring smirk of a man, plays his part intelligently and is quite adequate. A host of other well known players, white and Negro, too numerous to mention, contribute capable and entertaining performances. Frankly, after two hours had gone by I found the love interest, the personal conflicts less and less interesting. But on the whole, I was interested in the characters.

### ROUTINE HANDLING

As for the direction and general staging, very little can be said on the credit side. Despite the fact that they directly faced a mammoth problem, I think something other than routine situations, flat unoriginality in presentation could have been done. The battle scenes, the destruction of Atlanta, the sufferings of the people, and the intended highspots of the picture are boring and unexciting.

To illustrate the methods of the picture: the scene where thousands of wounded soldiers come pouring back into Atlanta. To show the suffering and despair, the audience is treated to five minutes of close-ups of mangled bodies, bleeding wounds, tattered uniforms, and the like. The scene ends with a long range shot of what seems to be literally thousands of dying men. But the effect is a total failure. The picture attempts to bludgeon you into emotions. And being bludgeoned is an unpleasant sensation.

This is nothing new from Hollywood. The comic and docile Negro, which the picture tries to create, is their favorite caricature. And as in every other case, these slanders must be vigorously combatted in "Gone With the Wind."

# MASTERPIECE

For New Yorkers only (unfortunately!)-If you want to see a truly excellent picture, one of the great masterpieces of the screen, go to see "Harvest." This French picture is a devastating refutation of the Hollywood hokum. Simple, unaffected, the picture rises to a splendid emotional peak in its depiction of the struggle of a lonely peasant and his wife to wrest a living from the soil. Despite certain reactionary implications of "back to the soil" as a solution for our problems, the picture as a whole is a thrilling work of art, etched in the deepest tones of human problems and emotions.

# I Am Interested

Please send me more information on the aims and activities of the

Y. P. S. L. 116 University Place New York City

BOLSHEVIK YOUTH AT BERNE CONFERENCE:

# The Story of the Socialist Youth Movement During the Last War

Berne Youth Conference was "The once more in the conference. War and the Attitude of the Social Russian delegation.

the Socialist youth movement.

For the first time in the history to be used." of the proletarian youth movement, representatives of the socialist youth came to an independent derecorded their views in documents.

### Attack the War

The resolution of the Berne conference characterized the war as Russian delegates were likewise Lenin. one of imperialist banditry and the result of capitalist politics and sharply attacked the lie of "defense of the fatherland." It condemned the policy of class collaboration and civil peace. The Berne conference demanded of the workingclass parties of all countries the execution of international resolutions that had pledged them to class struggle actions to bring an buster No. 1, have come another haven't got the old door bell ringend to the war. The conference de- string of political pearls—this time ing spirit, he said. They want manded of the socialist youth or- on the youth question. ganizations an uncompromising struggle against war and militar- he knew he had gotten from Mcism as the inevitable fruits of ca- Guffy's Third Term Reader . . pitalist society.

had left the conference on the pre- difference either way. vious day in protest against the al-Russian comrades and arranged American youth." for an allotment of two votes for

The Russian comrades accepted defeated by a 13 to 3 vote. The main question before the this arrangement and participated

With the return of the Russian Democratic Parties and youth or- delegation, a new political discus-

### Lenin's Resolution

The resolution adopted by the conference majority had many inadequacies and weaknesses. It was, ganizations." The main report on sion broke out between the confer- however, characteristic of Lenin's this question was given by Robert ence majority and the Russian par- keen political insight and wise tac-Grimm, in the absence of the ticipants. The Russian comrades tics that he refused to withdraw scheduled reporter, Wienkop. A had worked out their own resolu- the delegates of the Russian cenresolution was presented on the tion on "War and the Tasks of the tral committee from the conference question by Grimm, together with Socialist Youth Organizations" and despite the rejection of the Rusthe Bureau and in collaboration motivated it in several lengthy sian resolution and permitted them with Comrade Angelica Balaban- discourses. They sharply criticised to continue in attendance and work off. Following a lively discussion the resolution presented by the along with the majority. Lenin corthat concerned itself most of all Bureau and accepted by the Con- rectly declared that the adopted with the demand for total disarm- ference on the previous day and resolution, despite all errors and ament, the resolution was adopted demanded a decisive stand against shortcomings, still signified an esunanimously in the absence of the the revisionists. "It is not enough sentially progressive step in comto take a position against only this parison to previously adopted reso-The acceptance of this resolution war, but rather against all wars of lutions in the youth movement. The was an important achievement for an imperialist character. Our reso- further development of the youth lution must state what means are movement justified this view. A few months later, the leaders of the centrist group who held sway at After a long and exhaustive dis- the Berne Conference, Robert cussion, the resolution of the Rus- Grimm and Angelica Balabanoff, cision on a political question and sian delegates was rejected by a were completely defeated in the vote of 13 to 3. Amendments to the Youth International and the whole resolution adopted on the previous International continued the spiritday which were presented by the ed struggle under the banner of

# ADVICE TO YOUTH—FROM HENRY FORD AND McGUFFY'S READER

From the lips of Henry Ford, problem! Very easy! What's wrong open-shop advocate and union- with youth today is that they

lotment of votes. Following an in- of the new year, Ford came out your silly theories about becoming tense discussion, the conference de- with what the N. Y. Times quaintly a farmer? cided to meet the wishes of the called "a message of hope for

considered an independent country, ing that there was even such a word "depression" once

things soft, "a desk where they can Henry Ford once boasted that all push a pencil."

We want to ask Henry Ford: . Don't you read any newspapers? and when one reads some of the Don't you know that American At the beginning of the third things he says one is inclined to be- youth is desperately in search for session, a communication was read lieve him. For he is either an awful any kind of work and can't find it? from the Russian comrades who har or he's awful dumb. Not much Don't you read the reports of rural youth and their inability to support On the occasion of the beginning themselves-reports which explode

But after all, we shouldn't be too harsh with Ford. All he knows is Ford disposed of the problem of what he reads in McGuffy's reader each country, with Poland being youth getting jobs by simply deny- and that doesn't even mention the



VERDUN (Vol. 8 of Men of Good Will) by Jules Romains. Published by Alfred Knopf.

Guest Review by H. Jensen

To publish Verdun today is as grim a mockery as putting up a monument to peace in the middle of No-Man's Land. This is the finest volume of Romains' gigantic and unfinished novel, Men of Good Will. It also stands by itself as perhaps the finest anti-war novel of our generation. That is why publishing it today in the beginning of the new World War is a mockery and almost indecent.

The first half of the book, the Prelude, opens in the beginning of 1915 when the peoples of Europe have given up their hope for a quick victory and a near peace, when the generals have given up hope for a decisive "knockout blow," when the French methods of offensives and attacks are proven ineffective, and the war has settled down into a war of "attrition," And what content Romains gives to this word "attrition"! In the trenches the enemy army must be regarded as a solid layer of millions of men to be patiently filed down, thinned out so that some attack may be made in the future. This means daily bloodletting, your own army filling up its own gaps, slogging through corpsy puddings, shoveing under 5000 men a day.

At home the war of attrition means the everdeepening corruption of war economy and society; everything, turned into cash to produce still more guns and still more shells. All economy, all life is swallowed up in the inferno of war.

The workers grow poor and the profiteers rich and the problem is reduced to: Which warring economy will soonest be exhausted. At General Headquarters, no one can clearly see the line of battle. The generals issue orders, read reports, take mild exercise. Perhaps an ambitious Brigadier sends a division over the top so that his name will be mentioned in the communique.

# BOMBARDMENT BEGINS

So the Prelude to the Battle, On Februry 21, 1916, the unbelievably severe bombardment of Verdun begins. Part II of the book, the Battle, deals with the period from the opening of the German attack to the time of the launching of the French counter-offensive. And it is here that Romains analyzes the effects of the war upon men in the trenches. His hero Jerphanion has previous to Verdun decided that "nothing can be worth this. Nothing equals any conceivable argument. This equals the kind of life we are leading (with a hideous death forever hanging over us.)" He explains to his friend Jallez, who wants to know how they can go on, that the men in the trenches do not leave the trenches simply because of social pressure, they would not know where to go or

Life in the trenches becomes bearable only through the development of an unreasoning fatalism and an animal preoccupation with the means of life. Life becomes and remains for some time bearable but only at the expense of the sensitiveness which is the mark of civilized

# PROFOUNDLY PESSIMISTIC

At this point in Men of Good Will, Jerphanion is profoundly pessimistic; he thinks that the spirit of rebellion is dead in man; he thinks constantly of possibility of continuance of the war and an escape with some of his men to live in a forest as an armed band against the world. This is his only "security" against the corruption of the world. With this as his only conception of a way out, he goes into the battles as the volume ends. For us, with the vantage of our place in history, we know of the real "out," that taken by the Russian workers in their revolution. Romains said that the only war worth fighting is the one to end war and his book makes it increasingly clear that unless this war is ended the way the Russian workers ended theirs the world will be cast into the terrible animal barbarism in which there will be no hope.

# Open Letter to F.D.R.-

# (Continued from Page 1)

ey the government is slating for Mannerheim, the butcher of thousands of Finnish working people, and use it to teach those thousands of Southern kids who've never gone to school, how to read?

But you represent America's 60 Ruling Families, the stock coupon-clippers. And you are preparing to enter the war on the side of your English and French imperialist partners. You can't bother about such unimportant things as a future for American youth.

more and more for war; less and less for for high school students per month. life. We say: it's time to call a halt.

American youth has the right to expect some to the people. things more than the constant, deadening tramp from employment agency to employment agen- mands of American youth. cy. American youth has the right to expect something else than the doom of a "locked out generation"-forced to hang around the street

corners without any money or security or job; hopeless and demoralized.

# WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO LIVE!

We demand that the money now used for war be appropriated to help American youth and the unemployed.

We demand that all cuts in relief appropriations be restored!

We demand that Youth WPA projects be instituted instead of NYA handouts; that NYA The tendency of your policy has been clear be increased to \$40 for college students and \$20

A government which can't give its people American youth has the right to expect some- the right to live decently isn't worth a tinkers thing else than poppies in Flanders Fields. dam. Your government has not given this right

Mr. President, these are the legitimate de-

This is our program. What is your answer? Young Peoples Socialist League (4th International)