'Lend-Lease' Bill Pushes U.S. Further Into Imperialist Blood Bath

All the political tricks and methods of propaganda, all the strength and influence of the Roosevelt regime are being used to "convince" the American people to support the "lend-lease" bill (H.R. 1776) for greater aid to Britain.

The administration openly admits that this is "passive belligerency"; it is "passive" only in the sense that no troops are being sent yet but from the amount of actual military steps and military aid that has already been taken and will be increased a hundred-fold by the "lend-lease" bill — military activity which is far greater than any which America took even 8 months after the declaration of war in 1917 — it is really ACTIVE belligerency.

For American Imperialism is already in the war as an active belligerent; the new appeal for making the U. S. the "arsenal of Britain" is designed to intensify and increase America's participation and activity in the war — but in such a way that the civilian can still hypocritically talk of "peace".

America IS in the war with every bit as formal and national declaration as the use of its own troops. And the "lend-lease" bill which now increases America's participation, will tomorrow FORCE the formal declaration of war, and the use of American troops. This will occur because the Axis powers will inevitably find it necessary — now that the die is cast for America's role by the United States' entry into the war — to take military steps to prevent the U. S. from aiding the imperialists.

Moreover, having bumbled a large section of the American people into support of "lend-lease" measures, the Administration hopes to have an easy time in the show of necessity of troops and a formal war declaration when that time of Axis military opposition increases. War is inevitable even though a formal war declaration may not result from the "lend-lease" bill; for the present, American Imperialism would like to postpone it as long as possible.

America, in effect, is playing the same role that Britain used to play in 1939 but just as Britain was ready to fight for "democracy" to the last Frenchman, so today America is ready to fight for the same kind of fake democracy to the last Briton. Just as Britain used France as her imperial buffer to control Europe, so today Wall Street wants to use London as her buffer against German Imperialism and the Axis.

And for the same reason: namely, that Britain shall be subordinated to a world-powerful Uncle Sam, once British man-power and the resources of the Empire, augmented by the "aid" of America, is able to defeat the Axis, so the American Imperialists hope.

U.S. IS MAIN POWER FIGHTING TO CONTINUE THE WAR

Behind the news from Europe is the news of American imperialist POLITICAL maneuvers (not military) to divert the advanced beyond the economic stage) for the continuation, intensification, and deepening of the bloodbath in Europe, and an attempt to avoid direct military intervention as long as possible.

The pacifists and social-patriots may baffle endlessly about "America's mission of peace", "Uncle Sam's struggle against the Dictators", but the unvarnished fact is that, more than any other factor in all the world, it is AMERICA'S need to dominate completely the world market, AMERICA'S Imperialist aims to reorganize the world, AMERICA'S desire for profit and booty, that shape the course of the war, that force its continuation, that create famine, epidemic, misery and death in Europe.

A MORE SUBTLE POLICY

America's participation in the war is more subtle than that of the other five imperialist powers, but it is more deadly — and what is more important — MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

The fall of Batavia and Tientsin, and the Greek successes in Albania are important but are not the outstanding events of the last month in the war. The important news is the SECRET diplomacy of the United States behind the scenes:

1. — The attempt through a promised 100 million dollar loan and food to keep Spain out of the war and to make it break with the Axis.

2. — The pressure and the various promises and concessions of Uncle Sam to Mussolini, in order to force a separate peace with Britain.

3. — The continuing attempts of Washington to break Russia away from the Axis through increased trade, etc., and thereby to create a new battlefield in East Europe.

4. — The increasing aid, amounting to dozens of millions of dollars, to Chiang-Kai-Shek so that the Chinese Nationalists will continue to harass America's great rival for imperialist gains in Asia, Japan, and aid other Asiatic countries threatened by Japan.

The various behind the scene maneuvers to keep Russia's large Siberian army posted on the Manchurian front so that Japan shall not be free to divert any large part of her troops for the invasion of the Southern Asiatic Colonies, Dutch Indies, Singapore, etc.;

AGAINST FRENCH ARMISTICE

6. — Maneuvers with the Pétain regime in Vichy in order to smash the armistice of last July and to spread the war into the French colonies in South Africa.

7. — Pressure by Uncle Sam in the Balkans to check further Axis penetration.

8. — The continued pressure in both Americas to drive out all European capital and to take it over for Wall Street.

Behind every nook and cranny of world diplomacy stands an American diplomat trying to push America's WAR AIMS: to tie what is left of the Empire to the Dollar, to smash the rising German Empire as well as to check the imminent series of revolutions.

U. S. EVERYWHERE

Behind every nook and cranny of the world stands an American banker and industrialist waxing fat on the ruination of hundreds

(Continued on page 2)
Poll Tax and the New Deal

Pressured for repeal of the poll tax in the south, which deprives millions of their votes, is being carried, symbolically by the forces of “liberalism” and “New Dealism” in the South.

What is the meaning of this New Deal sign?

For at least eight long years the rotten southern system which deprives almost all the Negroes and most of the whites of their vote, has been tolerated by the New Deal. The remaining Scottsboro boys still sit in Alabama jails without presidential pardon, despite their crystal-clear frame-up. Negroes in the army are still segregated in Jim-Crow units, and Negroes in the navy are dishonorably discharged for protesting against being merely servants and slaves for the Admirals. Over half of the Negro population of the large American cities are unemployed. At least two million whites are robbing each country without home or income because of Mr. Roosevelt's farm policies.

A POLITICAL MOVE

The move to abolish the poll tax is being supported by the "socialist" or humanitarian measure. It is pure and simple politics.

Under the present system only 5% of the people of South Carolina vote. In Mississippi only 8%; Georgia only 10%; Alabama 18%. And so on. In Chatham County, Georgia, where Odel Waller was framed up for murder - only 200 out of 37,000 Negroes voted in the last election, and only 6,000 whites out of 36,000.

The poll tax, where every citizen must pay sums up to $5.00 in order to vote (sometimes much more, where the tax is cumulative) is a very effective measure by which the rich can dominate the Democratic party primaries and keep themselves in power. The wealth of the old South and jobs has been unable to completely win the battle against the "old South" section of its own party in the South precisely because of this factor. It has been unable to purge the party of these elements which obstruct the New Deal road.

Conscription of British Labor Today - Planned For U.S. Tomorrow

Conscription of labor in England is now a fact. "Socialist" (read: social traitor) minister Bevin introduced the details in parliament recently "democratically" England no one can quit his job when he wants to. He must take work anywhere, anytime, AT ANY PAY. England (and the U.S. at a slower tempo) "fights" fascism by adapting its methods.

Republic Steel — strike-breaking Tom Girdler's company — had the best year in its history last year. It made over 20 million dollars profit. TWICE AS MUCH AS THEY EVER HAD BEFORE THAT. The gains were made on the basis primarily of war orders.

These facts prove two things:

1. — Profits are made directly in proportion as wages are kept down.

2. — The Washington government is very partial to strike-breakers and subsidizes them liberally. Girdler, Ford, Westinghouse and many others.

U.S. FIGHTING TO CONTINUE THE WAR

(Continued from Page 1)

of millions of people. America's favorable balance of trade last year rose by over 600 million dollars, almost double the previous year; and American profits at home rose by more than 50%.

Behind and on top of all the battlefronts of Europe stand American banks, tanks, planes, machine guns and other implements of war. It is only a question of time and expediency when American workers will man these things.

American imperialism is in all spheres the MAIN driving force for the present bloodbath. Not only is secondary power in the fourth division of the Earth; but the main part, the outstanding, the most subtle and most influential imperialist power of all capitalist history.

NO SUPPORT TO ISOLATIONISTS

In the light of all this it is hypocritical to speak of supporting America's "aid to Britain"; or America's "peace" armaments. It is as fatal and harmful to the working class as the support of the Hitler war aims by Stinnes or the support of the British war aims by the British "socialists" (read: imperialists).

The struggle for peace begins here at home, IN OPPOSITION to the glaring war policy of American Imperialism. IN OPPOSITION to the blackouts on workers rights, IN OPPOSITION to the growing war dictatorship.

Peace is advanced every time an American worker uses militant action to fight the shipyard, the coalscut, the strike-breaking policies in war industries; every time an American worker demonstrates the fraudulent "America First" or "Keep America out of War" campaigns (or its "re alternative" Peace Mobilization Committee) — every time American workers demonstrate against these war plans. Peace — real peace — rests not on military venture by American capitalism to defeat an imperialist opponent (both Britain and Germany) but in every movement that undermines the strength of American Imperialism, that paves the way for establishment of non-capitalist Workers Government in the United States.
Fighting Worker
Central Organ of the
Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.
Affiliated to the Provisional
For a New Communist (4th) Internationale!
Published twice a month by
The Fighting Worker Publishing Company
1904 Division Street
III Subscriptions: FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR

F. B. I. and Democratic Rights

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun a campaign of terrorism in Chicago and all other cities. 4,000 people in Chicago alone are being picked off the street, taken to FBI offices and questioned. In addition plain clothes men and FBI agents are being sent to the offices of various organizations and to those who work for the revolutionary and labor movement in an obvious effort of intimidation.

The purpose of the campaign is very easy to understand. The government is preparing legislation of decrees to eliminate the 40 hour week and the eight hour day in the war industries. To facilitate passage of these measures it attempts first of all to scare off any sympathizers of the revolutionary movement. Officers keep the revolutionists so occupied that they will be unable (the FBI hopes) to give any leadership or guidance to the developing struggle of the working class against the reactionaries now being taken by the New Deal.

These tactics again reveals that the bourgeoisie police force does not hesitate to break even its own laws when it serves its purpose. The whole effect of the campaign is to keep meeting halls closed to the revolutionists, to abridge their freedom of speech and to harass their press to publish their views and their political views and other "fundamental" rights that are supposedly guaranteed by the constitution. They attempt to force the working class movement underground not only by direct, frontal attacks but by subterfuge and intimidation.

Needless to say no sincere revolutionist will get "cold feet" because of this campaign of fear; but that is just what the FBI is angling for at this stage. Instead of stopping our revolutionary activity it will merely increase it, bring to bear the power of the bourgeoisie, more and more loyalty and devotion from the comrades. Instead of driving people away from us it arouses their hostility. It gives us more ammunition. In fact it drives us further away from the working class it can serve no other purpose but to arouse new suspicions in the minds of the average worker about the New Deal's "democracy".

Strikes and the New Deal

Reports from Germany indicate that strikes are brewing there, that workers are not interested in war production, that factories mysteriously blow up, etc. It is certain that Mr. Roosevelt and Churchill like this very much — so long as it happens in Germany. But they don't like and are trying to stop, the British comrades and American workers from exercising their democratic rights to strike, to oppose the profit-butchery, to fight in their own class interests.

The wave of patriotism and war-hysteria which is sweeping the country is sufficient to put a damper on most of the workers that have been barracks formers. The latter are calling as loud as it can against "strikes against defense" but it so happens that actual strikes are on the decrease, that of 27 thousand of strikes in war-production plants, only 7 were called, and these squelched very shortly. But the pressure of the class for strikes is still increasing.

Congress is considering legislation to outlaw strikes; a step in the still of that those who strike will lose draft deferment; the labor fakers are talking about patriotism, and all helping to break strikes.

The case of Labor Fakers

Mr. Hillman of the defense board, representing "labor", is in there in order to stop labor from exercising its own rights and needs against the war plans of the bosses; Mr. Frey of the A. F. of L who promises to stop strikes that he is a "patriot" who would rather agree with the manufacturers association than with workers who have to defend their democratic rights, and their right to live by organization and strikes.

Not so long ago Roosevelt told the WPA workers that "you can't strike against the government"! It will not be before the labor leaders do a real job, that no strikes will be permitted; of course such a military-dictatorship policy will be in the interests of "democracy" (Just as it was in France under Daladier where strikes were called treason, when the 40 hour week was abolished, when labor was squelched by the same "democrats" who surrendered to Hitler.)

The RIGHT TO STRIKE was won after years of struggle AGAINST the bosses and their government. Nationalistic right must be fought and exercised. The profits of the big war-pro- production companies is enormous, and gettin even vaster; private profits are not wages. Labor has to live, not die in the imperialist war; labor has to fight the war aims of American Imperialism. Labor has to exercise the right to strike and win immediate demands of an economic nature; labor has to unite in a class struggle basis to throw off the labor lieutenants, the general strike to the defense and to fight the MAIN ENEMY, the American bosses.

Luxembourg

We pause during January to give tribute to three of the most outstanding fighters for freedom, the workers of the world have yet produced. Their political clarity, their unwavering personal courage, their ceaseless activity for the cause of the working class, strike terror into the hearts of the bosses of the world even today, just as surely as these same attributes inspire and enthuse the workers of the world.

Lenin's contribution to the emancipation of labor still stands in the Soviet Union, despite Stalin's distortions. This work, the October Revolution of which Lenin was the leading master, is the greatest achievement in all history to date. Liebknecht's years of fighting, his courage in alone voting against war credits in the German Parliament during the last war, will remain forever to give hope and light the road for workers everywhere.

We Will Finish Work

Rosa Luxembourg, the organizing genius of the Spartakusbund, who with Liebknecht led the struggle against war in Germany during the last war, is a beacon for the oppressed of the present slaughter.

The working class will not very quickly forget the gruesome slaughter of Liebknecht and Rosa by the traitorous social democrats. So long as Imperialism writes its profits with the blood and sweat of the workingmen and women, so long will the counterparts of Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxembourg continue to rise and point the way to freedom.

During the last war these three proletarian fighters made giant strides — even though the world revolution outside of Russia was setback — in undermining world capitalism and liberating the proletariat. During the present war the new forces that are striving to build the Fourth Communist International will finish this task.

International News

February, 1941

What Needs the European Imperialist Blood-Bath?

American Imperialism Prepared Entry Into the War

Rumanian Purges Express Class Ferment in Balkan

Civil war rages again in Rumania, as we go to press. War between the "Iron Guards", fascist organization, and the government. The bourgeois press reports the bare military details—so many men killed, so many prisoners taken, etc. — without even giving an inkling of the BASIC factors behind the battle.

The war rages in Rumania between two bourgeois cliques. The working class attitude is "a plague on both your houses". But the battle is pushed by the starvation rage in little Rumania, by the misery caused to countless thousands who lost their homes in the transfer of part of Transylvania, who are starving, by the transfer of huge Rumanian industries, moves in the background like a specter playing bourgeois politics and a bourgeois military game. The elements of the "Jone row"—caused a deeper ruff in the exploiters game.

Reflects Class Struggle

Who is involved in the battles; what are the issues; who are the murderers and who the murdered — that we do not know yet. But what we can be most positive about is that the situation in Rumania is another living proof THAT THIS BATTLE BETWEEN TWO SIDES OF THE BOURGEOIS CAMP IS ONLY THE INTRODUCTION. THE PRELUDE TO BATTLES BETWEEN THE EXPRESSION CLASSES THEMSELVES.

What is happening in Rumania will happen elsewhere in Europe very soon. It has already happened in a number of African colonies where M. De Gaulle was able to canalize mass discontent of the natives into a channel favorable to the British. In Rumania the crisis is much sharper. Next time, in the next country, the crisis will be still more acute.

The revolution in Europe and in Rumania is another living proof.

Note: Representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have visited the printer who has done the Philippine edition for us for three years. This small printer, having no connection with our League or any radical organization, has asked us to change a few expressions which under the circumstances he considers offensive to the authorities. We were forced to acquiesce to this. But this paper is still legal and it is carried in the mails.
The petition for a Writ of Error in the case of Odell Waller, condemned Pittsburgh County, Virginia, Negro sharecropper, was filed today with the Court of Appeals at Richmond.

The petition cited ten points of exception made by defense counsel during the trial of Waller last September 26th and 27th on a first degree murder indictment handed down by a Pittsylvania County grand jury September 6, 1940.

Waller’s trial in September, before Judge Turner Clement, at Chatham, Virginia, resulted in a “guilty” verdict and a sentence of death in the electric chair on December 27, 1940. The trial jury was composed of ten white farmers who, themselves, had sharecroppers on their land, forced them to do bad work and pay labor, and two white businessmen. The entire trial jury panel was drawn from the list of qualified voters and under Virginia law, voting qualification includes the payment of the poll tax.

It is alleged in the petition for a writ of error that this procedure automatically denies a defendant the right of trial by a jury of his peers and thus is in conflict with Article 14 of the Federal Constitution. Defense counsel points out that the tenant farmer, sharecropper and laborer in the South can find no way to pay the poll tax and hence does not vote or serve on either petit or grand juries. Defense Counsel further points out that while, in the last election, the national average of the black population which voted was about 45.5% only 12% of the population of Virginia was permitted to vote and account of the inability of the lower income groups to pay the poll tax.

Governor Price of Virginia has previously granted a stay of execution to Waller from the original date to March 14th of this year in order that an appeal from the conviction could be made.

Senior Defense Counsel for Waller, Attorney Thomas H. Stone of Richmond, Virginia and Attorney John F. Finerty of New York City, associate counsel in the case, will jointly present argument before the Virginia Court of Appeals for a writ of error on the case. Date for this argument will be set by the Court within fifteen days from the time of filing the petition.

The Richmond-Waller Defense Committee and its national affiliates as well as the Workers Defense League of New York, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have repeatedly pointed out that the United States and the United Nations are making a national issue of this case and have pledged to carry the matter to the Supreme Court of the United States unless Waller is freed of the charge of murder.

Edmund Campion, Chair.
Paula Subienne, See-y-Treas.

Are the Southern «Liberals» Planning A Sell-out for Odell Waller?

«Liberalism in the South ... Supposed Jim Crowism»

Recent developments in the defense of Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper, who was sentenced in South Carolina to death for the self-defense murder of his white landlord, are very disturbing to those who are sincerely aiding in the attempt to liberate this man from the clutches of “Southern Justice.”

Since the Joint action of the Workers Defense League and the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its national supporting committee, have, with a resolve for Waller there have been, renewed and intensified attempts on the part of Southern Liberalism, in collaboration with representatives of the Workers Defense League and the NAACP, to drive the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and the Revolutionary Workers League out of the case.

“LIBERALISM CURSES WALLER”

Part of this drive against those individuals and organizations which found and made the Waller case and alone publicly and legally defended Waller until after his first trial, is clearly shown in a recent editorial appearing in the Richmond (Virginia) Daily Times-Dispatch, most important “liberal” paper in the South.

This lead editorial, written by the new prophet of “Southern Liberalism”, Mr. Virginius Dabney, gives a certain amount of lip service, to the pledge condemnation of the poll tax system and the evil practices of the Virginia courts in selecting juries only from the list of those who have paid the poll tax. But most of the editorial is devoted to the vilification of Odell Waller who is a victim of the whole rotten situation in sharecropping, as well as the usual situation in the poll tax and Jim Crow institutions in the South.

This vilification of Waller can have no other meaning than one of attempting to secure a “prudently stared” new trial for Waller and of trying to get a new verdict of “guilty” against the man in a court where the defense cannot find legal grounds for appealing the new conviction. In other words, Mr. Dabney and his henchmen are telling the Southern landlords that Waller should be executed but it should be done in a thoroughly legal manner and not in the calloused and lawless manner peculiar to such cases.

TALK WITH WDL REP

When it is known that the Field Representative of the Workers Defense League, Miss Pauli Murray, came to Richmond in Virginia in October to act in the name of the Workers Defense League, the NAACP and the Southern Porters Union on behalf of Waller’s defense, but that Miss Murray does not see fit to recognize the local branch of the Workers Defense League in Richmond but, instead, goes into long consultation with Mr. Dabney, it becomes clear that there is a very serious danger of an attempt to undermine the defense of Waller case after the manner of the infamous Scopes-Tobacco sell-outs.

FOR UNITED EFFORTS — NOT CONSTANT OBSTRUCTION

All sincere workers who are aiding in the defense of Odell Waller should be seriously alarmed by these developments and should meet at once to see if the fight against the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its supporting organizations is stopped.

These workers and their organizations who wish to see the fight for Odell Waller result in the eliminating of the vicious poll tax system in various states; who wish to see a real blow at the evils of Southern sharecropping and tenant farming; who wish to correct the inequalities of party payments under the Federal Government AAA program, and who wish to drive home another blow at Old Jim Crow, must insist that the Workers Defense League cease its attacks against the organization which have been in the fight to free Waller from the beginning and that the WDL and the NAACP shall use their energies to publicize the issues of the Waller case and to enlist ever growing public and private support to the case, and shall move to take part in a national conference to unify the Waller defense forces.

Only in this way can Waller be freed and the background of social, political and economic injustices which lie at the root of the Waller case, be successfully fought against and corrected.