NEW DEAL PREPARES TO BAN STRIKES

What is the significance of the new mediation board of 11 members set up by President Roosevelt to check the strike movement?

1—"NIXON SERIOUSLY HIT
D'ER WAR MOVES"

First and foremost, despite all the government talk about how small the number of strikes were, the real truth is that American industry has been seriously affected by it. Industry is so interested that a strike of only 400 workers in the Harwell plant on the west coast threatened in two weeks time to paralyze the heavy industries in that area. A strike at Bethlehem Steel for any duration — with its billion seven hundred million dollars in war orders — would probably put the whole war preparation into a complete standstill. The shutting of the mines would have a similar effect.

It is no accident that in America, where the workers are the least conscious, strikes are the most militant and strikebreaking the most organized anti-labor industry anywhere in the world. The capitalists clearly understand that the division of labor that exists in American industry is more permanent than anywhere else in the world.

2—"BOSS'S UNITED TO STOP
WAGE BOOM"-

The second important factor in the present situation is that there is unceasing and united action on the part of the WHOLE capitalist class to stop any general movement for wage increases. Independent companies, like Allis Chalmers and Harvester, who are losing money because of strikes, are undoubtedly subsidized by the various anti-labor associations and Manufacturers Association (and their ilk) to hold out. The theory is that once an increase is spread in one important plant the general wage increase will spread everywhere. And despite the most vociferous "peace" year in the heavy industries since the war, the bourgeoisie is dead set against giving up part of their surplus value.

3—"CLASS PRESSURE GREATER"

Thirdly, the pressure of the working class from below is at highest level in America since 1919. Strike activity is at its highest level even than the 1936-37 giant strike wave. But counterposed to this is the mounting wave of social-patriotism of the leaders. The failure of the workers to capitalize on any real extent on this wave of organization and militance of labor of the CIO and AFL-stragglers. In 1936 the CIO had not even calculated an anarcho. New union leaders heading newly organized

(Continued on Page 4)

Waller Wins Stay

A writ of error was granted to Odell Waller, by the Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals after a petition for a writ was argued before the court by Waller's attorney, Thomas H. Stone, assisted by Attorney Thomas Finerty of New York City.

A new replevin will soon be announced for Waller who was originally sentenced to the electric chair last September by a "Lily-white" jury of ten farmer landowners and two business men at Chatham, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. The original date of execution was set for December 27th but the national action of the Richmond Waller Defense Committee and its national supporting groups and committees won a first replevin for Waller until March 14th.

NEW TRIAL MANDATORY

With the granting of the writ of error, a new trial is mandatory and the defense council will insist that the new jury consist of Waller's equals and not drawn exclusively from the list of poll tax payers as was the case in the last trial.

The Waller Defense Committees have launched a national campaign to bring pressure upon Governor Price of Virginia in order to secure a change of venue for the new trial. There is ample proof that certain white landowners and business men have whipped up a lynch spirit in Pittsylvania County and it is feared that Wallers life will be in danger if Waller is returned there for the new trial.

Waller's wife, Mrs. Mollie Waller, is now making a national tour under the auspices of the Richmond Waller Defense Committee on behalf of her husband's case and will speak in Cleveland on the evening of March 27th at Commonwealth A.M.E. church at 2226 E. 45th St. under the auspices of the Cleveland Waller Defense Committee.

The Waller Defense Committees have announced their intention of carrying this case up to the United States Supreme Court to test the constitutionality of the Poll tax laws which are involved in this case.

Vital Pamphlets

The Workers Answer to Boss War
Trade Unionism Today
Negro Slavery — Then and Now
Uncle Sam's Stake in the War
Workers Rights or Democracy

DEMOCRATIC - REPUBLICAN
BLOC TIGHTENS GRIP OVER
THE AMERICANS PEOPLE

The adoption of the Land- Lease bill and the "all out" aid to Britain and the other democracies (7) by the financiers of the country is the closing act of the first phase of "our" participation in the imperialist war. And it is the beginning of a more aggressive phase of the struggle to organize the world to the needs of Dollar Diplomacy.

More than a challenge to the Axis powers and for material aid to England are the effects of Bill 1756 on the internal structure of the exploiters Republic. It is a giant stride toward a more open dictatorship over the people of the United States. It is axiomatic that when a "democratic" capitalist nation goes to war, like England, against the dictatorial capitalist nation, like Germany, the "democratic" nation must adopt dictatorial power. So too, each step toward military intervention by the United States in the WORLD war is proceeded by a further curtailment of the democratic process.

A DOMESTIC PASSPORT

Let us review some of the outstanding steps in the first phase of war preparations:

1. The adoption of the Draft law to prepare cannon fodder for war. And above all to establish a DOMESTIC PASSPORT for the purpose of controlling all men between 21 to 35, which constitutes the backbone of our labor supply.

2. The finger printing and registration of the foreign born as another form of the DOMESTIC PASSPORT for the control of labor.

A SUBSIDY FOR CAPITAL

3. The 35% billions for war preparations while only yesterday we were told that if the government used only more billions for the unemployed, old aged and starving the nation would go bankrupt. But that was money to spend for the protection of the demands, while the war spending is to protect property rights of capitalism. Billions in subsidy for the exploiters but not one cent for the "forgotten man".

(continued page 8)
FIGHTING WORKER

SMASH FRAME UP AGAINST WALLER
Fight For Sharecroppers And Negro Voting Rights

April, 1941.

The struggle for the freedom of Ola D. Waller, Negro sharecropper sentenced to death for the alleged murder of his landlord Oscar Davis in Virginia, has deep-rooted political significance.

The sold South is the backbone of the Democratic Party. Around it are the democrats build the rest of their support. The sold South belongs to the reactionary democrats by virtue of the poll tax, which by taxing people for the right to vote eliminates all but the wealthiest property owners from the poll. In the State of South Carolina, for instance, only 5.2% of the population votes, in contrast with about 50 or 60% who vote throughout the country. In order to be eligible to vote, one must get not only 3% of the people of the state behind him. The other 97% is of no significance.

NEW DEAL FIGHTS OLD LINE DEMOCRATS

All of this is grit to the mill of the old-line democrats, and the old-line democrats, who continue to run the South but unfortunately the democrats are not consolidating in the South the Roosevelt would desire. It happens that the old-line democrats, the old-line southern democrats who do not control the New Deal apparatus are in a position to do great harm in upsetting FDR's apicracy. For instance, out of 38 important standing committees about 31 are chairman-led, headed, by democrats of the South, more than two-thirds. A similar percentage prevail in the lower house. By virtue of their control of exceedingly small minorities of the upper bourbon homes at home, Senators like Carter Glass, Garner, Renoe, and others, can perpetuate themselves in power because of the obstruction to Mr. Roosevelt's machinery.

Mr. Roosevelt, it must be stated, has purged his party of many of these elements, but nowhere near enough. Hence the New Deal movement is the direct result of the sale of the machinery to the Chicagoans and the engineers of Chicago. The New Deal movement is the direct result of the sale of the machinery to the Chicagoans and the engineers of Chicago.

ELECTORAL REFORM LEAGUE

How is that to be done? The answer lies in the Southern electoral reform movement, which has the blessing of Mrs. Roosevelt and every important liberal in the South.

The plan of the Southern Electoral Reform League is simple. They are building up the machinery of Mrs. Roosevelt, for the elimination of the poll tax and instead for STRicter LITERACY TESTS. In their public material they lay emphasis on this one question — the poll tax. The question which then their supporters come out — as Mrs. Roosevelt did — openly.

The New Deal hopes and expectations that the poll tax would enfranchise the lower class whites, who could be expected to vote with the New Deal democrats against the old dealers like Garner, Glass, etc. BUT they are mortally afraid that if the disfavored Negroes get the right to vote it will vitally affect the whole plan. The Southern Negroes are still at the stage where they worship the memory of the Republican President Abraham Lincoln, who supposedly "freed the slaves." The tremendous bloc of votes, unless curtailed, could swing the whole south away from the democrats as a whole to the Republicans. Hence the Reform League's promise of a stricter literacy test, which they would not apply to poorer whites but would apply most severely to the Negroes on the grounds that they cannot read or write well.

TO BAR NEGROES

The strategy of this whole thing is so simple it must be obvious even to the blind. It is a New Deal Jim Crow, and more for purely political reasons than any of the others. It has nothing in common with really liberalizing the voting laws or with the South or being to the political upside of the bournes.

Yet, who is on the committee of the SERL? The secretary is none other than Frank McAllister, former farmer leader, a leader of the New Deal Partisans and head of the Workers Defense League. Furthermore, "defensive," official or otherwise, aren't exactly in the repertoire of the Liberal reform League of the South. To the contrary, the committee of the SERL, the Workers Defense League, was formed for the sole purpose of bringing in the voting laws to the South and changing the idea of the South so that Negroes would not be able to vote.

In addition, the SERL, under the leadership of Mrs. Roosevelt, has been doing a work of "elimination" of the poll tax.

S.E.R.L. WILL RAISe RAILROAD WALLS

That is precisely where the Waller case comes in. Here in Georgia a Negro was condemned to death by a jury of landlords chosen primarily on the basis of poll tax lists. If the Southern Negroes became aroused against the poll tax as a result of this case and put up strong efforts to gain the right to vote it would completely unset Mr. Roosevelt's plan of keeping them out of office by ballot through fraudulent literacy tests. Hence the case must be taken down as fast as possible. Hence Virginius Dabney's paper, the Richmond Times, containing Liberal desire in the South, constantly throws slurring remarks at the Revolutionary Workers League and the Richmond Waller Defense Committee, which is exposing the whole dishonest plan.

The liberals in the South are working to get the case settled as quickly as possible with some compromise such as life imprisonment for fifty or sixty years, or something of the sort. Hence the Workers Defense League — who are on this dirty job — have refused to concur in bringing this case down to the work"r case in the trade unions and the Negroes in the South (they have even refused to set up a local of the WDL in Richmond where they have active members) and have instead concentrated only on raising funds from liberals.

Hence people like Paul Murray and many other WDL members have been whispering about the need for a possible "compromise" (read: sellout) of the Waller case. Hence the charges by Atwater Perry, socialist and WDL leader, that the Richmond Waller Defense Committee, which originated in the case, won it first victory without the help of a single other organization and carried the financial and other burdens of the case for the first five decisive months that the Richmond committee is "irresponsible".

NO MORE SCOTTSDALE SELL-OUTS

The sell out of Ola D. Waller as quickly and smoothly as possible is a key prerequisite of the New Deal forces and they realize this. As the Waller case is not disposed of, the Southern Electoral Reform League must work patiently against the poll tax and literacy test system has coalesced.

ODELL WALLER SHALL NOT BURN! SUPPORT THE RICHMOND WALLER DEFENSE COMMITTEE! BURN JIM-CROWISM OUT OF THE UNITED STATES!

April, 1941.
THE FIGHTING WORKER
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U.S. sabotages Social Needs

The United States Government has appropriated in the last year 35 million dollars for war preparations. Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the sum, it is more than the income of any nation in Europe, including England and Germany. If distributed amongst every man, woman, and child in America, it would net each and every one of us about 240 dollars. It could pay the WPA bill on the present basis for about 35 years. But the real story is that we can build 35,000 hospitals. At the rate of 10,000 dollars for a little bungalow for a working class family, it would build 35,000 billion working class families. Needless to say, however, "our" government isn't interested in the things for perpetuating life. It is far more concerned with the profits that result from war and death.

FR. CONTINUES SCARE CAMPAIGN

This is the story of "How Democracy Works" in America. To give the facts as they affected us of the Revolutionary Workers League because of our own interest but because we know that similar things are happening with other organizations and comrades.

Even though the Revolutionary Workers League is still considered a legal organization — officially and formally — the Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken steps to force us out of existence. Among many indignities suffered we record only a few. Our mail has been refused by the post office because of reasons still not clear. Police visited not only our headquarters, but officials are constantly visiting homes of individuals, our landlords, stores, etc., to turn them in one way or another against having any transactions with the R.W.L. Our mail has been refused to us for weeks at a time on one technicality or another. Some of our comrades have been picked off the street and rushed to FBI offices for questioning. Our own meetings are visited by plainclothesmen who make little effort to conceal their identity. After delivering mail to the R.W.L. offices on Division St., for five years the postal authorities suddenly discover that we are "irresponsible" and demand notarized statements of ownership of the papers, which does some of our work and from whom we sublet, as well as our own organization. When we move postal authorities harass our new landlord and demand that they appear before them. And all this goes on in one form or another despite the fact that comrades Oehler, our national secretary, voluntarily sacrificed before the FBI the closest of us to him or the League but the campaign continues anyway.

The significance of this campaign of intimidation is apparent. It is closely linked with the new legislation against the strike wave, government sponsored campaign within the unions against "red", the "registration of foreign agents", the domestic unrest, and many other factors. In its period of crisis capitalism cannot even afford a semblance of democracy.

We do not at this stage know what the next steps to crush the League will be, whether squads have already been organized to smash our apparatus, or what. But we stand with the firmest of conviction the Revolutionary Workers League, with the aid of its sister organizations of the INTERNATIONAL CONTACT COMMITTEE in Germany, England and elsewhere, will not be driven out of business. The campaign of intimidation will defeat its own purpose.

TRIESTINES SUPPORT SOCIAL-PATRIOT

In their "Fight" against war the Canonite central in New York have suddenly discovered a "real" good tactic. First, they put their apparatus behind a special election of one member of the House of Representatives. Then suddenly they withdrew their own candidate in favor of a Socialist running under the "left wing" American Labor Party ticket.

In explaining this intricate maneuver to their readers the Triestines explain that at least Mr. Connaughton, the Socialist, is not a member of the two "capitalist" parties. Quite true, of course. Mr. Connaughton is against the specific war program of aiding Britain, prolonging America's quest for conquest, etc. But he most certainly has been and is supporting — as a loyal Socialist — the war program and the "Fighting for Capitalism and the U.S. Empire"ers. Comrade Cannon may look upon this as some sort of a virtue, to complete the befuddlement of the masses. They have been listening to speeches that were non-Anglo-American capitalism. Maybe if they could hear one Axis talk of a more subtle and less efficient form of Fascism they would confuse with Cannon's intricate maneuvers. They might otherwise look at Cannon and his movement for what they are — IN WORDS, big talk against the war in the abstract, IN DEED constant condescending with and support of social patriotism and social patriotism.

'Negro A'dl' Bill Aimed At Labor

While a dozen or more bills are being introduced in the Federal and State legislatures to curtail and interfere with the hard won rights of labor, representative Charles J. Jenkins, has introduced a bill in the Illinois State legislature which appears to benefit the doubly oppressed Negro worker.

This bill, No. 289 is directed against the pernicious practice of discriminating against workers because of race, color, of many of the International and Local unions of the AFL. On the surface, this bill may seem to be liberal and progressive, but — in the light of the recent attacks against the Trade Union movement, under the smoke-screen of racketeers and gangsters; the Unions, both black and white, should be very skeptical about this new attempt on the part of the State to interfere with Trade Union activity, to directly supervise this activity.

The practice of discriminating against Negroes is harmful not only to the Negro worker but to workers in general. The State has a duty to see that this must go. But the job of eradicating this evil must be left to the Negroes in the fight, and the white and intelligent Negroes within the ranks of labor. If the State Legislature is genuinely interested in outlawing discriminatory practices, it has an excellent opportunity to do so in Springfield, where it convenes. Where Negroes are far removed from public places and most of the jobs in the government.

Profits Wages Taxes

Who will pay the Piper's bill of $7 billion dollars that Congress voted for open aid to Britain Capitalism? Corporate profits in the United States for 1940 totaled 5 billion dollars of which, according to government figures, there were a $2 billion step toward paying this bill, and surely it should be to the interest of one group of capitalists to see that the maintenance of their brother - across the sea - capitalists' little war to maintain its Empire. This 5 billion represents profits have been one war and invested in the war will bring corporate returns, IF CAPITALISM CONTINUES.

Barnum said a sucker was born every minute, and the "pennies from heaven" of the people in Congress and the Senate in perpetuity, if they are not cajoled, concretely. The first suggestion to the ability of the people that the war should be financed by a tax on the wages of every worker earning $35,000 a year is that a tax could finance the War for Capitalism against British Imperialism against Ger many and even France in billions each year. If the workers pay the tax long enough, a revolution would come and they would be let out of their wages, and their children's wages.
NATIONAL UNITY AND THE STRIKES IN WAR INDUSTRIES

(Continued from page 1)

ized men in the mass industries were unable to control the natural military tension. The FIGHTING WORKER even at that time pointed out that the CIO was set up by Levitt, Lewis, the company FLY-CISELY in order to control the CIO. But because for such an emergency as we have now, they CIO-CISELY in order to control the mass industry of the working class in times like these. That is just what has happened.

The well consolidated bureaucratic apparatus of the CIO leadership has now become able to keep the present strike wave well within bounds. With Steel, Coal and Auto in their hands the CIO leaders can easily force the capitalists to a general wage increase and almost anything in the line of immediate demands they wanted. But they have intentionally kept the wave of strikes down— even though they couldn’t stop it altogether.

In fact, now that Phillip Murray is part of the Mediation Board there seems to be a certain friction that he will use his influence to stop all strikes, as did Gompers way back in the 1880’s. A newspaper article last week said that Murray first refused to support the idea of a mediation board; then had a talk with Roosevelt and became part of such a board. There can be little question that Murray made a deal with FDR to that effect.

Parenthetically we may point out, by the way, that the Mediation Board is packed against labor. Let us assume that the three members of the 11 who supposedly represent the public are “impartial” and always vote with labor. The fact is that in almost every strike the employers use the AFL to scal and strike-break on the CIO. Obviously the 2 AFL and 2 CIO members will thus be in constant opposition on the Mediation Board. Thus, as a result, we can certainly be expected to vote together, a 6 to 5 victory every time.

4—SHIFT TO SOCIAL REFORMISTS

Fourthly, despite the Murray—Hillman-Lewis leadership of the CIO the pressure of the masses is rapidly shifting the center of gravity in the strike wave from the bourgeois reformist, like, as mentioned, to the social reformist, primarily the Stalinists. The Moscow period has taken advantage of the mass sentiment period has slowly been wean- ing away Philip Murray and other important leaders. This group is for 100% support of the war administration and the war program.

On the other hand there is the Stalinist—Isolationist—John L. Lewis bloc, which has organized around a pacifist opposition to the present administration.

In the city of Chicago, this struggle has resulted in the bureaucratic set up of a city wide CIO council which excludes in its constitution or “Communists” from participation. The Hillmanite bureau- crust Lev of the Amalgamated Cigar Workers has worked together with Van Blittert and Pugh, two of the leading CIO bureaucrats, set the tone at a meeting in which the council represents 1% of the CIO council, all of whom were notified by telephone only twelve hours in advance about this meeting. Once the set up was organized, the constitution ratified, the officers elected on a permanent basis of one year, Mr. Levitt, the Moscow leader, arranged the strike against the trade union locals, except those with “Communists” at the head, to send delegates.

STALINISTS HAVE OWN COUNCIL

The rival organization in Chicago, the Provisional Industrial Council under Stalinist control, organized some six months before the Levin council, is planning on going along the CIO lines. They are granted to Levin and on setting up a dual council. Needless to say, however, the Stalinist tactics are far more subtle, their set up is just bureaucratic. Decisions are not taken at their meetings by a yes or no vote, no registration of delegates is taken at the door, no credentials or even a union booklet is required as admittance into the provisional council meetings. The usual backing of Stalinist lawyers to the same union they were permitted to carry passengers at ten cents a head. Thousands of bus riders avoided the subways, which continued to run extra trains to carry passengers, even though the subways workers also belong to the Transport Workers Union.

The lesson of the Parnamite taxi drivers is still fresh in the minds of the N.Y. workers. The main difficulty in both instances was the spread of the strike. It was neces- sary to organize a rank and file committee of all transport workers to take up the strikes. Representatives from the elevated, subways, taxi and surface car workers.

A nation wide struggle is taking place within the labor movement over the question of war, The fight is primarily for the right of the workers for Industrial Organization.

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The mediation board, the many changes to come in the NLRR, the anti-strike laws, etc., these are political questions that have become so vital to the trade union movement that they must be put in the forefront of trade union agitation. The Revolutionist must take the lead in coming out against pacifism and social patriotism; must counteract to the various stems toward the nationalization of industry, the workers program of workers control of production for use.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In the future we request all our friends and sympathizers, as well as fraternal organizations, to write to the Fighting Worker and International News at the address of our publishers:

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