Rationing Perpetuates Depression Living Standards

The rationing program of the American exploiters is nothing new for the working class. It is but a reassertion of the old system with new and additional forms.

Yesterday the capitalist class in its 22 years raised the working class to the lowest minimum yet fixed by the law and it is continuing this program under the guise of the war effort.

During the war, in one year, food prices rose an average of 241% while wages increased only 8.3%. In 1934, 9,000 deaths were caused by Pellagra, a disease due to lack of food, mainly in the South where there were 70,000 more cases of malaria, 10,000 cases of evaporation blindness, etc. As the war continues, the working class’ ration quota will be even more reduced.

Rationing is just one part of the war program and the Capitalist class will continue to do all in its power to diminish the living standards of the workers, at the same time that, in order to keep the price of food as high as possible, it continues to add the 21% tax on all food prices.

In 1935 a report by the National Academy of Sciences showed that the total population was eating only about 1.5 billion pounds of foodstuffs less than its real needs. But at the same time millions of pounds of food were being plowed under. Farmers were being forced not to grow food as a result of the government’s A.A.A. program, American workers were being forced to the "rationing" program of the depression years.

In 1933 depression, the working class was starved out of work because of the inability of capitalism to find markets for its products. The "hunger" policy of the capitalists has not been changed. Nevertheless, the public has "solved" one contradiction only to create another.

Although the capitalists have found new "markets" through the necessity of the workers to work for food, they are using the workers to ration and starve the working class. This is not due to the fact that there is not enough food production, because every year the government declares that the food production was reduced and that the 1942 crop was the largest yet, and the 1943 total calls for 100 million more people.

It is not due to the needs of the workers, which the government is justifying because together their total demands amount to less than 15%, which is less than half the average before the increased production for the year. There is a better reason.

Rationing, for Profits
(To Some) Later

American imperialism must ration the working class today because it needs to starve the workers for its gigantic needs. In order to do this it must murder the proletarian revolutions which are brewing in Europe and Asia. Towards this end it is storing untold millions of tons of food and clothing. Already the government has stored 718,000,000 bushels of wheat; about 60,000 in storage and in some cases more, of canned goods; 8,000,000 tons of evaporated milk; etc. As the war continues the working class’ ration quota will be further restricted.

The attempt by the boss class in the United States to make the working class pay the cost of this, the most destructive and expensive of all imperialist wars, is reaching an all time high for viciousness. The holy blow delivered by the Roosevelt-Wall Street administration against the living standards of the workers, at the same time that the world’s most important living necessities, those which constitute the day to day expenses, “retail and wholesale” prices have gone up 40% (and still going up as every shopkeeper knows) "retail clothing prices note 27%". It is the most criminal policy of the millionaires who are robbing unimaginable heights, continues unabated.

The Roosevelt decree freezing wages and prices will in effect freeze only wages. More and more the class is paying for what it was unprepared to do and the workers are not better off now than they were on relief. “In the long run, the principal effect of the decree is revealed by the following figures: Compiled by the Consumers Union ‘from official Department of Labor statistics’. ‘The overall cost of living has gone up 22% since August 1939. ‘When you break up ‘cost of living’ into its various factors, however, you get revealing pictures of the three most important living necessities, those which constitute the day to day expenses, ‘retail and wholesale’ prices have gone up 40%.”

Furthermore, the official 22% rise in the cost of living "includes such commodities as furniture, refrigerators, etc." which are bought only once in a lifetime and which cannot be bought at all on the market today. The open faced fraud of such a figure is quite evident. A 50% rise in the cost of living would be closer to the truth and the capitalist the country it is even higher.

John L. Lewis in his ads in the daily press publicizing the plight of the miners, points out that on the basis of day to day necessities of life the cost of living has gone up from 100% to 200% for the miners.

WHO CAN LABOR DEPEND ON?

The scarcity of consumers goods has led to a condition of the whole market which forces workers to purchase from it in order to get certain necessary items.

A recent court decision ruled that a decrease in the size of an automobile can be as an increase in price; the fact remains that it is a price increase and that together with the poorer quality of merchandise under the New Deal this year when they change the "same" constitutes two of the most important factors in the increase of living costs.

All these facts and figures are available to the learned gentlemens in the White House. Yet with all this knowledge, the government has not interested the President states "hold the line" (against workers’ demands for a real wage standard). Again and again he has repeated for what he is the chief agent of capitalism, while proclaiming as "the voice of the workers.

The wage freezing decree has created tremendous resentment in the ranks of the working class. State and local officials have repudiated the no-strike pledge. Large scale strikes are repeated and workers are not to be intimidated and will not submit the working class turn for leadership?

Left Freeman, Stalinist slavish and dependent for the CIO in a public statement said, "This is not a step backward, it is a step forward for the workers present standard." (1)

Both Walter Reuther and Richard Frankenstein of the United Auto Workers (CIO) leveled their attacks for such conditions against the War Labor Board instead of striking against the capitalist class, which is the matter-behind-the-scenes, who put teeth into the WLB bills. They call the decree a "horrible misluck" (2) All the labor leaders from Murray and Green down who keep the messianic sentinels but indicate clearly that they can take no effective fight against the President’s decree.

Instead they will censure the government for discriminating against certain commodities, albeit all past experiences have shown that prices will not and will not be controlled. They also intend to "keep their pledge" to the bosses that there will be no strikes.

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Wearl's Revolution is Only Way To Stop Boss' War

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Wage Freeze Continued From Page 1

For the workers it is now a question, a program that their interests or starvation? The no strike pledge must be torn to pieces and hunger is the only law. We pledge it. Preparations are needed for an economy of work for wages paid and proper supplies of food and the necessities of life.

From the official "leaders" of the Union movement we can expect only betrayal again and again unless rank and file leadership is developed upon a militant program of action. The whole Union movement must be built up in every factory and mine, strikers must learn how to run their affairs themselves. The docks must be closed for militant ac-

TRENT AND CENTRAL

CENTRIST AND CENTRALIST IMPERIALISM

The imperialist bourgeoisie, now unseen under the microscope the role of all political parties. For in the first imperialist war, opportunism has cap-

No Smoking" Edcates Workers' Fire

Coombe Editor

The tension over the present freezing of wages and the breakdown of grievance procedure is very acute in several large plants. Chicago.

In an attempt to feel the blows recently the Company issued a "No Smoking" order. The work-

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**Editorials**

America's Secret Weapon - Food To Quell Revolution

The bourgeois press is indignant because the newspapers are being excluded from the United Nations Food conference. What can possibly be a military secret in a simple food conference, they want to know? A protest has even been sent to President Roosevelt, but all to no avail. The conference will be held soon.

Any bête noire in the class struggle can easily guess what the bourgeois gentlemen of the press pretend not to know. Food, as much as guns, is a counter-revolutionary instrument of the greatest importance. In the last world war the food distribution by Herbert Hoover to the starving peoples of Europe was a major factor in stamping the Revolution from successfully spreading beyond the Soviet Union.

There is nothingphilosophical about the way the capitalists give food in the post-war period in France and China. It is infinitely cheaper to spend a few dozen millions on food than to have the oppressed colonies and the native workers spread the apparent entirety, by setting in motion the apparatus of capitalism and establishing a Workers' State. The capitalists are not stupid, and the recent, important and secret about the present food conference. The present war is raging on an infinitely larger area than the first world war. The ravages of militarism are continuous in the meantime in every continent on earth. That hunger is a factor in bringing on the second world war is a foregone conclusion. In order to checkmate that rising tide of distress, the imperialists are preparing to "give" some little food away through such agencies as the Red Cross and China in order to keep the workers in the rear and China.

It is no accident that the United States recently enacted the Food and Drugs Act. This was the price of the revolution in 1917. The bourgeois press isinserted with the words "food" and "revolution" to favor the counter-revolution, but it must be distributed by the same direct manner themselves.

Naturally, under capitalism, we can expect that Wall Street will keep "food" -as a constant threat to the working class in general. The American workers must not be fooled by the "food" slogans. If the American workers do not consume the food, all of this "food" will be exchanged for means of production, in order to feed the war machine. The workers must be aware of the dangers of the food conferences and the struggle against the ravages of capitalism.

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**Erlich and Alter Social Patriots**

The revelation of the secret GPO execution of Erlich and Alter, international social patriots and World War I trade union leaders and Socialists on the charge of being agents and spies of Germany, is a wave of protest in the ranks of American labor and among the working class. It is not the first protest, but it was also caused "protest" and the shedding of bitter tears of the American capitalist class who now finds it desirable to discredit the Socialist and Communist revolutionaries and recent victories of the Red Army.

The absurd charge of being Nazi sympathizers was made against these two men, who helped to organize the defense of Warsaw against the devastating assaults of the Nazi blitzkrieg, who created the Red Cross of Poland, who were imprisoned, and who were considered loyal Poles by the Polish National Trade Union Congress, the Pamiros, Ksiazek, Pro-

The Polish Provisional Government of Poland who were linked with the militancy and victories of a typical Stalinist frame-up.

The Polish Provisional Government of Poland was first activated by the GPO after the collapse of Poland, and sentenced to death. At that time they were charged with "aiding and abetting the Polish GPO." It is a Polish GPO service. They were sentenced to death, but switched to the support of Allied imperialism, they were released and placed in the Polish army, to work of organizing an international Communist aid committee. Their arrest was a mistake, said the GPO, and an apolitical breeding ground was activated by the Soviet government.

During the short period from the beginning of the war, the anti-fascist committees, the Socialists would have the world believe that the social patriots and the workers in the foreign countries who are in need of these food staffs. The food must be distributed by the Imperialism. The imperialists are interested in keeping the food in the hands of the Socialists and the United States.

The charge of the being Nazi agents is without basis. Also the claim by the Trotskyites and Socialists is without basis. It is a Polish GPO service. The political line of Erlich and Alter to the leadership if not of the United States and the United Nations. Did Stalin have them executed in reality for what he did? If the answer to that question cannot be answered, of course the grounds of facts are not enough.

**Marxists Condemn Secrecy**

But in spite of whatever political line Erlich and Alter pursued the fact remains that they were put to death by the GPO under the false name of secret execution by the degenerate Stalinist leadership, which was condemned by revolutionaries. We condemn the manner of the execution, which was a violation of the law.

It has made Aliche and Alter "heroes" and martyrs," instead of condemning the social-patriots in the world. The workers in every country have been con- demned the Bolshevik system of Lenin and the United States.

The true history of those people, if they were guilty of any act against the Workers’ State, they would be the American Fascist party which would be the main force of the United States. Furthermore the political relationship between Poland and the United States has not been a bad one. This political relationship...

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**Anglo-American Antagonism Intensified by Currency Plans**

In the first part of April, the British through Kaye, and the United States through the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA), issued preliminary plans for organizing the "victoried" United Nations nations in a new international monetary system to set-up for post-war stabilization of world trade. The plans did not propose a different structure to accomplish this same end.

Both plans proposed to limit return to the gold standard with an international medium of exchange known as the "Special Drawing Rights," the "sterling" or the "units" in the American plan.

England with very little gold would subordinate gold to a plan based on manipulating the import trade volume; while United States, with 60% of the world’s gold, would establish a 5 billion dollar Stabilization Fund and make gold the main national currency. The U.S. plan would furnish 2 billion dollars of gold and control 25% of the vote, thus the United States dollar would dominate the S.D.R. proposal demands an 85% vote on important matters.

England has not been able to the United States’ plan, would establish an International Monetary Fund and allow the voting power of each country to be based upon a base period of the pre-war period. Britain would be able to work in the S.D.R. area of 2 billion dollars of advantage in world trade over U.S. dollars. Thus, it is an attempt to disarm American imperialism in advance and make possible to the dollar the tremendous potential weapon of 2 billion dollars. England is fearful of this gold hoard and frightened at the prospects if it is returned to the dollar as the dominant factor in the post-war period.

The British plan would enable creditor nations in world trade to accumulate their balances as de- posits under British domination. The U.S. plans would as short term loans to debtor nations. If a debtor bor- rowed too much the International Monetary Fund would step in to the life of nations and reduce and replace the value of its currency. It would render part of its gold or cut the money supply by 25%. This has been ac- cumulated by one nation the Clearing Union would propose reduction of each country’s gold and money as accumu- lated in the "S.D.R."

Within the British plan steps into the internal life of nations allowing any part of the state sovereignty of any nation. Any nation’s plan would refrain from this direct method and accomplish the same and by indirect methods.

The United States plan has been sent to 37 nations for study, but the Soviet Union and China France and China have not been provided with the real fate is in the making. The "defeated" Axis would be brought into the "clearing union" only after a period of discussion and submission had taken place.

The "proposed currency confere- nce" is just as much now the economic structure taking place in war and post-war plans of the informal conference of the dollar and the Pound is going into a new round. The preliminary model is now taking place to line up big conferences for the future. Both of the giant will confer. A new currency problem and its relation to international trade is only a small part of the economic problem. The role of the nations will attempt to "settle" it. It is a race of the Dollar vs. the Pound. The economic weight of American imperialism will have to be counterbalanced by more than a crumbling British Empire and the agreed statements of the two superpowers in the last war. The present war is not a war of nationalism, but a war of national interests, standing behind ideologically historic, are cold realities in their struggle for supremacy, it is not economic to remake it to the needs of the American Dollar.

Thetera here is simply based on the assumption of "winning the war." Not just a military victory over the Axis. It is based upon the assumption that the United States will win the war, against the axis and the Social Revolution both. The "victoried nations" offer now their new New weapons to hold off disintegration, to fight against the quick and quickening capitalist social-revolution, with monetary policies, economic conferences, air-war conferences, naval conferences, police conferences, the working class in every country and not, as weapons against each other and the working class and colonial masses.
"U.S. WANTS US TO BE "HEALTHY" POSTERS SAY SO!"

The insidious housing condition that has forced our people to live in "such an epidemic as the District has never seen..." shall be remedied by repressive legislation and by the Government employees from our States and districts are murdered by the thousands. The demands of those whose duty it is to protect law and order, for the police, are we trying to commit mass murder here or suicide by violence?" The conditions were the workers live under are beyond description as to filthy and lack of ordinary plumbing facilities, but it all right as the health commissioner is safely vacations in Florida.

In Peoria, Illinois, the city is without a mayor, and there is open gambling and prostitution running rampant. Even the professors are trying to make the city fathers clean up these profitable vices.

Peoria's Times reports that state that there is a tremendous rise in the number of cases of the city with the 2,070 cases reported in 1941 and 2,065 cases in 1940. It is also known that 35 percent of the 19 year old age group alone.

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL" BUT..."It is one of the laws of nature that no one knows it. A drunken Negro soldier re- signed caused by a white cop (W. G.) while on duty. In retaliation the entire Negro busi- ness and residential district was burned, subjected to tear gas bombings, batonings, and looting by the mob police force.

Baker County, Georgia, long ter- rorized by the local police got a new police chief in the person of a long-time police chief in this city, when the facts proved beyond doubt that the chief of police and deputy sheriff, and a Newton policeman were responsible for the recent lynching of the wife of a Negro, Robert Hall, last Jan- uary.

Judge William Hastie was re- served service at the National Press Club in Washington, where he had been ordered to dine with one of the journalists for the "liberal" PM. Not even PM would print the story!

"The law repeats over and over again that all the wealth and power in the eyes of the law" yet the Ameri- can Bar Association refused to admit to its membership the NY assistant district attorney because he is a Negro. Judge Goldstein, and another lawyer from that body because of its rank discriminatory policy. Both regulat- ing agencies are in different parts of any direct action that may be taken, and many are of their legal profession. So the situation will still prevail.

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE US FREE"

As is the staff of the of the OWI—the Office of War Informa-

tion, resigned in a body because they charged "We are leaving be- cause the OWI is impossible for us, under those who now control our output, to tell the world the truth of the activities of the OWI on the home front are now dominated by a group that makes a business of slick salesmanship to honest people."

Education is a holy ground re- tained exclusively for protagonists of the pro Germ philosophy of this country and New York City makes no bones about it today. Mark them down to the highest number of the LGBW was turned down as a member of the NYC board of edu- cation on the grounds that he is pro-labor! Yet out of over 100 strikes illegal, only one qualified for the post.

"THE IMPARTIAL" CAPITA- LIST STATE AND LABOR

Typical of the sentiments of politicians throughout the coun- try is the statement made by Rep. Robert F. Hurley (D. Arkan- sas) who is said: I am opposed to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and I am opposed to my people's union. I can't agree with Wash- ington officials that farm labor is the key to the Southern problem. If we listen to Washington we will lose our farms.

So the Congress Report of the House of Representatives passed a vicious anti-labor bill called the "Anti-Violence Picketing Bill." In Wickenburg, Missouri, two CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) Negroes were beaten, threatened and harmed and the attacks on out of the assistance of the local sheriff and police force.... In 1940, by 1941, by now I realize that whenever the closed shop has been forced down, shop stewards, good and their agreement to buy somewhere else! They would automatically become a couple of "entrepreneurs."

"HOW WILL THE CAPITALISTS ENFORCE THESE LAWS?"

The recent rally in demon- strations by the CIO's and the efforts to stop "the crime of "unfair labor" and to demand legal protection for the right to work. It is time to say "no more to persons to enter into a conspiracy who would so long as he could, another complaint about a merchant, this plowboys, reads regulations of the executives and salaried officers of any union officials....

In Montgomery Alabama 17 were arrested on a charge of "non- co-operation" for picketing a sem- inary union construction job under the provisions of the New Deal for the whip of the Stalins. A large body of officials of the "International Mill and Smaller Workers," CIO, are in charge of the city of one of the affiliated Locals, No. 738, and asked him to join the party. Banks, a mill- tenant fighter who has had some bad experiences with the police. A week or too later, he was approached again. He still declined.

The Stalinist leader of the International Union, then set out to capture the mind of the country. But this back-door contract was kept secret for 13 of the unions, and for 155 on Thursday night, the Company arranged for a meeting for the local officials and to tell them of this "new bloss- ing."

The man who had told him this, whom they boasted both members and his police officers out of the community. The Company then came to the review of their Stalinist friends. They were in the shops, every one of them, no matter how much of a hurry it came out without a Union. Local's Action Saves Union.

Fortunately, the women and men in this steel foundry refused to be hoodwinked by the Stalinists.

A recent report of the House of Labor calls a "living wage," approximately $2,500 a year to the average worker. It is not just food or clothes or the pay for equal work. But Wall Street, and its New Deal followers, and its New Deal supporters, the merchant of the law. These people are not only not considered.

The one of the strangest things about both the government and the railway men, the AILF, is that they are both "progressive" in the sense of "not doing anything," in the open and violent condem- nation of both Roosevelt orders.

"C. P. LABOR FAKERS SUPPORT THE FREEZE"

The CIO national lawyer, Lee Proctor, called for a "step forward." He demands a speed-up method for raising pay for "the mass" workers and for a bonus system. Various CIO bodies have only mildly re- acted to President Truman's new orders. The Chicago CIO Council, in the wake of "Truman's" fault, it is the work of a "group of reactionaries around him." Such is the situation.

The milk and water position of the CIO is due to a large extent to the fact that it is not really in business. It is not so hell bent on saving the lives of the workers and to the extent that they are willing to give up any and all labor's rights to "win the war." But even the AFL position is within the framework of the "good old" labor, they will make a "compromise." —T. E.

The only real guarantee against the "new slavery" is a strong movement of Shop stewards and other militants who will take the lead on a firm class struggle pro-