

The Fighting Worker

Workers of
The World
Unite!

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Rationing Perpetuates Depression Living Standards

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

Yesterday the capitalist class in its depression years rationed the working class to the lowest minimums it yet had known. Today it is continuing this program under the guise of the war effort.

During the depression, in one year, food prices rose an average of 27½% while wages increased only 8.2%. In 1934, 3,602 deaths were caused by Pellegra, a disease due to lack of food, mainly in the South, besides there were 70,080 people who had the disease and continued to live. By 1938 100,000 people had this disease. Fifty per cent of worker's children under two years old had rickets during the depression. A survey in 1935 showed that the total population was getting each year, 100 billion pounds of foodstuffs less than their real needs. But at the same time millions of tons 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 well remember the capitalist "rationing" program of the depression years.

During the depression, the working class was starved and thrown out of work because of the inability of capitalism to find markets for its goods. The war has "solved" the problem of markets, temporarily. Nevertheless Capitalism "solves" one contradiction only by getting itself into another. Although the capitalists have found new "markets" through the needs of war, they must continue to ration and starve the working class. This is not due to the fact that there is not enough food production, because even the capitalists themselves admit that the 1942 crop was the largest yet, and the 1943 total calls for 10 million more acres. It is not due to the needs of the Armed forces and the Allies, because together their total demands amount to less than 15%, which has and will be absorbed by the increased production for the year. There is a better reason.

Ration Now, for Profits (To Some) Later

American imperialism must ration the working class today because it must organize the world for its gigantic needs. In order to do this it must curb the inevitable

Partisans vs. Allies

The total war effort of Britain and America in Tunisia is only occupying the same number of troops, about 12 divisions, as are being occupied by the Partisans in Yugoslavia. Yet the press plays up the war in Tunisia as if it were the "big push," and seldom has a word to say of the war in Yugoslavia, being waged by work-

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WAGES FROZEN AS PRICE CEILINGS MELT

Strike Is The Only Weapon For Workers

The attempt by the boss class in the United States to make "their" working class pay the cost of this, the most destructive and expensive of all imperialist wars, has reached an all time high for viciousness. The body blows dealt by the Roosevelt-Wall Street administration against the living standards of the workers, at a time when corporation profits are soaring to unimaginable heights, continues unabated.

The latest Roosevelt decree freezing wages and prices will in effect freeze only wages. More than that, as the cost of living goes even higher, as it inevitably must, it will cut real wages, until workers are no better off than they were on relief.

The full callousness and brutality of the decree is revealed by the following figures: (compiled by the Consumers Union from of-

ficial 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 food prices have gone up 40%" (and still going up as every shopper knows) "retail clothing prices rose 27%," and rents were jacked up a sizable degree last year by landlords who were aware of the imminence of price-fixing.

Furthermore, the official 22% rise in the cost of living "includes such commodities as furniture, refrigerators, etc." which are bought once in five years, and most of 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, while in some sections of 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 flourishing black 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 article is not to be interpreted 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 same name brand or even when they change the "name" constitutes two of the most important factors in price raising.

All these facts and figures are available to the learned gentlemen in the White House. Yet with proper feeling for HIS class interests the President states "hold the line" (against workers' demands for a living wage standard). Again and again he reveals himself for what he is—the chief agent of capitalism, while proclaiming himself as "the friend of labor."

The wage freezing decree has created tremendous resentment in the ranks of the working class. Already several UAW Locals have repudiated the no-strike pledge. Large scale strike struggles are on the order of the day. To whom shall the working class turn for leadership?

Lee Pressman, Stalinist stooge and general counsel for the CIO in a public statement said, "This is not a step backward, it is a step forward." (!)

Both Walter Reuther and Richard Frankenstein of the United Auto Workers (CIO) leveled their blasts for such conditions against the War Labor Board instead of the capitalist class, which is the master-behind-the-scenes, who put the teeth into the WLB bite. They call the decree a "horrible mistake" (!) All the labor fakers from Murray and Green down echo these sanctimonious sentiments but indicate clearly that they will not put up any effective fight against the President's decree.

Instead they will center their "fight" on stabilizing the prices of commodities, altho all past experiences have shown that prices cannot 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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MAY DAY 1943 -- Manifesto to the Working Class

The day of International Solidarity, the revered proletarian holiday dedicated to Class Struggle against Capitalism—May Day—lies almost buried today beneath the rock-pile of social-patriotism. The glorious heroes of the 8 hour day struggle in Chicago, who were brutally murdered by the American Bourgeoisie, the fallen dead in the 2 dozen workers' revolutions, the great martyred class war prisoners, Sacco, Vanzetti, Mooney, Hill, Waller, the thousands of workers killed on picket lines by the ruling class, and the hundreds of thousands of all nations who were slaughtered in the first world war to protect the investments of Wall Street, London and the Wilhelmstrasse—these millions of proletarian heroes would today turn over in their graves at the abject spectacle of May Day being despoiled to further the era of robbery, mass murder, hunger, war, and the other endless miseries of modern capitalism.

May Day 1943 will be remembered as a blot on the history pages of the working class. Instead of DOWN TOOLS the proletariat is being forced by the social-patriotic leaders to CONTINUE WORKING, to continue making the tools and machines that will murder fellow workers from other lands. Instead of a fiery denunciation of the brutalities of Imperialism, of the oppression of colonials, of the starvation of the home masses—instead of that we shall witness the lachrymose tears of Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill, Mussolini and Hitler, and their respective social agents within labor's ranks, Murray and Green, Browder and Thomas, Ernest Bevin, Dr. Ley and their ilk, in defense of the historical monstrosities of capitalism.

The Revolutionary Workers League, section of the International Contact Commission, feels this isolation, this betrayal of the proletariat as no Party and no Class in history has ever felt it before. The voice of Revolutionary Marxism, of freedom and workers democracy, has been dimmed to a whisper. But the tide will soon turn; the voice of Marxism, the only voice that represents the interests of the toilers of humanity, will become the death knell of Capitalism of all forms, fascist as well as bourgeois democratic.

This war is an Imperialist War, a war for markets for spheres of investments. We repeat that, for the third May Day during this war. Unfortunately the masses of the world still are enslaved to the ideologies of patriotism, four freedoms, Stalinism, Lebensraum, and other camouflages for concealing the character of the blood-bath.

But in the welter of further class oppression, rationing, regimentation, outlawing of workers' rights, profiteering—the masses are beginning to see through the sham.

NO COMPROMISING WITH CAPITALISM

The currents guide our present destinies, the current Capitalist Dictatorship and war and the current of Revolution, Proletarian Revolution. One or the other current will be victorious. Either reactionary capitalism will survive, with its debts, its regimentation and its inexorable steps towards a fascist order in all countries. Or the current of Revolution will crush capitalist reaction.

Each act that supports the war is thus a blow against progress, a dagger aimed at workers' liberty and security. Support of rationing, support of a new Capitalist Labor Party of social-patriots and their centrist tail, support of military conscription, support of the war economy, compromise with the no-strike edict of the Government, capitulation to any phase of the effort of Imperialism to perpetuate itself—all this is betrayal of our own interests, is a guarantee of further want, further oppression, further wars for markets and conquest.

The only road that will bring peace is the current of Social Revolution. Every strike for higher wages, every demand of the youth for democracy inside and outside the military forces, every act of opposition to the bourgeois State, ever step that build the new Marxian Revolutionary (Communist) Party—all of this is milestone in the road to liberation.

The struggle must be as uncompromising as our capitalist system is treacherous. The brutal murder of fifteen or twenty million youth by the rulers of London, Tokyo, Berlin, New York, and Rome MERELY to preserve the profit system, such brutality can not be answered by half-hearted pleas and compromises.

We the workers and oppressed defend only our own interests—our revolt against capitalism, and our first Workers State, the Soviet Union. The heroic struggle of the Red Army, despite Stalinism and its grovelling nationalistic policy, its capitulation before London and New York—this struggle has heartened workers everywhere. Workers by the millions hope that the Red Army will beat the imperialist armies to Berlin and thus establish Socialism in Europe. Despite Stalinism a large section of the masses understand the revolutionary

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Wage Freeze

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For the workers it is now a question of "Fight for your interests or starve!" The no strike pledge must be torn to pieces and handed back to the "leaders" that pledged it. Preparations are needed now for the coming struggles for wage raises 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. We must develop our own rank and file leadership, based upon a militant program of action. The spreading Shop Steward movement must be built up in every plant and trade union, workers must learn how to run their affairs themselves. The decks must be cleared for militant ACTION NOW.

Unemployment Continues Despite War "Boom"!

Canada alone is producing enough war materials to keep Britain and American fighting at their present levels, according to Canadian papers. Yet American workers who take a day off from work or who go out on strike, are condemned for "hurting the war effort."

Incidentally, too, 650,000 persons were laid off last month in the war industries. Labor saving devices, shortage of materials, and poor planning are probably the cause. It must be remembered that in the midst of her greatest peaks of production, England, too has many thousands of unemployed.

May Day Manifesto

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Workers' Revolution Is Only Way To Stop Boss' War

content of the Red Army, its revolutionary aspirations which even Stalinism can not entirely obliterate.

On this third May Day of the war, we the R.W.L. renew our faith and our pledge to defend the Soviet Union, against World Imperialism and its agents within Russia, Stalinism, and the capitalist forces that are trying to entrench themselves.

CENTRIST AND REFORMISTS AID IMPERIALISM

The imperialist "crusade" has placed under the microscope the roles of all political parties. Therein lies the greatest tragedy of our times, a tragedy which we of the Revolutionary Workers League have warned, since our outset in 1934, was inevitable unless a New Marxian Party were built.

Ten years of Rooseveltian reformism as sapped the strength of the Labor movement and has drawn all the reformists and centrists into its whirlpool. Therein lies the greatest tragedy of our times, a tragedy which we of the Revolutionary Workers League have warned, since our outset in 1934, was inevitable unless a New Marxian Party were built. The Socialists, under Norman Thomas, and the Stalinists, under Earl Browder, are openly for the war. Mr. Thomas, unlike Mr. Browder makes a few mental reservations. He thinks it is possible to support imperialism which destroys workers rights, humanity and progress, and at the same time gain some democracy out of this reactionary movement. Mr. Browder is infinitely more consistent. He is defending capitalism because American and British capitalism are temporarily permitting Stalin and Earl Browder to continue to exist.

Slightly different than Browder and Thomas are the two Trotsky groups, under Schachtman and Cannon. Both these organizations verbally attack the war as imperialist, but their acts and their program of action are one compromise after another with the present capitalist state—for workers control of the imperialist draft, for workers and little businessmen's control of the imperialist economy of scarcity and its rationing, for workers participation in a new capitalist party that will (in practice) prosecute the war even better than Roosevelt. Yes,

we repeat again what history will soon confirm most authoritatively—that the centrist groups in America and elsewhere will support capitalism most openly in its coming crises, just as the POUM supported it in Spain, Kautsky in Germany, and the Mensheviks in Russia of 1917.

FORWARD TO A WORKERS COUNCIL GOVERNMENT!

Comrades and fellow-workers, the answer to war, the only answer, is REVOLUTION.

The capitalists ask us to share our poverty, to accept rationing, wage freezing, job freezing, and regimentation.

We the proletariat must answer back—to hell with your economy of scarcity, down with your perpetuation of starvation. We want, we fight for, Workers Control of Production under a Workers Council Government (the Dictatorship of the Proletariat).

They demand us to give up rights won over 200 years time, the right of free speech, organization, strike, assembly. We, the proletariat, will not yield these rights. Our "leadership" has given them up, but we intend, under our own rank and file controlled leaders, to wrest these gains back, to strike and picket, to demonstrate and act, until we have gained security, until we have gained bread and peace, permanent peace.

They ask us to spill our blood to defend their colonial empires. We, the proletariat, are willing to spill our blood but only to defend the rights of the colonial masses, to gain liberation from the yokes of Wall Street, London, Tokyo and the Wilhelmstrasse.

The gathering storm in France, the revolt of the masses of India, and other encouraging signs, show that the lesson is slowly being learned. The first world war brought in its wake 30 revolutions; the second war will bring even more.

Only one revolution was able to sustain itself after the first war. The second war must end in no such set-back. All revolutionary struggles must be successful. A new Revolutionary Marxian Party, a world Party, the New 4th (Communist) International, must be established to guide this struggle to success, to peace and bread, to liberation of humanity from the ravages of imperialism.

LONG LIVE THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION!

Winning The War with Child Labor

The United States Chamber of Commerce cries that the unemployed has now reached the "irreducible minimum" of only slightly over a million people to fill the "reserve labor supply" that will be needed—maybe.

The Illinois head of the Labor Department protests the 48 hour week because there are many thousands of unemployed in the state.

In any large city there are thousands of applicant being turned away by the large plants and the advertised jobs have a long line waiting for interviews. But there is a "labor shortage" and the children must do their part to win the war, to show their patriotism, to make their sacrifices!

The state Chamber of Commerce of California has "permitted" children to attend school only half a day and are using them, and the teachers, (as foremen) to work on the fruit picking and harvesting crops—at a very low wage, and everyone knows that school children are too young to join the Union!

In the state of Pennsylvania, where "brotherly love" rules supreme, the state senate has just passed a bill "permitting" girls 14 years of age to accept employment in domestic service. For purely pay-triotic reasons of course.

SCHOOL GIRLS MAY SCRUB SO MI LADY MAY SPOUT

Opponents of the measure announced it as affecting only the daughters of the poor "who are to be put in the kitchen so that the lady of the house can go out and play golf, attend bridge parties and waste time in other social affairs."

This also gives MiLady time to give fuller participation in the war effort so she can tell the wives of the petty-bourgeois, via a sponsored patriotic radio program, what they should do to help win the war, what their duty as wives and mothers is in this period of crisis. All this can be done, only of course, if the 14 year old girls are dutifully slaving away in the kitchen or swinging a mop.

Yes, Mr. Wallace's "century of the common man" is in full flower—with the uncommon parasites sitting on top. But that is the basic tenet of capitalist society. Only under a workers government will 14 years olds, and others, young or old, be granted the opportunity to attain their full cultural development, which is the right of all members of the human race. To Wallace and the other ecstatic pipe dreamers it is pretty phrases to be seen in the smoke, but to the revolutionary workers it is more than a hope of the far future it is a fact that can be translated into the daily reality of life under a system of workers control of production for use.

Of course the Stalinists were not stupid enough to think that they could sell the CIO rank and file such an impossible program. They therefore inserted a few pat phrases about the need to bring the War Labor Board back to its old policies, etc.—as if those policies were any good!

"Revolt Is The Right Of The Slave"

"No Smoking" Edict Draws Workers' Fire

Comrade Editor:

The tension over the present freezing of wages and the breakdown of grievances procedure is very evident in the large Buick Plant in Chicago.

In an attempt to feel the boys out recently the Company issued a "No Smoking" order. The workers reacted to it by going out in large bodies to the wash room and jamming the place till the management was frantic. The order was rescinded in less than two days.

One of the employees at Buick was present with Walter Reuther in the big delegation that went down to live for three days in the army camps to see how the soldiers are getting along. Upon his return he was instrumental in a meeting of Stewards in passing motions condemning the present wage freezing.

The pressure in the Buick plant is very great. By one ruse or another the Company is avoiding having to pay women equal pay for equal work. A strong sentiment exists among the women to go out on strike.

Unfortunately the leadership of the Local, No. 6 of the United Auto Workers, is in the hands of a stark reactionary, Luckenbill. Recently, however, the meetings of the shop stewards have been more militant and better attended. About 90 stewards attend the day shift and about 40 stewards the night

shift meetings. These groups, if they continue their present militant role, will eventually take the running of the affairs of Local 6 out of the hands of Luckenbill and prepare the road for some effective class struggle action that will break the log-jam.

J.

Labor Shortage? Sacrifice?

Dear F. W. Editor;

The rubber mills here in Akron are finally working eight hours a day. The companies forced the workers to abandon the basic six-hour day by claiming Akron was in a "critical area" and that a labor shortage existed, even though the relief rolls have been rising. The companies yelled "wolf" so loud and long that the government finally believed them. A communique to the rubber barons from Uncle Sam revealed that war contracts cannot be given in a "critical area." That would seem to put the companies into quite a predicament, but — The workers were forced to work eight hours; Akron was dropped from the "critical area" list; The companies received more war contracts. And the workers? Sacrifice! Buy bonds! Support the capitalist war! Blood, sweat and tears!

Goodyear made 14 million dollars last year and Goodrich made 9 million dollars. The Goodrich Co. refuses to grant us an increase in wages despite their huge profits. Giving pay raises to factory workers causes inflation; more

profits for the company gives them an "incentive" for their "sacrifice."

The latest sport among the capitalists right now is "absenteeism." The workers should keep at the job every day of the week, winter and summer, healthy or unhealthy! The Goodrich Co. tried to get "absentee-ers" to sign a paper, giving the company authority to lay off workers whose attendance isn't regular, but our local Union put a stop to that. Incidentally, the products from the Goodrich Rubber Barons aren't as good as they used to be for civilian use. It seems civilians demanded the best; Uncle Sam will buy anything—and pay more. After all, it all comes out of the workers' pockets.

Chicago CIO Council Supports Wage Freeze! Demands "Roll Back the Prices."

The slavishness of the CIO bureaucracy is almost unbelievable. President Roosevelt has frozen wages, frozen jobs, and taken a thousand other pot-shots at Labor, and the big shot officials of CIO can't for the life of them see anything wrong with dear old Franklin.

In fact it's not really his fault. A resolution of the CIO Industrial Union Council in Chicago on wage and job freezing has the temerity to say: "President Roosevelt has repeatedly endeavored to stabilize our economic life. (!) He has been fought every inch of the

way by selfish, reactionary, profit-hungry groups who have their spearhead in a powerful bloc in Congress."

As if it were the "reactionaries" who put forth wage freezing! Or job freezing!

The meeting at which this "brilliant" piece of political logic was read, was called by the Chicago Council to involve the shop stewards and lower leadership of the CIO in this city in the "fight against the reactionaries." The meeting was a success, as far as turnout was concerned, beyond the fondest expectations of the Chicago bureaucracy. Over 1,500 stewards were mobilized in 48 hours time. Hundreds more were turned away from the overcrowded hall. STALINISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRAT WANT MORE SPEED-UP, NO RAISES AND OLD PRICES

But the leadership of the CIO in Chicago openly admitted in its executive board meeting that it was necessary to "channelize the resentment" against President Roosevelt and his wage freezing order. Both the Stalinist wing of the CIO and the right wing (so-called) agreed on this formula.

In line with that they brought in a series of resolutions which emphasized the question of "rolling back prices." The way to fight wage freezing, these gentlemen asserted, was to organize committees of churchmen, CIO Unionists, housewives, etc. to police the price structure, and to have Roosevelt by Executive Decree order prices back to the September 1942 level.

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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 sessions of 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 kept secret.

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

There is nothing philanthropic about the way the capitalists give food to the poor people of Europe and China. It is infinitely cheaper to spend a few dozen millions on food than to have the oppressed colonials and the native workers upset the applecart entirely, by seizing all capitalist enterprises and establishing a Workers' State.

That's what is so terribly important and secretive about the present food conference. The present war is spread over an infinitely larger area than the first world war. The ravages of militarism are causing starvation in every continent on earth. That hunger, the imperialists know, is the sure forerunner of revolution. In order to checkmate that rising tide, therefore, the imperialists are preparing to "give" some little food away through such agencies as the Red Cross and probably a special agency just for this one purpose.

When the gentlemen of the United Nations let their hair down about the prospects of Workers' Revolution in "their" country, and

their estimates of the food needs necessary for counter-revolution, such things are not "good reading" for the millions of workers who think this is really a war against fascism.

**LET THE HUNGRY HANDLE
 THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

Well then, some sceptic will no doubt ask, are you against giving food to the starving people of Europe? Obviously we are not, because only the Revolutionary Marxists are in favor of a system that will end starvation. The mere pittances that the capitalists give, they give only under the threat of revolt; when that threat is over the capitalists stop sending food to the "starving Belgians," Greeks, Americans, or any other nationality that is in dire need.

That's precisely what we are opposed to. Control of the shipment and distribution of food to starving people must be in the hands of the American workers and the workers in the foreign countries who are in need of these foodstuffs. The food must be distributed not by such Imperialist-minded agencies as the Red Cross which knows just how to give and just how to withhold foodstuffs so as to favor the counter-revolution, but it must be distributed by the oppressed masses themselves.

Naturally, under capitalism, we can expect that Wall Street will continue to maintain this weapon—food—as a constant threat to Revolution. But the American workers must expose for what purpose this weapon is used; they must insist on workers control of the food shipments and distribution. They must demand that Wall Street imperialism keep its hands off the revolutionary struggles of our brother abroad, they must, to further their own liberation, aid in every possible way the struggles of the working-class against the ravages of capitalism.

It Applies Here, Too!

"In a country on a food supply below normal necessity all the people do not suffer in the same measure, nor die at the same time. The rich continue to live, despite any rigour in division; the poor get weak, and weaker, and die—of something else than famine. They die of tuberculosis; they die of epidemic disease; they die of whatever it is that finds fertile soil for its fatal growth among a people weakened by mal-nutri-

tion. The immediate factor in famine is the death rate, from whatever determining cause. This death rate is the measure of the intensity of weakening, and it does not necessarily depend exclusively upon the amount of food that is available."... page Mr. Dies, quick, quick! No less an authority than ex president Herbert Hoover made the above statement when dealing with the experiences during the Belgian famine from World War No. 1.

**Erich and
 Alter -
 Social Patriots**

The revelation of the secret GPU execution of Erlich and Alter, internationally known Jewish-Polish trade union leaders and Socialists, on the charge of being agents and spies of Nazi Germany, has caused a wave of protest in the ranks of American labor and among the liberals. This murderous act has also caused 'protests' and the shedding of crocodile tears from the American capitalist class who now finds it desirable to discredit the Soviet Union in light of the recent victories of the Red Army.

The absurd charge, of being Nazi Agents, levelled against these two men, who helped to organize the defense of Warsaw against the devastating assaults of the Nazi blitzkrieg, who greeted the Red Army in 1939 as an Army of liberation, and who are considered loyal Poles by the Polish National Council and General Sikorski, Premier of the Polish Government in exile, reeks with all the crudity and viciousness of a typical Stalinist frameup.

Erlich and Alter were first arrested by the GUP after the collapse of Poland, and sentenced to death. Later this sentence was commuted to ten years in prison. At that time they were charged with BEING AGENTS OF THE POLISH SECRET SERVICE. When the Stalinist bureaucracy switched to the support of Allied imperialism they were released and placed in charge of the important work of organizing an international Jewish anti-fascist committee. Their arrest was a mistake, said the GPU, and an apology was extended by the Soviet Government.

During the short period from prison life to the organization of the anti-fascist committees, the Stalinists would have the world working class believe that these two Jewish labor leaders became Nazi agents, demanding the cessation of the war against Germany.

The charge of their being Nazi agents is without basis. Also the claim by the Trotskyites and Socialists that these men were Revolutionary Marxists is false.

If Erlich and Alter couldn't under any circumstances be fascist agents then why did Stalin have them executed?

**POLITICAL ROLE IS ONLY
 CLUE TO TRUTH**

The answer lies in a political analysis of the relationship between Erlich and Alter and the Stalinist bureaucracy and between the Stalinists and the United Nations.

In view of the political line pursued by the Second International, (of which Erlich and Alter were life long members,) support of the allied imperialists against the Axis imperialists, there might be a grain of truth in the first charge placed against them, Polish agents.

This observation is not made to justify their wanton execution without trial, but is an effort to establish their politics. Both Erlich and Alter have been members of the Warsaw Municipal Council in the role of loyal oppositionists. Sikorski and the Polish Government were the first to come to their aid. Internationally they were defended by all the reformists, pro United Nation forces. Furthermore the political relationship between Poland and the United Nations has not been a bed of roses. This political relationship

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

In the first part of April, the British through Keynes, and the United States through Morgenthau, issued preliminary plans for organizing the "victorious" United Nations in a world wide monetary set-up for post-war stabilization of world trade. Each plan proposed a different structure to accomplish this same end.

Both plans propose a limited return to the gold standard with an international medium of exchange known as the "Bancor" in the English and the "Unitas" in the American plan.

England with very little gold would subordinate gold to a plan based on maintaining a pre-war trade volume; while United States, with 60% of the world's gold, would establish a 5 billion dollar Stabilization Fund and make gold the king pin. United States would furnish 2 billion of the 5 billion and control 25% of the vote, thus giving it veto power since the proposal demands an 80% vote on important matters.

England's plan of control, in contrast to the United States' plan, would establish an International Clearing Union with votes based upon a base period of the pre-war trade volume that would give England a 3 billion dollar advantage in world trade over Uncle Sam. The John Bull plan would attempt to disarm American imperialism in advance and make useless to a fair degree the tremendous potential weapon of 22 billion dollars in gold. England is fearful of this gold hoard and frightened at the prospects if it is used in world trade and investments in the post-war period.

The British plan would enable creditor nations in world trade to

accumulate their balance as deposits under British domination. The union would lend these deposits as short term loans to debtor nations. If a debtor borrowed too much the International Union would step in to the life of this nation and reduce the value of its currency or make it surrender part of its gold or cut trade. If too much credit was accumulated by one nation the Clearing Union would propose reduction of tariffs or increase the value of the currency. While the British plan steps into the internal life of nations directly, taking away part of the state sovereignty of these nations, the United States plan would refrain from this direct method and accomplish the same end by indirect methods. The United States plan has been sent to 37 nations for study, but such powers as the Soviet Union China and France have not been heard from yet. A real fight is in the making. The "defeated" Axis would be brought into this "Stabilizing Fund" or the "Clearing Union" only after a period of disarming and subjection had taken place.

The proposed currency conference is only a part of the general economic struggle taking place in war and post-war plans of the imperialist powers. The struggle of the Dollar and the Pound is going into a new round. The preliminary maneuvers are taking place to line up big caucuses for the conference. Both of these giants will confront a third force as a bloc which will bargain with both.

The Currency problem and its relation to international trade is only a small part of the economic problems of international importance these nations will attempt to "settle." 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 shrewd statesmen who knew how to outdo Wilson in the last war. The present American statesmen, although hiding behind idealistic phrases, are cold realists in their struggle for the domination of the world, to remake it to the needs of the American Dollar.

Of course, all of this is 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 Nations will win the over-all war, against the axis and the Social Revolution both. The "victors" are preparing now their NEW weapons to hold off disintegration, to fight against the quicksand of decay capitalism and the social-revolution, with monetary conferences, food conferences, economic conferences, air-way conferences, naval conferences, police the world conferences, three chickens in every pot conferences and what not, as weapons against each other and weapons against the working class and colonial masses.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS
 Theoretical Organ of the International Contact Commission:
APRIL-MAY ISSUE
 The Economic Development of the Soviet Union.
 Dialectics: Contradictions, Antagonism, Conflicts.
MAY SUPPLEMENT
 The Revolution in India

has been strained even more in the recent period over the boundaries of Post war Poland.

This friction has been manifested in the disbandment of the Polish army units in Russia and the migration of Polish nationalists to Persia and other places.

The political line of Erlich and Alter leads to the objective if not the direct support of Poland and the United Nations. Did Stalin have them executed in reality for pro United Nation activity? As yet this question cannot be answered fully. There are not enough facts available.

**MARXISTS CONDEMN
 SECRECY**

But in spite of whatever political line Erlich and Alter pursued the fact remains that they were leaders of the working class. Their secret execution by the degenerate Stalinist bureaucracy cannot be condoned by revolutionists. We condemn the manner of the execution, and its secrecy.

It has made Arlich and Alter "heroes" and martyrs," instead of the social-patriotic men they were. Whether they conspired against the Soviet Union we do not know, but that they were life-long reformists and social-patriotic is certain. In their time they condemned the Bolshevik Revolution and Lenin too.

The public trial of these people, —if they were guilty of any overt acts against the Workers' State —(which we do not know of yet) would have strengthened the Soviet Union in the eyes of the masses everywhere. But secret executions, even of social-patriots, only discredits and harms the cause of the Social Revolution in every country of the world.

"Land Of The Free"

"U. S. WANTS US TO BE HEALTHY" POSTERS SAY SO!

The insanitary housing conditions in war crowded Washington have become so bad that Rep. Plumley told the House that the city will soon be faced "with such an epidemic as the District has never seen...." "Shall we sit idly by while thousands of Government employees from our States and districts are murdered by the incompetence and impotence of those whose duty it is to protect the health of the people... are we trying to commit mass murder down here or suicide by sewage?"... The conditions the workers live under are beyond description as to filth and lack of ordinary plumbing facilities, but it all right as the health commissioner is safely vacationing in Florida....

In Peoria, Illinois the city is wide open to the nearby camp with open gambling and prostitution running rampant. Even the prodding of the army has failed to make the city fathers clean up these profitable vices....

New York City health reports state that there is a tremendous rise in venereal diseases among the youth of the city with 2,070 cases reported in 1941 and 2,645 cases reported in 1942 in the 15 to 19 year old age group alone....

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL" BUT—

Nashville, Tennessee doesn't know it. A drunken Negro soldier resisted arrest by a white MP (with good reason we can assume). In retaliation the entire Negro business and residential district was terrorized, subjected to tear gas bombings, beatings, and looting by the local police force....

Baker County, Georgia, long terror ridden by the local police got a set back, for the first time in its history, when the facts proved beyond a doubt that the Sheriff, deputy sheriff, and a Newton policeman were responsible for the beating and lynching to death of a Negro, Robert Hall, last January.

The Kentucky University will fight out in the courts its rights to refuse student Charles Eubanks the right to attend, because of his color.

Judge William Hastie was refused service at the National Press Club in Washington, where he had been invited 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 are equal in the eyes of the law" yet the American Bar Association refused to admit to its membership the NY assistant district attorney because he is a Negro. Judge Goldstein, and Arthur Hayes, have resigned from that body because of its rank discriminatory policy. Being legalists they naturally would not take part in any direct action that might run contrary to the ethics of their legal profession.... So the situation will still prevail.

And jim-crow practices continue to grow and grow, in the north as well as the south. The New York hotel Knickerbocker refused a room to the colored delegate of the UAW.... but the workers who elected him are mainly white....

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE US FREE"

Two thirds of the staff of the OWI—the Office of War Informa-

tion, resigned in a body because they charged "We are leaving because of our conviction that it is impossible for us, under those who now control our output, to tell the full truth.".... "as we see it, the activities of the OWI on the home front are now dominated by high pressure promoters who prefer slick salesmanship to honest information...."

Education is a holy ground retained exclusively for protagonists of the wonderful freedom of this country and New York City makes no bones about it today. Mark Starr, educational director for the ILGWU was turned down as a member of the NYC board of education on the grounds that he is pro-labor! Yet out of over 100 applicants he was the only one qualified for the post.

THE "IMPARTIAL" CAPITALIST STATE AND LABOR

Typical of the sentiments of politicians throughout the country is the statement made by Representative Lee Baker of Arkansas who said: "I am opposed to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and similar racketeering unions. I can't agree with Washington officials that farm labor must be organized. If we listen to Washington we will lose our farms." And so—the Arkansas House of Representatives passed a vicious anti-labor bill called the Abingdon "anti-violence Picketing Bill"!

In Vicksburg Missouri, two CIO organizers, one white, one Negro, were severely beaten, threatened and jailed and then run out of town with the assistance of the local sheriff and police force....

The Kansas legislature passed a bill recently which outlaws the closed shop; makes sit down strikes illegal; outlaws secondary boycotts, restricts picketing; and requires licensing of labor union agents; financial reports by unions, reports of fees, dues and assessments of members and salaries of union officials....

In Montgomery Alabama 17 Union men were convicted of "conspiracy" for picketing a non-Union construction job under the convenient law that is worded to state "two or more persons to enter into a conspiracy or combination to prevent one from carrying on any lawful business" is guilty of illegal conspiracies.... it would be too bad if one housewife complained to another about a merchant, goods and they agreed to buy somewhere else! They would automatically become a couple of "conspirators."

HOW WILL THE CAPITALISTS ENFORCE THESE LAWS?

The recent tell tale demonstration in Fort Snelling, Minnesota gives a very clear picture of how the army will be used to beat down labor unless it agrees to become a willing slave for the boss class. There business officials were invited to a "demonstration of the Role Uncle Sam expects his M.P.'s to play in World War 2." The demonstration was a dress rehearsal for strikebreaking. It featured flying wedge assaults on picket lines, taught soldiers how to advance with fixed bayonets (oh, no, no, no, not against the Nazi horde!) against the American worker who would dare to go on strike, who would ask for higher wages, who would ask for shorter hours. Peaceful picketers are to be known as

"rioters" and to be treated with the full steel vengeance of the capitalists. Of course the soldiers will do the killing, but the profits that accrue from long hours and low wages will still roll into the pockets of the bosses. Maybe the Captain will be rewarded with a gold medal and a blue ribbon....

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

So much strife, so much discrimination, so much poverty, sickness, ignorance, brutality and jailings, to what end? For whose gain?

While workers are chained to their "leaders" no strike pledge, while organized starvation under the ration program continues, while wages are forbidden by governmental decree to go up any higher, while workers of one country are forced to slaughter at the point of a bayonet the workers of other countries, the Office Of Price Administration is busy putting down figures in big volumes.

It's report says that big corporations are doing well! very well! Since 1939 a group of less than 1% of all American corporations have cornered more than half of the total of all profits made by Manufacturing, Mining and Trade corporations in the U. S. A.

The cash figures for the years of 1939, 1940, 1941 are:

180,000 corporations took in 25 billion dollars for net profits before taxes, of which 178,000 corporations got an average of \$50,000 each, while 1753 corporations got an average of 8 million dollars each. Via the war-profits tax laws recently made in Congress, these profiteers were able, in spite of the "excess profits tax," to retain almost the same percentage of total corporate profits as they had before the taxes.... ah, Patriotism!

"Join the Communist Party, or we'll drive you out of the Union movement." Apparently that is the maxim of those International Unions in the CIO who are under the whip of the Stalinists.

Three months ago a group of officials of the "International Mine Mill and Smelter Workers," CIO, approached Bennie Banks, President of one of the affiliated Locals, No. 738, and asked him to join the Party. Banks, a militant fighter who has had some bad experiences with the Stalinists, refused. A week or two later, he was approached again. He still refused.

The Stalinist leaders of the International Union, then set out systematically to not only smash Banks but to destroy his Union. In the midst of contract negotiations with the Central Pattern and Foundry Company in Chicago, an International representative, Al Skinner, appeared on the scene. He immediately "took charge," demanded that Banks turn over the Union charter, the Union books, and the Union property to this flunkey of the Stalinists.

Communist Party and Police Union Busters

When the Union voted unanimously to reject this demand, Skinner came around with a crew of two squad cars of police, broke into the headquarters of the Local and attempted to steal its property. Fortunately Banks had for-

Job and Wage Freezing Decrees Are More Steps Toward Dictatorship

To all the other indignities, Wall Street Imperialism has now added wage freezing and job freezing. Twenty seven million workers are now virtually serfs. They can get no raises, they can not quit their jobs, they can not take a day off from work under penalty of being drafted into the army or of being fined in a law court—as many workers in Chicago already have been.

R. W. L. FORESAW FREEZING MEASURES

The FIGHTING WORKER long ago predicted that wage freezing must inevitably bring on job freezing. The inevitable has now happened. Thus, all the structures for controlling the working class that exist in Fascist countries, now exist in America, with the one exception that 'bonafide Unions altho hog tied are still legal and not yet outlawed.

It is obvious that McNutt did not freeze jobs because there is a manpower shortage. According to the Phil Murray, President of the CIO, 650,000 workers are losing their jobs. As time goes on, probably more will do so. According to N.A.M. there are 1 million unemployed, held in "reserve." We can learn from England that despite the war there is still considerable unemployment. As the months go by new methods, new techniques are discovered, and as a result thousands find themselves without work.

The only reason therefore for the job freezing, is to supplement wage freezing. If jobs were not frozen there would be a general run to the higher paying jobs. In order to stop that, the government must freeze jobs along with wages.

The anarchy of capitalism thus leads to greater and greater open dictatorship. The very obvious solution to the manpower and wage problem today would be to force wages up to what their own Department of Labor calls a "living

wage," approximately \$2,500 a year for a family of five; and to equalize the pay for equal work. But Wall Street, and its New Deal puppets, will not raise pay above the subsistence level. They insist on the "inalienable" right to pay low wages—and the government protects that right with the fury of a wounded tiger. Under capitalism, property rights and capital rights are respected, but human rights and needs are never even considered.

One of the strange things about both wage and job freezing is that the reactionaries in the AFL are considerably to the left of the so-called "progressives" in the CIO, in their open and violent condemnation of both Roosevelt orders.

C. P. LABOR FAKERS SUPPORT THE FREEZE

The CIO national lawyer, Lee Pressman, called "wage freezing" "a step forward." He demands a speed-up method for raising pay—the "incentive" plan for piece work and a bonus system. Various CIO bodies have only mildly reproached Roosevelt for his freezing orders. The Chicago CIO Council states that it isn't Roosevelt's fault, it is the work of a "group of reactionaries around him." Such naivete (or treachery)!

The milk and water position of the CIO is due to a large extent to the work of the Stalinists, who are so hell bent on saving the day for the Stalinist bureaucracy 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 support to the war. Sooner or later they will make a "compromise." — i.e. sell-out.

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 program.

Foundry Workers Outwit C. P. In Union Struggle

Bank, a Negro has the almost unanimous support of the 300 workers in this plant, even though less than 10% of the men are Negro. In the past ten months he has won increases of 25c per hour for most of the workers, even though a CP imposed contract was already in existence.

At one of the largest meetings in its history, therefore, the Local voted to withdraw from the International and the CIO and set itself up as an independent Union. More than four-fifth of the membership signed cards in this "new" outfit in less than 12 hours, and they sent in withdrawal petitions to the CIO.

As we go to press a Labor Board hearing for an election is pending. Whether the men get the election or not—and most likely they will—they intend to gain control of their own affairs. The leadership of the Local, Banks, Walter Filip, Coy Cooper and the others, places no faith in these legal steps; they are firm believers in mass action and have demonstrated it on many occasions in the past.

PARTISAN REVOLT

Continued from Page 1

ers and peasants against the Nazis. Probably the fact that the Partisan revolt has some revolutionary implication (despite some Stalinist leadership) accounts for the difference.

Local's Action Saves Union
Fortunately, the men and women in this steel foundry refused to be hoodwinked by the Stalinists.