Workers Of The World Unite! LABOR ACTION

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Heroic Spanish Workers And International Troops Hold Fascist Beasts At Bay

Fighting against terrible odds, the heroic Spanish* workers' militias withstood three weeks of the most mur-No Help From France derous siege in all modern history.

After a disastrous retreat of a hundred miles, which at times almost developed into a complete rout, the armed proletariat has dug in at the out-skirts of Madrid, and is holding the fascists at bay.

The story of the matchless heroism of the Spanish workers is alism of the Spanish workers is already inscribed forever in the CIO Group pages of history. Against them is arrayed a Fascist army armed with every new weapon that Hitler and Mussolini are turning out. Entirely new forms of destruction which have never before been used in warfare-calcium-sodium hombs spreading fires that water cannot extinguish, aerial bombs with delayed percussion-caps which do not explode until the of the American Federation of drop bombs aimed with the ac- cessful unions in the Federation used against the civilian popula- fight for national 30-hour week to stand fast.

MADRID IN HOURLY DANGER

er. The fascist generals will go dropped at these sessions. For Soviet Denies Charge to any lengths to capture Madrid, several years, under heavy presin order to justify the official rec. sure from the industrial union ognition of their "government" by bloc, A. F. of L. leaders have paid Hitler and Mussolini. The only lip service to such proposals as connection between Madrid and organization of the unorganized, Valencia is by a single motor an aggressive legislative program, highway, for the Madrid-Valenci- and solidarity of world labor ex- ists despite Italian and German an railway is still cut between pressed through the "Labor Chest" Madrid and Aranjuez.

women and children from Madrid strength of the A. F. of L. under indicates that the insistence of unconstitutional syspension and to fight in Madrid from street to deliberatons, the ultra-reactionstreet and house to house, if ne- aries feel free to revert to type. cessary, has prevailed over the proposal of President Azana and

government has failed miserably in helping the Spanish Loyalists is confirmed again by a dispatch appearing in the November 16 issue of the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Suspended Not only has the Blum govern-

By AFL Vote ment prevented arms from going to the Loyalists, but it has failed in stopping arms from going to the Rebels The most reactionary national According to the dispatch, the convention in the entire history Brussels dock workers passed a

ments which enable airplanes to of the most aggressive and suc- Rebels. and Gulf seamen.

in the group centered around the Madrid remains in hourly dang. Executive Council has been

against Fascism. Today, with rebels, a Moscow cable to the The decision to evacuate the nearly a half of the voting reports that the Soviet bureaucracy has been sending oil to Nazi the workers' parties and unions, without voice in the convention Germany.

Ostensibly reporting that the tanker was seized by Spanish 30Hour Bill Dropped

rebels, the Daily Worker dispatch Most astounding and revealing vehemently denies that the ship the Right Wing Socialist leader, instance is the dropping of the was destined for Spain, gives the case is decided by the relative strength of Prieto, to retreat from Madrid. campaign for a congressional 30lies to Hearst's report that the hour week hill. This demand was bureaucracy is shipping arms to the Spanish Lovalists, and states Madrid for any length of time, speech or press release coming that the ship was enroute to a Nazi port. The Moscow cable indignantly denounces the "slanderous dis and his Italian and German allies. apology this advanced proposal is patch" in the Hearst press to the scrapped and in its place is a effect that the Soviet tanker, pious plea to American business seized by the Spanish fascists, to volunteer the thirty-hour week contained "a large cargo of ammunition for the Spanish government." This approach is identical with The revolutionary workers of that of the campaigns to organize the whole world can only regret that, it really is a slander. begun in 1928. Organization was

MARITIME STRIKE DEADLOCK

55

Workers Dig In For Hard Fight In ZEX **Defense of Unions**

The Voice Of

Socialism

In The West

VOL. 1 NO. 1

The end of the fourth week of the maritime strike on he Pacific Coast finds all shipping completely tied up and the situation still frozen in a deadlock. No definite signs of an early settlement are in sight. The ship owners have made no moves toward settlement, and the workers are not moving any ships. So great, in fact, is the solidarity, of the workers, welded together in the Maritime Federa-Stion, that the shinowners have not

> even attempted, as yet, to move a single ship.

The constant warfare of the shipowners against the workers

By B. J. WIDICK AKRON, Ohio. - Terrorism of

the Black Legion variety is the latest weapon being employed by the rubber barons in a futile attempt to curb the growth and Homes of two rank-and filers of tary rights of unionism, on the

Bomb Homes

Of Workers

Terror Campaign

Fails to Stop Growth

Of Rubber Union

In Tire City

Organized Labor seethed in anger over the outrages and forc-

who maintain the nation's maritime industry broke spectacularly into the open when at midnight, October 29, after two months of exhausting effort to negotiate, greements with ship barons intent upon smashing every vestige of unionism, the meeting of Joint Negotiating Committees exercised the power invested by a referendum vote, and called for strike action. Strike Hits All Ports

Within a few minutes of that lecision picket lines were forming upon the docks of every major port in the nation, on the West Coast in order to wring from rapacious shipowners the elemen East and Gulf Coasts because the strike action gave every progres-

AN Las which as buis indications of the shipowner in tention to throttle the maritime unions became apparent. They hailed with satisfaction the signing of the vicious maritime law known as H. R. 8597, H. R. 8555, and H. R. 8599 by President

to semi-militarize the American

merchant marine, established a

Maritime Commission that has

full authority to regulate wages.

hours, and working conditions as

well as to administer the \$100.

000,000[@] annually poured into the

It Ships Spain Arms The maritime strike of the Pacific Coast, Confirming the notorious fact that Soviet Russia has sent no now four weeks old, is still stalemated arms to help the Spanish Loyaland is clearly becoming a test of strength and endurance. A good deal is said about arms being sent to the Spanish strike "strategy"-and that has its uses Daily Worker for November 16,

within certain clearly defined limits-but when you get down to cases this strike, like every other strike, is simply a built headed struggle between two forces whose interests are in constant and irreconciliable conflict. The partnership of capital and labor is a lie. The immediate issue in every the opposing forces at the moment. The

this demand and to refuse to "arbitrate" it, power of the militant United Rubthat is, to let some supposedly "neutral" ber Workers of America. body decide the question whether they should have unions or not. The other de- the General Local, U.R.W.A., were mands of the unions, such as the demand agents, endangering the lives of sive unionist an opportunity to for the 8-hour day for cooks and stewards, 20 people. Another bomb failed express his solidarity and present are surely modest and realistic enough in to shattes the home of a third their own demands. this age when even a section of the most union man because it was misfar-sighted capitalists are advocating the placed." universal 6-hour day.

The Maritime Strike

(EDITORIAL)

The resources of the workers in the pres- ed the police department to make ent struggle are far superior to those with arrests of the bombers despite the which they entered the historic strike of opposition of the company and They have strong organizations the pressure it exerted on city of-



For Spanish People

That the French People's Front

This decision should be hailed by workers everywhere, for to hold first on the list in almost every perhaps thereby saving Madrid al- from the Green headquarters in together, is a tremendous blow to the last few years. At Tampa the prestige of General Franco without even an explanation or

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE Almost, in the nick of time there arrived in Madrid and immediately took over the most im- out of kindness of the business heart! portant sector of fighting, an International Brigade composed of revolutionary Socialist and Communist workers from abroad, most. the south and the auto industry ly either World War fighters or skilled technicians in artillery and sought by speeches to Chambers machine-gunning, many of them of Commerce and Rotary Clubs and secret sessions "around the refugees from fascist Germany, table" with the employers. The Italy and Austria.

campaigns were a dismal failure. At the same time, there arrived thousands of seasoned Catalonian worker-soldiers, fresh from a series of victories on the Aragon front. These militamen of the C. N. T. - the powerful anarchosyndicalist trade union federation -were led into battle by the noted anarchist, Buenaventura Durruti, who himself was killed while successfully stemming the fascist offensive.

Every day highly-skilled technicalins, artillerymen, aviators, military engineers and trained soldiers-members of proletarian par-(Continued on Page 2)

Soviet Government Stops Byedny Opera

Press reports state that in Soviet Russia, the ruling bureaucracy condemned a comic opera that lampooned certain phases of Christianity in pre-revolutionary Russia. Particularly objectional to the bureaucracy, according to press reports, was one scene depicting a baptismal scene as a drunken farce.

The play which opened with a great fanfare of publicity had been approved by the preliminary censorship, and it was not until leading members of the bureaucracy saw the first or second performance that the opera was denounced as "an insolent misrepresentation of the country's history."

The author, Demian Byedny, has been a revolutionist since 1905. His satires of the clergy, of Czarism, and of t he landowners before the Bolshevist revolution had been so cleverly written that they escaped the Czarist censorship.

At one time he was in such favor with the bureaucracy that he was given an apartment in the Kremlin, but a few years ago he lost that special privilege.

Blum Announces Big Navy Plan for France

War On Communism

Declaring that there could be

The bosses proved more class As part of her preparation for conscious than William Green, and the approaching world conflict. the workers, never having been France's Peoples Front governasked, ignored the whole perment under Leon Blum has an nounced a huge navy construc-

Down the Toboggan

formance

tion program, according to a dis Changing tactics in the campatch appearing in the November paign for a shorter work week 16 issue of the Daily Worker could be written into a saga of the official organ of the Communist degeneration of the craft leader-Party.

ship of the A. F. of L. The Fed-During recent years, according eration was born 50 years ago in to the announcement, the French the midst of a campaign for the have been building battleships and 8-hour day by means of workerhave neglected the smaller craft power expressed in a call for a which are necessary as auxiliaries general strike on May 1, 1886. to bring a fleet to complete fight-One of the earliest A. F. of L. ing efficiency.

actions was a similar general This over-sight on the part of strike call for May 1, 1890." From previous capitalist governments reliance on economic strength the will be taken care of by the Leon labor leadership turned to po-Blue government through the imlitical action for a shorter work mediate construction of 51 craft

week and now, in the twilight of totaling 40.000 tons. their outworn bureaucratic power,

they are reduced to throwing themselves upon the tender Cleric Appeals For mercies of the bosses. Craft unionism-there she stands! Ignorant

Additional proof of the bankrupt

to take "sides!"

leadership in the craft ranks is no compromise in the fight bethe handling of the request from tween Christianity and Commuthe Spanish Ambassador that a nism, the Reverend Dr. John representative of the Spanish O'Hara, C.S.C., president of Notre government be given the floor at Dame University, spoke before an Tampa. A year ago "the boys" audience of 1,000 in New York humored the needle trade and last week and denounced both other progressive workers by con- those who follow a materialistic demning fascism and nazi-ism. philosophy and those who wave This year with Fascist-hired between that philosophy and mys Moors shooting down the workers ticism

in Spain the program committee "You will have to make the dedecided that "they did not know cision," declared Dr. O'Hara. "I enough about the conflict in Spain have no army to force you to choose, but I am willing to stand

Wise as a minor prophet to warn you However they did know enough that you must choose." about two conflicts in the United The Reverend called upon his States to take sides and in both listeners to fight against the "macases they took the employers' terialistic view of life that side. While Tampa cigar makers, threatens to engulf us" and de members of one of the oldest nounced all who follow the precraft unions, were donating hun- mises of materialism to their (Continued on Page 2)

logical conclusion.

only strike strategy worth a tinker's damn is the strategy that begins with this conception.

The problem of the strikers consists in estimating what their strength is, and then mobilizing it in full force and pressing against the enemy until something cracks and a settlement is achieved in consonance with the relation of forces between the unions and the organizations of the bosses. That's all there is to strike strategy. You cannot maneuver over the head of the class struggle.

We pass over here entirely the question of who is "right" in the maritime strike, for we believe with Ben Hanford that the working class is always right. From our point of view the workers have a perfect right to the full control of industry and all the fruits thereof. The employers on the other hand-not merely the shipowners; all bosses are alike-would like a situation where the workers are deprived of all organization and all say about their work and are paid only enough to keep body and soul together and raise a new generation of slaves to take their places when they drop in their tracks.

Any settlement in between these two extremes is only a temporary truce and the nature of such a settlement is decided by power: "justice" has nothing to do with t. The workers will not have justice until they take over the world. The demands of the workers in a strike are to be judged solely by their timeliness and the way they fit realistically into the actual relation of forces at the time.

The demands of the maritime workers in the present strike are perfectly reasonable from this standpoint. In standing pat for the union hiring hall they are only asserting their determination to safeguard the ' organizations which they have already won in struggle and maintained in struggle. The fight for the hiring hall is in essence the old familiar fight for union recognition; when the unions supply workers from the union hall they have union recognition in its best form. The demand of the bosses for the re-establishment of the practice of hiring and firing whom they please is a proposal to substitute individual bargaining and the black list system for collective bargaining and a reasonable protection to the worker against discrimination.

This issue is perfectly clear to every unionist. The maritime workers are strong enough—as they have demonstrated in the past and in the present strike-to assert

1934. forged in the battle of two years ago and continually tested in the running fight with | every other method of union-bustthe ship owners ever since. In the mean-ling but, failed dismally because time they have bound the various craft or- of the attracting power of the proganizations together into a federation gram of the U.R.W.A. pledged to the common action of all crafts on the old principle of the Knights of Labor that an injury to one is the concern of all. The Maritime Federation of the Pa- strangle-hold of the A. F. of L. cific is a new and most formidable weapon bureaucracy and established an addition by the significant speedin the hands of the strikers, even if it falls International Union after a terfar short of the effectiveness and power of rific battle against William Green one industrial union in the industry, the at the rubber workers' convention. plies in strategic industries even most modern instrument of struggle. The founded on a program of class increased self confidence that has come struggle as the only way possible persistent rumors of the organwith the experiences of the past two years, to combat the giant rubber com and the habit of co-operation in the federa- panies successfully and build tion all spell the same thing -- greater strong industrial unions.

* * * *

camp and better chances for success.

The strikers have other resources also. The organized labor movement in the west any workers' demands and anis on the upgrade. This is due in no small nouncing a policy of wage cuts degree to the influence of the maritime ex-|and lay-offs. ample. The upsurge of militancy on the to sit-downs during which union waterfront, and the tangible proofs that strength grew everywhere. Over this policy pays big dividends in the form 25,000 rubber workers here parof strengthened organization and better ticipating.

conditions, have inspired unorganized The sit-downs at Goodyear culworkers to organize and fight and older minated into the five-week strike that built the Local from a scant unions to grow and to gain. Throughout few hundred members into a solidthe labor movement there is a feeling of |1y entrenched organization, havdeep gratitude to the maritime workers ing the majority of the 15,000 and a warm sympathy for them in their Goodyear workers. DALBYMPLE MOBBED present fight. This is a real asset which Mobbing of President S. might easily be the deciding factor to tip Dalrymple of the URWA and eight win in upholding his war program the scale in favor of the strikers on the organizers in Gadsden, Ala., was before the House of Commons last Goodyear's answer to an attempt final showdown. to organize outside plants.

In addition, the maritime federation has in the "Voice of the Federation" an ad- shut down Goodyear's three Akmirable organ of publicity and propaganda ron plants effectively stopped fur--one of the very best trade union papers ther mobbing. in the entire labor movement in fact which can, and in our opinion should, be proved in the Akron area by the converted into a Daily for the duration of URWA, workers everywhere are the strike. The art of strike publicity con- willing to join as the new Locals full details for transforming Great sists primarily in getting the facts and the testify. union side of the story daily to the strikers and to the working class public.

The experience of the Minneapolis truck face a nation-wide union organidrivers with their strike Daily in 1934 zation. shows that strikers who are onto their business don't have to worry much about what the daily capitalist press prints-they can't has always been the opposite decontrol or influence that anyway. If they sired by the companies. publish their own daily paper the workers will read it and believe it and hold a solid wall of sympathy and support around the (Continued on Page 2)

ficials The rubber barons have tried GREEN'S STRANGLE-HOLD BROKEN

treasuries of the shipowners by It was only a year ago that pro- the government. That a lock-out was intended gressive rubber workers broke the by the shipowners was shown in ing up of all waterborne shipments, the storing of huge supreserves of paper, and there were ization of a huge spy system and the recruiting of scabs which was

finally brought into light with Gradually the once large rubber the exposure of Tanker Smith's strength and greater solidarity in the labor workers' union began to rebuild activities in the Northwest. themselves after the International was formed.

> Then the rubber companies reagreements which resulted from taliated by arrogantly refusing the 1934 strike, the shipowners specified that they had definite proposals but that before they Resentment of the workers led submitted these proposals the maritime unions must consent in

advance to arbitrate all issues (Continued on Page 2)

British War Program Hidden From Voters

Owners Demand "Arbitration"

At first announcing their inten

ion to revise the award and

That he had not disclosed before election his plans for completely converting Great Britain into a war camp over night, was H. admitted by Premier Stanley Baldweek. As his reason for hiding his plans for war, he gave the A 24-hour protest sit-down that fact that the nation at that time was overwhelmingly opposed to war and that the disclosure of his plans might have entailed the Since wages, hours and working defeat of the government at the

> Revealing that he had compiled a secret "war-book" containing Britain into one of the world's most efficient war machines. Baldwin stated, "There can be no peace in Europe unless every country knows we are ready for war.

When he was attacked by overanxious members of the House of Commons for delaying the war preparations unnecessarily. Baldwin responded with arguments defending his policy for maintaining secrecy and for keeping the public, which was voting for a government of peace, ignorant of them realize that the class strugstrike. For publicity that counts, that is, gle is a constant and never-ending his design to send them to the battlefields of the next war.

conditions have been vastly im- elections. Unless the solid back-bone the Akron rubber workers can be

battle.

broken, the rubber companies will

That is why the spy-systems, the mobbing, the bombings have been employed. But the effect Each attack of the companies solidifies the workers more strongly. It keeps them alert and makes

Page Two

eight hour day and improved liv-**Dock Strike** ing quarters for cooks and stew-Stalemated In 2nd Month tors.'

(Continued from Page 1) upon which there could be no agreement.

ber 30, the date upon which the To this arrogant proposition, the award and agreements expired. unions replied that they could not arbitrate their right to organize Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the Sailors' expressed a highly militnor their right to maintain a union, and that they considered ant attitude and asked for the their union hiring halls with a only possible reply to the shiprotation system of employment, owners on September 30, econotheir minimum wage schedule, mic action.

their maximum hours agreement, Strike Action Delayed issues which could no more be arbitrated than could the shipowners' possession of the ships and docks of the maritime industry or their receipt of \$100,something could still be accom-000,000 a year in direct subsidies plished with the shipowners. from the United States treasury. To this definition of what could and could not be arbitrated the men expressed doubt of the leshipowners screamed, "The unions gality of the shipowners terminat- cillation, after its terrible step in refuse to arbitrate!" The ship- ing the award, but Judge Sloss entering the "non-intervention owners refused to discuss, much before whom the case was heard, committee" and doing nothing less to "arbitrate" their huge specified the award had been while Germany and Italy brazenly legally terminated by the shipprofits for the last two years or owners. On September 30 the their ability to grant immeasurably better conditions because of joint meetings of the Negotiating gun to send material aid instead

operating expenses and mainte- to extend the period of negotiaof the industry they exploit.

Aim to Smash Unions

the award under which the Pa- on a compromise of 15 days ex- mains to be seen. tension for further negotiations. cific District of the International Longshoremen's Association had been working. As negotiations proceeded it became increasingly clear that the shipowners had no intention of arriving at an amicable settlement, that their whole design was to force a lockout, and that their strategy in dealing with the maritime unions was

based on no other premise than smashing them through a lockout. Despite working conditions which were characterized by a re-

port submitted to the Department Judicial Association and corroborated by an official government with proposals to "investigate." from \$40 a month to \$62.50 with gate."

work available only during approximately eight months of the for action, the Negotiating Comyear, they proposed doing away with all overtime pay (which is a final desperate effort for peace the shipowners choose either intention to) force posed doing away with the Sat- strike began. urday afternoon which the Sailors have been allowed off while ships are in port. They proposed that

preferential employment ards: and uniform manning scale for engineers and hiring hall, and eight hour day for radio opera-Those unions whose conditions

were the most miserable, the Sailors, the Firemen, and the Cooks and Stewards began preparations for action before Septem-

Brave Fight Of Workers For Madrid (Continued from Page 1)

> ies from all the countries of Europe and America-arrive to bolster the deficient technical- services of the workers' WORKERS SEND ARMS TO SPAIN

Arms in considerable quantities ers from capitalist countries. Much

of these arms, especially machineguns and ammunition, are coming Sentiment prevailed in the from France, where the strongly Joint Negotiating Committee to organized workers in the muniextend the period of negotiations tions factories, arsenals, ports and tionary sections of the French proletariat. Even from far-off Amer-Attorneys for the Longshore- ica arms are beginning to arrive. After nearly four months of va-

armed their Spanish fascist allies, the Soviet Union has finally be-"token payment" under the presnance besides the entire pay roll tions for at least 25 days. The sure of the Spanish working-class Sailors spoke for immediate ac- organizations and the internationtion, pointing out the danger of al working-class, or whether the

Negotiations commenced over waiting for the slack season and Soviet leaders have actually exethe shipowner proposals to revise winter. Agreement was reached cuted a reversal of policy, re-

AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE One thing is absolutely clear

Strike Vote Taken now. By their official recognition During this period nothing was of General Franco's "government," accomplished. Shipowners re-Italian and German capitalism mained adamant against reason. have irrevocably bound up their On October 15 the joint meeting fate with that of Franco. They cided to take a strike vote and will, they must or back down to extend the time to October 28. ment has ever done after such a Hope was expressed that the move, go to any lengths to secure new Maritime Commission would a fascist victory in Spain. They exert pressure upon the shipown- have thus thrown into the interers during this period. Its legal national arena the issue of vic-

existence would not begin until tory or defeat of the Spanish October 26, but already its temworkers. Without effective interpf Commerce by the International porary appointees had injected national aid, the Spanish workers themselves into the situation cannot win.

This can only mean aid from investigating committee as unbe- By October 26 the Commission the working-class of the world inlievably miserable and a blot upon had revealed its whole-hearted cluding the Soviet Union. It is American industry which must be support of the shipowners by a absolutely preposterous for the remedied, the shipowners pro- refusal to act and a proposal Communist parties to continue posed even viler conditions. To to postpone all action for a year, "demanding" that the capitalist the Sailors, whose wages range during which it would "investi- governments of France and England come to anti-fascist Spain'

On October 28, the date set aid because, forsooth, France and England are "democratic" countries. These are capitalist govmitees at a joint meeting made ernments and four months of civil with all overtime pay (which is a final desperate effort for peace now given by the shipowners at by extending the time another the Dally Worker that it is balderthe rate of 24 cents an hour, as 24 hours. The shipowners main-dash to expect them to aid the cash or in "time-off".) They pro- action, and on October 29, the spirable in Spain. It is conceivable, if France and England were ready for war and if they Issue of Perishable Cargo

thought Germany and Italy were the enemy, that they might use Since strike action was forced Spain as the equivalent of "little LABOR ACTION

THE MARITIME STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1).

keeps the strikers themselves and their sympathizers informed from day to day, he daily strike paper is the thing. A publicity program in a modern strike that does not include a daily paper is like a knife without a blade.

The maritime workers are fighting against a powerful enemy and their victory is by no means assured. The strikers can quite easily defeat themselves if they make a miscalculation as to the strength and rehave been arriving, sent by work- sources of the enemy, and particularly if they rely on the support of factors which are in reality lined up on the other side. Here we refer directly to the government and the reactionary labor leaders of the type of Ryan, Hunter and Green. The first under the lingering hope that railways, are the most revolu- duty of militant leadership is to tell the strikers the truth in this respect so that they will not entertain dangerous illusions and be taken by surprise at a critical moment.

The bosses are powerful, in the first place, because they own the ships and the docks and the workers have not yet challenged their fraudulent claim to such ownership. And because they own the ships the subsidy which alone covers all Committee considered a proposal of food. Whether this is a mere the bosses own the government. And the same holds true in regard to such labor leaders as those mentioned above. The slightest misunderstanding on these two points can easily prove fatal.

The strikers have to battle the ship owners plus the government plus the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. That's the score. Ryan and Hunter have already | a vital interest in the success of the fight.

in the cities and guaranty of jobs lliance at the top between the to all. Really democratic rule of bourgeois politicians and the lathe country through a National bor leaders, there is wide-spread Congress of Delegates from Fac-Committees. Freedom and inde move to abolish the workers' com- fight of the seamen on the Gulf pendence to the Moroccan people mittees and the elected worker- and East Coast against some of and an alliance between them and the Spanish workers and peasants - These powerful revolutionary weapons are not being used, and for what reason? For the sake of a handful of bourgeois poliing limited to technical functions. and without a roll call. ticians who, if they succeed in getting back into their hands the It is under the direct leadership power which fell from them on July 18, will immediately make a deal with Franco at the expense of the workers.

clothing bears the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' label and the A.C.W.A. belongs to the hated shown their hands on the east coast. Green Committee for Industrial Organ-& Co., backed them up by denouncing the has decided that they prefer scab

east coast strike as "outlaw." And it ought sweatshops to union products of to be painfully apparent to all that the ad- workers organized industrially! ministration at Washington, which was sold | The great issue of the convento the workers as a "friend of labor" in one with the ten C.I.O. unions. After of the biggest skin games ever put over, months of blustering threats of hasn't made a move to help the strikers expulsion, the labor fakirs backed get their extremely modest demands. "Ex- down with a sudden case of cold pectations" in this regard have been cruel- feet. The bluster was intended to

ly disappointed. And the worst is yet to scare the C.I.O. unions into apology and surrender. It failed come. and, with it, failed the courage But in spite of all these powerful forces of the Executive Council. Hunarrayed against them the embattled mari- dreds of craft locals have been time workers have better than a fighting "putting the heat" on their executive officers.

chance to win. As a matter of fact, once Sympathy with the C.I.O., the the actual lineup is clearly understood and steel drive, and industrial unionthis understanding is consciously incorpo- ism, has swept dozens of state rated into the strike policy of the unions, federations, hundreds of city labor the victory is two-thirds won. For that will bodies where the craft unions mean that the strikers see the real issue have a majority of delegates. The thrones of many a long-time pieclearly, rely solely on themselves and the card are tottering. "Bull" Hutchesupport of their fellow workers in other son, president of the largest craft trades and dig in for a bitter-end struggle. union, the carpenters, is appar-A victory in the maritime strike under ently so sure that his job is gone

the banner of the federation will affect that reports, say he isn't even profoundly the lives of all the workers in- the union meets. He wants to volved for the better. It will prove in life slide out gracefully into another the superiority of common action through \$25,000 a year berth as head of federation over the old craft isolation and the union's Lakeland Florida sanistimulate the movement for thorough-going industrial unionism, the next step. And "the boys" have the votes-thouit will encourage the whole labor move- sands of them to the one each ment of the west to press forward.

These are big stakes. They are worth ecutive Council gives to State fighting for. Every worker in the west has

Convention

C.I.O. has a future; "the boys" (Continued from Page 1) have only the past and a prayerresistance in the ranks to any dreds of dollars to the heroic ful hope that their well-oiled machine can keep them in office for a few more pay days. the most powerful capitalists and officers who control the workers' most corrupt union officials in Far from the Tampa funeral oration, C.I.O. unions were busy armies. Decrees militarizing the America, the craft leadership con- with a subject overlooked in the militia and calling all men to the demned the strike. A motion by A. F. of L. convention agendacolors are being interpreted by Ivan (scab-hunter) Hunter of the organization. Drives to organize the workers in such a manner that I.S.U. was railroaded through by garment, rubber, textile, shipyard the regular army officers are be- President Green without debate and auto workers have been voted and launched. The great steel At a later session, following the drive continues. Let the A. F. of their own proletarian officers logic of blind spite, the A. F. of of L. continue polite appeals to and committees that the workers, L. decided that henceforth all employers, boycotts of the union with their backs to the walls of "loyal" union men must wear label, and strike breaking; the or overalls. Union-made men's the mass production industries.

Federations and City Council

ACTION ARMY

The resolute rank and file so cialists who put Labor Action over the top here, started something. The Jimmy Higginses who turned their own pockets inside out and ounded their friends for subs and contributions, compose the vanguard of the ACTION ARMY.

What is this strange army which wears no uniforms? How do they fight and what do they win? What cause do they serve and to what do they give such devotion?-

The Action Army is that band f comrades who embarked on the uncharted course of establishing Labor Action as The Voice of Socialism in the west. Their ammunition is the conviction that

the cause of socialism will triumph. Their victories are expressed in terms of new adherents and supporters in the struggle. They serve the working class and their devotion is to the emancipation of that class from capitalism and exploitation.

In the short time since the going to try for it again when Socialist Party of California decided to establish Labor Action and set the minimum requirement for publication at \$1,000 the soldiers of the Action Army went over the top to the tune of For a few more days in Tampa \$1,200 and are still going strong. The captains and lieutenants all over the west marshalled their which the "democracy" loving Exforces and poured hundreds of subscriptions into the office in

San Francisco. bodies. But the C.I.O. has the First among money raisers is sympathy of the majority of the Local Los Angeles of the Socialist present membership and the only Party. Their contribution so far tev to organization of the forty is \$403, with another \$115 pledged. million now unorganized. The The rank and file of the Party and the Young People's Socialist League in Los Angeles doesn't oast a single millionaire. Most f the members are workers who earn very modest salaries. But they were determined to put Labor Action on the map. So they put themselves in hock for every cent they could raise. They borrowed money against their future salaries. They didn't buy that new suit they had their eye on and they put the Ford in storage for a while. They denied themselves the ordinary pleasures of movies and dances-AND THEY GAVE THE MONEY TO THE LA-BOR ACTION FUND.

Second among the money raisers comes San Francisco with \$268.25. Here truly heroic sacrifices were made. A great many members of he local are maritime workers reported on its choice of speakers were also invited. A verbal vote tainly extraordinary sacrifices for the opening session-a meet on an invitation to both resulted were made by the members who laid their donations on the line for

> Labor Action. Third come the Berkeley Yipsels

their Madrid tenements, are beat- either clothes made by scab labor C.I.O. is organizing workers in Fortunately, in spite of the al- ing back the fascist armies. The Writers' Congress Comes To Town

People's Front Spreads Out All Over the Place; Progress cores Again; Pulp Writers On a Rampage; "Peace, Brothers, gress. The Program Committee sky would be acceptable if Stalin raise the money is beyond us. Cer-Peace' ing that was to set the keynote in a resounding roar of "noes"

Back in those dizzy transitional | Front Americaine and was broad of the Congress. The first nomi- from the comrades. But when days of early 1935, before the new enough to include everybody who nation-Thomas Mann, the great Ernest Sutherland Bates called the shipowners exercise the priv-the shipowners exercise the private exercise the priva fully clarified by Comrade Dimit- --- "well, you know-opposed to unanimously approved; and then ject, the vote stood six to seven \$94 pledged. And then fourth



when they pleased. Propose "Efficiency" Speed-Up

cient men enrolled to replace every gang without running more than 6 hours or at a maximum 8 hours a gang. This provision alone would require adding thousands of men to the union where work at present to employ each man for more than 120 hours a month. On top of this they demanded that the wages of the longshoremen be geared to an "efficiency" system based upon the tonnage movement of cargo on a time schedule.

All appeals of the Marine Cooks \$45 a month and who work a by the shipowners prior to the and Stewards, who are paid only from them, were turned down arsuch as the Marine Firemen, down flat in the same manner. The Firemen had the temerity to King. ask for a wage increase of 7 As negotiations proceeded, 26 geoisie" reluctantly agree to con- gent.

cents an hour. The shipowners demanded that ship of T. G. Plant, reactionary have been on their good behavior One Virtue these impossible conditions. ing to the next. In the negotiat- licensed groups out in the cold. ing meetings, the shipowners | Looming in the background now | ing of the whole arsenal of revolumade upon the unions.

the militancy of the union mem-To the Longshoremen they pro-bership who at San Pedro refused eral Franco will win. time pay after 3 p. m., a condition from a court asking a United rine wage-slavery. They demanded ally nullified. Meantime a refer-November 21: an 8-hour day for Longshoremen endum upon moving perishable "If anywhere, the sympathies In place of the present six hour cargo had been conducted, with of official London are with the day through specifying that the Seattle and San Pedro voting Italians. Anthony Eden, For-Longshoremen must have suffi- against the proposition and San eign Secretary, startled the Francisco and Portland voting in House of Commons yesterday by favor. The issue of "perishable" his declaration that Italy and cargo is particularly dangerous, Germany were less guilty of since under this classification intervention than other powers. could come any cargo shipped by The Foreign Secretary had in sea, some shipowners on the Atmind Soviet Russia." there is no more than sufficient lantic coast even claiming that a load of pipe is "perishable." to move. That means that the had been sufficiently weighted whatsoever.

flege of hiring or firing whom become completely paralyzed on they are not ready to go to war.

Attack Unlicensed Groups

Spanish masses will get arms with the politically orthodox, to The strategy of the shipowners from the independent actions of assure Party domination, invita- Too Broad for Safety so far has been to direct the sea-faring groups, the Sailors, the sue is thus put up squarely to the liberal fringe. Naturally, no "Op- upon its organization for nearly Only the three or four dissident gress itself. Cooks and Stewards, and the Soviet leadership and the other position" radical was wanted, re- six months by the Communist radicals protested and they were Pulp Writers Front

Meanwhile another danger for signed by the shipowners for pub- bourgeois politicians — President bitrarily. Other unions involved licity and for testing the strength Azana, President Companys of Caof the Maritime Federation, which talonia, etc.-were only prevented such as the Marine Firemen, whose pay is based on 27 cents exercises a cohesive influence from coming to a compromise with whose pay is based on 27 cents who the maritime crafts. In addian hour for skilled labor exploited upon the maritime crafts. In addi- the fascist generals by the inde-56 hours a week in heat at times tion a frame-up of murder was pendent action of the workers in reaching 150 degrees were turned initiated against the leader of the seizing control of the chief cities

firms broke away from the leader- tinuing the war. These gentry

the unions sign contracts and spokesman for the shipowners or thanks only to the fact that they bond themselves for fulfillment of ganization and offered to concede are surrounded by armed workers. refuse a demand before proceed. ment that would leave the un- REVOLUTIONARY SLOGANS This has meant the relinquish-

maintained an attitude of utmost is the hideous prison of govern- tionary weapons available for winmen, jibing at the situation, and working conditions through the | of, not only the peasants in the laughing at the demands they Copeland Bill and New Maritime anti-fascist regions, but of the Commission. The campaign of the peasantry in the fascist regions

tion." economic action. These demands way Labor laws to chain down powering peasant committees to moved westward, it also grew were duly invited. are, "Union control of hiring hall the maritime groups, are all a divide the land, and guaranteeing broader, in imitation of the Party Music by Gershwin

time for sailors and firemen; workers in government control. fiscation of all big establishments ization, it had become a literary sic by Gershwin) could do justice deafening and Mike Gold nearly rangements are under way.

Book Union prize.

But the word had gone forth

they pleased, where they pleased, the West Coast. First attempts they continue to woo Mussolini to roff and fully digested by the Hearst and all that -plunging from the sublime to against the motion. It was an they continue to woo Mussolini to roff and fully digested by the Hearst and fully digested by the library of the ridiculous-there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous-there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous-there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous-there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous the ridiculous there was offered embarrassing moment for the library of the ridiculous the r at moving cargo were blocked by the militanary of the union memno bones about its hope that Gen- Congress was held in New York. Progress." And aren't we all? in rapid succession the following erals and most of them refrained The "united front" had not yet Thus it happened that among its names-Smedley Butler, Mayor from voting. When the Congress finally conto move cargo despite an order ENGLAND SUPPORTS FASCISTS been broadened into the "people's sponsors it included Mr. Gold and Dore of Seattle and George Kid-The "unofficial" but thoroughly front" and no effort was made to his friends who supported Brow- well of the Bakery Wagon Drivers vened in San Francisco-with a

which has not existed since before States marshal to move a cargo of authoriative spokesman for the camouflage the real sponsorship der, Mr. John Barry and his Union. Two weeks before, at a large delegation from Hollywood 1908, even during the blackest bananas. This order, unique in British Foreign Office, "Augur," of the Congress. Earl Browder friends who supported Roosevelt meeting of the League Against which knew nothing about these days of American merchant ma-ally multicid Manuting and Fascism, Butler had de-preliminary maneuvers and very featured speakers. The fiction of and his friends who supported nounced his sponsors for collect- little of what it was all about anya "proletarian culture" was still Landon. You can't get much ing money for the Spanish loyal- way it had grown so broad that ists, but he was still the League's some of the party plans got lost accepted as gospel, the left-wing broader than that. literature and artists were still. No one-after two Socialist star performer. Mayor Dore of in the shuffle. That well-known courting madness with an attempt writers had resigned in protest Seattle is a Democratic politician proletarian novelist, Mr. Harry to create "dialectially" and that against its original program—had with a spotty record who happens Carlyle, is to continue as organall-time low in the proletarian the bad taste to mention the class at present to be playing for the izer but the plan to endorse the novel---"Marching Marching!" was struggle or to suggest that there labor vote, and who is being Pacific Weekly as official organ vet to receive the New Masses might be some relation between groomed as a "Farmer-Labor" can- proved too unpopular to be capitalism and fascism. Some- didate. George Kidwell of San pressed. This doesn't matter where between New York and San Francisco is being similarly much because-unless something slips up or the rank and file Francisco, the cultural front had groomed. And without Britain, of course, to broaden the Cultural Front and lost not only its single virtue-

And here was a chance to tie catches on-the New Masses is it is settled policy for France not broadened it was. After the lists point of view-but any meaning up these prospective candidates destined to become a national with a group that is supposed to organ. In anticipation of this have a hand in molding public honor it has been recently fumiopinion. The few liberal inno- gated of subversive elements and the international working-class, or tions were extended to numerous Nevertheless, for all the loving cents who were present took this now presents an editorial board fiercest attack on the unlicensed will get no arms at all. The is-borderline cases along the radical- care and wire-pulling expended preposterous program lying down. almost as "broad" as the Con-

Firemen, the groups most highly working-class organizations of the gardless of his literary standing Party faction, the Congress did voted down. The following day Just how the "Pulp Writers or his contribution to the labor not go off entirely as originally the two Socialist writers resigned Seminar" solved their problem has \$45 a month and who work a deadlock embroiled these groups the Spanish workers lurks inside men as Max Eastman, James as getting too broad for safety and their letter of resignation, ways possible of course to make seven day week with a daily stretch of 15 hours, during which' and even a liberal can recognize sent to John Barry, the chairman, the villain a stooge for Hearst Hook. Also conspicuous by their certain phenomena-after they are upset the apple-cart. Seeing a and the hero a stout-hearted Farabsence were such recent critics point out to him. Hereby hangs great light-for a moment-sev mer-Laborite. (In case the reader of the Party Line as Edmund a tale more illuminating than the eral of the more prominent lib- doesn't know it, a "pulp writer" Wilson, John Dos Passos, Clifton actual Congress itself. erals-insisted on a change of is one of those ladies and gentle-Months before anyone among program. Upton Sinclair, Sara men who produce the contents of haired boys of the cultural front. the broader literary masses had Bard Field and Erskin Scott Adventure, Wild Western, Mystery IN THE ACTION ARMY. Unless Conspicuous by their presence been let in on the secret that Wood, all writers, were substi- Tales, Gang Stories, Snappy YOU see to it that a drive is were the Communo-mystics, Waldo there was to be a Writers' Con- tuted for Butler, Dore and Kid- Stores, etc., which abound by the started in your community for sub-Marine Firemen's Union, Earl in the first days of civil war. Only Frank and Kenneth Burke and gress, the preliminary set-up had well. The Comrades had broad-hundred in every drug and news- scriptions and contributions, unthen did the "democratic bour- the whole New Republic contin- been worked out by two diligent ened the Sponsoring Committee store of the land.) It is known less you see to it that your

party members-Harry Carlyle just a little too far. and Louise Todd-with the co- Trotsky?-Horrors!

operation of the usual intellectual But to continue with the Com- that the movies are lousy, but it ceed. For all the falseness of its pre- officers between the Party and mittee meeting. After choosing broke up almost immediately on tenses as a genuine united front the liberals. The connotations the star performers the small the issue of who was to blame for COME A SUB-HUSTLER for LAthe terms demanded by the long- Unfortunately the Spanish work-in the literary field and the flub- were strictly political. The Con- group of sponsors present at the it. An attempt to lay the blame So utterly beyond reason were shoremen. But even this group ers' leaders have taken this good dub of "proletarian literature" on gress was to act as a literary dinner passed on to the task of on the shoulders of the scenar-So utterly beyond reason were interaction were interaction and and on proletarian interactive on gress was to act as a interary dinner passed on to the task of on the should be act in a source of the component unions by the shipowners that of the unlicensed personnel, and conversion to the workers' cause gress had at least one virtues It jected "Farmer-Labor Party" on greetings to the Western Con. charge that the Hearst papers are in immediately. Have your branch the committee representing the longshoremen, faithful to the and for the sake of these bour-had a point of view. All the the Pacific Coast, and to line up gress. Among the dozens of Am-lousy too but that members of elect an Action Army captain and shipowners itself expected noth- resolutions laid down for the geois "allies" have limited the writers and near-writers who par- the toiling intelligentzia behind ericans suggested was Herbert the Newspaper Guild and even ing but refusal, sometimes scarcely Maritime Federation, refused to struggle to purely bourgeois-demo- dispective candidates. With Hoover and the only spoken ob- some Comrades in good standing ern Socialism is marching on and litical, tactical and esthetic dif- this program decided upon and jection was voiced by Mr. Barry write for them. ferences, were supposed to be the Party fraction, enlarged to who thought he was a bore. After At the conclusion of one of the ACTION ARMY,

lined up, intellectually, on one side include certain sympathizers who ranging over England and most session, Mike Gold spoke eloof the barricades-the working had never written anything but of France, Leon Blum was nomi- quently in the cause of peace. class side. Or to use more high a letter to the Pulse of the Pub nated. Blum was a legitimate The Congress, he said, had been contempt for the union spokes- ment control of wages, hours and ning the most heart-felt support the verbiage, they were sup-lic, the official Sponsoring Com- suggestion because he is a literposed to have a "leftist orienta- mittee, composed mostly of liberal ary as well as a political figure, ary Trotskyite had raised a head innocents, was picked. It was one But there are other political (though one had tried). . No ghost

Succeeding Congresses, with of the liberals who insisted that figures who are also writers, in- of executed Bolsheviks had stalked The unions finally laid down a attempting to split the Maritime prise the mass of Franco's army. Earl Browder as star performer, Symes and Travers Clement be piece called Literature and Revo- Father Divine: "Peace, Brothers, bid of a clear star performer, Symes and Travers Clement be piece called Literature and Revo- Father Divine: "Peace, Brothers, Brot had no choice but to resort to a vicious duplication of the Rail- tilled by the owner himself, em- Denver, but as the cultural front added to the Committee and they lution. The nomination of Blum Peace, Sisters, Peace, God."

probably recalled this fact to The next super-colossal produceveryone present. Lillian Symes tion to be pulled out of the Party and six hour day for longshore- part of the drive to smash the occupation of it to the peasants Line. By the time the Western Only George Kaufman and Mormen; hiring hall and cash over- unions and to straightjacket the without any compensation. Con- Congress was in process of organ- rie Ryskind (with incidental mu-

comes Palo Alto with two com rades, both students, raising \$59 in cash with more promised.

The life-blood of the paper is subscriptions. And even before the paper has made its appearance we find that subs have poured in from coast to coast from a total of 21 states. And in this record San Francisco stands first, with the members of the Socialist Party and the Young People's Socialist League out night after night knocking on doors of registered Socialists, dunning their union brothers and shaking down their friends. For second place we must travel to Minneapolis where the comrades got to work as soon as they heard of Labor Action and with every mail sent a flock of subscriptions. And still up among the stars are those two comrades in Palo Alto, Bill Millis and Grace Stahliecker, who make weekly trips to our office with subs and still more subs. Their idea of a pleasant afternoon is to make the rounds and they convince people that what they need is a subscription to Labor Action.

* * r With this issue in the hands of thousands of workers in the west, we expect the subs to come in steadily. BUT THEY WILL NOT COME IN UNLESS YOU ENROLL that the screen writers formed a branch or local takes a bundle order, Labor Action cannot sucunited front on the proposition

> JOIN THE ACTION ARMY. BE-BOR ACTION.

notify us of your choice. West-Labor Action is its banner.

Room 334, 628 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Calif. Enroll me as a member of the ACTION ARMY. I am ready to build the Socialist Party by build-

Name Address City and State.....

ing LABOR ACTION. Send me material immediately so that I can get to work.

LABOR ACTION

The Notebook of an Agitator

California Socialists In Action; Spirit and Technique of the Pioneers; the Heritage of Modern Socialist Youth; a Poor Man's Movement; the Road Ahead

At the Thomas meeting in Los always for the man in the field Angeles during the campaign Wil- and he had a marvelous and unliam Velarde, leader of the agri- failing ability to dig up a couple cultural workers' union in South- of dollars in a pinch. But for the ern California, out on bail fur- most part, the voluntary organnished by the Non Partisan Labor izers foraged, producing activity Defense, made a speech in which wherever they went and finding he frankly stated, "The Socialist sustenance one way or another. Party and the Young People's So- preaching the gospel in the mancialist League were the backbone ner of the early Christians and, of our strike." In San Francisco, like them, living by the gospel. two months before the waterfront By and large this was the story tie-up, the Socialist Local held a also of the pioneer Socialist agipublic mass meeting under its own tators of the time.

our youth deeply ponder the

auspices, with prominent leaders I think to this day that the of the maritime unions on the spirit, method and technique of platform, to popularize the labor the pre-war socialist and I. W. W. side of the controversy with the movements belong naturally and of ship owners and state the posi- necessity to a genuine proletarian tion of the party, and newly re- movement growing indigenuously cruited young Socialist militants in the soil of America. This tradiare on the waterfront picket lines tion is a rich heritage which the today. Socialist activists were in new generation of revolutionary the forefront of the Salinas battle militants must make their own. and won a secure place for them-It is imperative, of course, that selves and their party in the

hearts of the militants there. Throughout this period the great lessons to be derived from

party in California found time to the world experience of the workconduct a fairly active general ing class since 1914. Then they agitation-the writer alone spoke will be able to see clearer and at nineteen meetings throughout work with a better sense of dithe state; Glen Trimble and other rection than the pioneers of an party leaders were on the firing earlier day upon whose shoulders line-and the YPSL conducted a successful summer school at the new movement, if they really which the weigty problems of want to make it move, must be revolutionary theory and practice fired with the spirit of the piowere elucidated by young Marxists who know what they are talking about. On top of this the Workers Defense League has been firmly established as a bonafide non-partisan defense organization mainly through the initiative and participation of Socialists.

These variegated activities, this combination of energetic agita- day in defiance of the rules of tion, theoretical inquiry and reso book-keeping and the bankruptcy lute, courageous participation in laws and cannot hire high-priced the mass struggles of the workers experts to bring about the sowas organized and conducted under the general head of what the gone before us have shown how revitalized party in California un- to make out in spite of all that. derstands as an election cam- Debs campaigned for the presipaign. Net results: It didn't suc- dency for the party wage of three ceed in stemming the Roosevelt dollars a day, and in 1917 they landslide when it came to votes- had to take up a collection in the Socialist campaign lacked the New York to send Trotsky to forces and resources and the Russia to organize a revolution. Roosevelt movement was too We have no subsidy to draw on, strong and too deep for such a and that is very probably a good result-but the party and the thing. Subsidy is all too easily

League of California since the first of the year has experienced a period of solid growth which is unparalleled in its history. At the beginning of 1936 the Yipsels had but 62 members divided between Los Angeles and San Francisco. At the present time the League has 150 members in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley,

Stockton, Fresno, Pasadena, Domingus Hills and groups being formed in Palo Alto, Redwood City, and San Diego. A convention held by the California District of the Y.P.S.L. in September brought out the facts that the organization had developed politically and industrially far beyond the fields usually gone into by youth organizations. The discussions covered the range of world developments from the People's front to the C.I.O. The decisions arrived at were proof

Y.P.L.S.

The Young People's Socialist

that the Y.P.S.L. had achieved political maturity.

Activity In Strikes A brief survey of the activities tive nations either to conclude or of the League in the past year shows a tremendous increase in the Soviet Union. industrial activity. In the early spring the Y.P.S.L. threw all its forces in the southern part of the

state into the strike of agriculpeople" against the "200 families," tural workers in Los Angeles and in support of the Franco-Russian Orange counties. For months pact, against the German Nazis, Yipsels spent their time organiz- and, of course, for a "strong, ing picket lines, relief and legal happy and free France." defense for the strikers. Many

Italv

members were arrested in the

course of the strike. William

Velarde, president of the C. U. C. U. M., Mexican field workers union, stated that without the they stand. But the makers of work of the Socialist Party and thè Young People's Socialist League the strike would have been hopelessly lost. neers, with the courage, self-The Salinas strike again found sacrifice and purposeful activism members of the Young People's for which the names of Bill Hav-Socialist League active in organwood and Gene Debs and Ben izing the Filipino field workers in Hanford and Vincent St. John are the lettuce fields. Yipsels served unforgettable and inspiring sym-

on the jont strike committee and on the strike strategy committee The Socialist movement, if it is there, and were respected by the really socialist, is a poor man's militants in the struggle for their movement, which operates every active work and progressive

policies. During the strike of the International Longshoreman's Association against the Woolworth stores cialist society. Those who have many Yipsels, some of them students at the University of California, were arrested for violation side by side . . . We have the of the Berkeley anti-picketing ordinance. A few of these were sentenced to 60 days in jail and at present their cases are being Fascists are to be "reconciled" is appealed by the Workers' Defense League.

YPSL increased their membership, converted into a corrupting instrengthened and tempered their fluence, as the sorry degeneration rank and file militants in the

-J. P. C.

International Notes "National Front"-Stalinists Offer Unity

To Fascists - Second International On the Moscow Trials-Elections In Scandinavia

The Communist International is Fascist (Austrian Christian So- named spot in the United States seeking to avoid war and to main- cialist Party) against the German for the manufacture of bombs tain the status quo by supplanting Nazis. the opportunist policies of the Spain

"People's Front" with the arch-In Spain, where it is impossible reactionary policies of the "Na- to propose a reconcilation with owns two similar plants in tional Front." The policy of the the Fascists with whom the work-Europe. National Front consists in the re- ers are engaged in a life and conciliation of the entire people death struggle, the Stalinists supagainst a handful of large monop- port the People's Frant-but only apocalypse, the rider of pestiolists and warmakers. It is they in the struggle for "democracy." lence," the article in "Contact" who are the real enemies of the Jose Diaz, the leader of the Span- reads. "Most planes, particularly nation and not the entire class ish C. P. stated the following to those developed in Europe as long of capitalists; it is they who, in a correspondent of the French So- range reconnaisance planes, are a conspiracy with the German cialist paper Populaire: "Taking built with an eye to the possi-Nazis, breed war. The workers into consideration the internal and must struggle not for Socialism international situation, we wish to

but for "peace, freedom and pros- struggle only for a democratic reperity"-and compel their respec- public with the widest social con- than tons of explosives, may be to maintain "peace pacts" with cannot be any talk of the dictatorship of the proletariat or of So-

In France the Communists have cialism, but only of the struggle been advocating for months the "reconciliation of the French Populaire, September 8, 1936.)

In Italy the Communists urge the reconciliation of Fascists and any criticism of the Stalinists for the dust. non-Fascists which "shows the extending a "brotherly hand" to the Nazis in particular and Fasway to the salvation of Italy and of peace through the reconcilation cists in general will be refuted and the unification of the whole by a counter-charge that the critics are merely "terrorist people-fascists and non-fascists-

agents of the Gestapo, etc." in the common fight against the real enemy of the people and of The L. S. I. and the the nation: big capitalism."

(Manifesto of the Italian C. P., **Spanish Situation:** Inprecorr, August 22, 1936.) The The Joint Session of the Gen-Communists propose "reconcilia- eral Council of International Fedtion" not for the purpose of over- eration of Trade Unions, and of throwing Fascism (or for estab- Executive Committee of the Labor lishing Socialism) but "to make and Socialist International, took place in Paris on September 28. Italy strong, free and happy." The Manifesto says: "Let us The session was called upon the reach out our hands to each request of the Spanish Trade Federation to consider the Spanother, children of the Italian nation, Fascists and Communists, ish situation. The report of this nist Party likewise made a miser-Catholics and Socialists, people of joint session, which was almost able showing. The Norwegian Soall opinions, and slet us march solely devoted to this question, cial Democrats (Labor Party) now states that the representatives of hold a total of 71 seats out of same ambition-to make Italy practically all countries had the 150. opportunity to express their instrong, free and happy." dignation and horror over the fact The basis of this Italian Front on which the Fascists and non- that the Spanish workers in their cialists scored considerable gains heroic struggle were placed in

gram of 1919. "Addressing itself arms at a time when guns, tanks and are now the largest single heretofore by the Fascist states. The Fascists while increasing The situation in Spain was dis- their vote from 1,019 to 2,018 cussed in the light of the inter- failed to obtain a mandate. The the many unions involved in the whole Italian people, for the carnational situation, and there was unanimous agreement that the international working class cannot In short, the Stalinists pledge remain neutral in this struggle. to be a loyal and peaceful opposi-A committee was appointed to Y.P.S.L. from these workers who tion to Mussolini in return for an alliance with the Soviet Union draft a resolution to this effect. (and its allies). "We want our country to conclude mutual as- The L. S. I. and the "Moscow Trial" sistance pacts with all our neigh-

Produce Germs As War Weapons

S.F. Dinner Nets Labor Action \$219 A new field for profit-making in the coming war will be the production of disease germs, says an article in "Contact," an aviation news weekly published at Fort Lee, New Jersey. Already a plant has been constructed at an un-Sunday evening, November 22.

that will be loaded with disease "the" Labor Action fund. germs. The corporation which Joan London, a member of the toward the \$2000 mark.

erected this plant six years ago, Socialist Party and the daughter scription of the aggressive spirit "The airplane has been turned which guided Jack London in both nto the third horseman of the

Action with enthusiasm because of the promise it gives of being a fighting organ of the working class. bilities of germ warfare. Germ Barney Mayes. Editor of the

bombs, weighing only a few ounces, with a deadliness greater tent. At the present time there carried unbelievable distances by these flying gas bombs. Fat Germs

"Self-infecting powder, consistof democracy against Fascism." ing of exploded gas and ground silicon dioxide. is impregnated Commenting upon the latest rewith germs and a food paste, actionary shift of the Comintern, capable of keeping them alive 60 Otto Bauer, in Kampf, expresses to 80 hours under the severest his opinion that the recent "Mos- conditions. This is blown out becow Trial" and the drive against hind the planes through the ex-"Trotskyists" internationally are haust and makes its own minute intended as a cover for the poli- cut and infection, filtering through cies of the Stalinists. Henceforth the clothing and breathed in with

"Crops and cattle are not immune from the germ raiders from the sky. The spores of grain and fruit diseases have been cultured in order to destroy the food supply of the enemy. Cattle diseases are introduced just as the human elements are.

"This is to be one of the functions of planes in the next war. There will be more profit in growing germs than in making shells. According to the scale, most germ culture will sell for over \$300 a pound. The cost of production, including salaries and experiments, is less than \$6 a pound."

SWEDEN.-The Swedish Social

Democrats increased their vote, in

the election to the Swedish

Chamber of Deputies from 1,039,-

349 in 1932 to 1.336,554, gaining

The election is over, but for the | blies by the organization of "Foot-Western Federation of the So- loose Rebels"-a band of comcialist Party of the U.S.A. the rades willing to sacrifice econo-DENMARK .- The Danish Socampaign is just begun. Plans for mic security and devote full time an intensive organizational tour to work for socialism wherever rothing else than the Fascist pro-arms at a time when oung tanks and the barrent store and the barrent store aboard Red Sound Truck No, 1 and whenever they be aboard response Just as the footloose members of have met enthusiastic response Just as the footloose members of At present we find members of the Young People's Socialist League among the most active rank and file militants in the definites of declares): We pro-the rank and file militants in the declares to be restored to be

Marking the birth of the milit- penditures for postage and print ant Socialist weekly, Labor Action, ing to advertise Labor Action and a dinner, dance and entertain- give it advance promotion, which ment was held at the Socialist cut into this initial fund, friends headquarters, 1057 Steiner Street, at the dinner were asked to contribute in cash or pledges so as The affair was a rousing success to make a clear \$1000 before the in every way and netted \$219 for first issue came off the press, and to start the sustaining fund

Response from the hundred of Jack London, gave a brief de- and fifty people at the dinner produced \$104 in pledges-all payable within a short period-and his writings and his activities and \$65 in cash, About \$50 was said she felt sure that, were he cleared on the dinner itself, bringalive today, he would greet Labor ing the total net proceeds to \$219.

Performers Liven Affair. High spot in the evenings entertainment was the spontaneous Polka, danced by Louis Mazer and

Millie Goldberg. Voice of the Federation, wel-Coins began ringing to the comed the launching of Labor Action as a new force in the floor to keep the dancers going, Business Manager of Labor Acstruggle for a militant labor tion, Frank Stern, was immedimovement. Clarence Rust, a memately on the spot, and before the ber of the Editorial Board; Glen "smoke cleared" four more dollars Trimble, State Secretary of the were added to the Labor Action Socialist Party and Associate Editor of Labor Action; and James P. fund in contributions of pennies, Cannon, Editor, all spoke with en. nickels, and dimes which the

crowd tossed onto the floor to thusiasm of the splendid work done by Socialists in California persuade various comrades to perand throughout the west to make form. A real "gold mine" was possible the establishment of this Jim Cannon's rendition of some old "Wobbly" songs, and the weekly Socialist paper. crowd joined lustily in Foundation Fund Raised the

To an eager audience, Comrade choruses. Cannon broke the news-that the Great credit is due the talents: \$1,000, which was required by the and hard work of the Italian mem-State Executive Committee of the bers and friends of the Socialist. California Socialist Party as a Party who planned and cooked a. safeguard to the first few weeks fine Italian meal and furnished of life for Labor Action, had been music for the merry-making after topped the day before the dinner. the dinner. The Young Peoples' He emphasized the fact that in Socialist League of San Francisco less than six weeks of the cam- and East Bay put a lot of hard paign to raise the money, rank- work into the decorations and and-file Socialists had made the table service for the dinner. Uninspiring sacrifices which produced daunted by hard work, they \$1057 before the launching of the livened up the course of the dinfirst issue. ner with organized singing of

Because of the necessary ex- Socialist songs.

Western States Federation **Of The Socialist Party**

Page Three

The Party At Work

organizations and telescoped the of Stalin's jumping-jack parties so closing of the election campaign eloquently testifies. Better for the lines and in the strike halls of whole Itelian popula for the day into a drive to launch a weekly movement to stand on its own socialist paper. feet and pay its own way as

sighted people, snivellers and the hidden and financially in- gle. Almost daily there are new vote-catchers can talk all they tangible resources of enthusiasm, recruits to the ranks of the want to about socialist "defeat conviction and self-sacrifice of and disintegration" in the elec- party militants who dare to tions. We haven't noticed it here. "storm the heavens."

hols.

We don't know yet how matters These are the main resources stand in other parts of the coun- which have sustained the party in try, but here in California the California during the recent party is not groggy, but up on months and finally nerved it to its toes and fighting. Our election undertake such a heroic entercampaign was only a training prise as the launching of a weekly school of all-round socialist activ- paper on the heels of the elecity and a prelude to deeper and tion campaign. If the party, a broader struggles. That's primar- numerically small organization ily what election campaigns are weakened by the mass exodus of and administration agencies. In "Berlin, October, 1936" a Manifor anyway.

I've been around and seen a lot since the Old Guard split, could since I first joined the I. W. W. develop a healthier and more in 1911 and, soon afterward, be rounded activity during the eleccame one of the "voluntary or- tion campaign than ever before, ganizers" who got their training and grow stronger and more coing class. in Vincent St. John's school of hesive in the process, then we learning by doing, but it seems have a right to conclude that we to me that the California so- are on the right track and to cialists, especially the YPSL, have calculate that the coming months sympathizers. At these schools The Manifesto says, "We wish as much of the militant crusad- will bring new successes and ining spirit of the old movement creased strength.

as any group I have worked with throughout that fairly long stretch of years.

The "Saint," of affectionate Japan Air Network memory, was a wonderful man to In Mandated Islands learn from. He was short on

palaver and had some gaps in his The development of a mighty theory, but he was long on action air network over the islands and he was firmly convinced that mandated to Japan by the victhe water is the only place where torious nations at the end of the s man can learn to swim. His World War was reported last way of testing, and also of de week to the Mandate Commission veloping, the young militants who of the League of Nations and exgrew up under his tutelage was amined by that body. to give them responsibility and Although it is generally adshove them into action and see mitted that the development of what happened. Those who these air lines is part of Japan's acquired self-confidence and the preparation for the fast-approach-

No Questions

In previous years the Commis-

capacity to make decisions under ing war, the Commission asked fire on the spot, which are about no questions and accepted the re-90 per cent of the distinctive port with the reasons supplied by quality of leaders and organizers, the Japanese government. eventually received credentials as The air-lines will be flown by voluntary organizers and there- super-planes now under construcafter enjoyed a semi-official status tion will cover the islands lying in the strikes and other actions south of Japan and will connect which marked the career of the with the mainland at strategic I. W. W. in its glorious hey-day. points.

The shock troops of the movement were the foot-loose militants who moved around the country as sion has asked questions about the scene of action shifted. the militarization of the islands.

As is more or less chronically but this year it dropped even that the case in revolutionary organ- formality. The Japanese governizations, which are historically ment in the face of persistent refated to be poor until they win ports to the contrary blandly rethe final victory and have no ports that it has no military or need of money, there was very naval bases or fortifications withlittle cash in the treasury in those in the territory that will be served days. That's why the organizers' by the air lines.

credentials as a rule were marked There are only 60,000 inhabit-"voluntary"---so that they would ants in the huge area covered by not get ridiculous ideas into their the air lines and only nine postheads about the responsibility of offices, but in relation to war the organization for their food upon the Asiatic mainland, the and shelter from wind and rain. islands will serve as an import-True, St. John's first thought was ant base for military operations. California.

strike there are fighting Yipsels rying out of the fascist pro-And that's what counts. Short- best it can. Better to draw on carrying their share of the strug-

> are making labor history. In Schools and Colleges

But the activities of the Young People's Socialist League of Calibors and especially with France fornia are not confined only to . . . and, further, for Italy to industrial struggles. On the campus the Yipsels are fighting Soviet Union." against compulsory military training, against scab recruiting and Germany against the militarist propaganda The German Communist Party being spread there by government has issued under the date line

Epic utopians and still further every college and in many high festo which is a mere restatement and Secretary of the L.S.I. and attenuated by new desertions schools the Yipsels are agitating of the Italian Manifesto. In Gerfor Socialism and pointing out to many, too, the Stalinists advocate the students that their struggle the "reconciliation of the German should at all times be bound up people against the 3,000 millionwith the struggles of the work- aires, and the war makers." Once again, the Nazis and the non-

Two summer schools were held Nazis are to unite not to overby the Young People's Socialist throw Hitler but to make Ger-League this year for members and many "strong, (free) and happy." young comrades received training our fatherland to be strong and in Socialist theory and in methods happy through peace and not misof organization so that when they erable through war."

returned to their workaday tasks "Further, "You, National Soin shops and schools they could cialist, you, Social Democrat, you, ing-class activity.

Speaking Tours At present the California Y. P. to live in freedom, peace and pros-S. L. is touring two speakers in perity? Haven't we all the selfthe state who are speaking on same needs today? . . . Nazi and the state who are speaking on same norts total, it is heretofore volving around the "central point" in the 1931 trial, when witnesses ing the youth of the state with fought bitterly against each other. In the 1931 trial, when witnesses the issues involved. Meetings are Nazi brothers! You believed that the issues involved. Meetings are in this way you would gain Ger. meetings and conversations in the being held in every large city in this way you would gain Ger. Soviët Union with Abramovich in and town to arouse public sym- man Socialism. Four years have pathy for the strikers and to tell passed. What has been fulfilled of the truth about the collaboration your program? . . . Let us reach of the government and the ship. out our hands to each other and owners in the present struggle. unite!"

As may be easily gathered from Besides these activities, the Y.P.S.L: regularly has classes in the above, this unification is to political questions and in Marx- be effected on the basis of Hitism and carries on a program of ler's "unfulfilled program." The cultural activities covering the Stalinists are ready to be a loyal entire field of youth interests opposition to the Fuehrer. One of from sports to music and the the slogans raised in the Maniarts. There is a place in the festo reads as follows: "For Ger-

Young People's Socialist League many! This means for order and for every young worker and stu- sobriety in the country!" Hitler openly that so long as these 592,000. The proposal for a united dent who is ready to enroll in need have no fear of being over- methods of 'witches trials' are front with other working class orthe struggle for a better world. thrown by the Stalinists provided practiced, we will view the po- ganizations (on the very "mild" tainments, and possibly a book No matter what personal interests he is ready to say with them that litical justice of Stalin with the program proposed by the I.L.P.) a young person may have he can "We are prepared to conclude a same loathing as we do the po- was rejected by a vote of 1.805.find an outlet and expression in peace pact with all other peoples." litical justice of Hitler." the ranks of the Y.P.S.L. (All of the above quotations are

from a reprint of the Manifesto Recent Elections In Write for Literature For information regarding the in Detsche Volks-Zeitung Oct. 18, Scandinavia organization, for literature on the 1936; the latter paper is the role of youth in the struggle for Czechoslovakian Stalinist organ.) bor Party emerged victorious in miners were bound by a definite which will be a whooping big This column should have weekly Socialism, for a free copy of our It is only a question of time be- the recent elections to the Nor- mandate from their own Confer- banquet to be given on Friday, monthly paper "The Challenge of fore similar Manifestos are issued wegian Parliament, gaining more ence to cast the block of 400,000 Dec. 4, 1936 at 7 p. m. Good should be sent to the Editor of Youth," write to Howard Rosen, in every country. In Austria, for than 100,000 (572,275 as against votes in favor of accepting the speakers, good food , and good Labor Action by the end of each state secretary, Young People's example, Otto Bauer reports that 465,693 in 1933). The Norwegian Stalinists, but they were not company will be the order of the week. Especially urgent matter Socialist League, Room 334, 628 the Stalinists have been seeking Nazis, supported directly by the bound with respect to the united evening. The place: Melody Inn, will be taken if it reaches the Montgomery St., San Francisco, a rapprochment with the för- German Nazis, lost more than front proposal, and cast their sr 939 N. Western Ave. CALL VA. office NOT LATER than the California.

The Executive Committee of the 230 (4 short of an absolute ma-L.S.I. met on September 27 and jority.) Together with the Indemake a pact accordingly with the unanimously approved the telependent Communists (Kilboom) gram sent to Moscow on the and the official C. P., the parties occasion of the trial of Zinoviey, representing the working class Kamenenev and the others. This hold an absolutely majority (the telegram had been sent on August former holding 6 mandates and 21 by the respective Chairman the latter 5). * * *

candidates.

I.T.U., and had been subjected to Poland an unbridled attack by the Com-

left that is reflected in the elec- speak and work for revolutionary socialist service in the West. tions in Scandinavia is also to Socialism in every field of the Readers of Labor Action who be noted in Poland. In the recent class struggle." municipal elections held in Sep-

the Second International, entitled tember in Lodz, the second largest "The Moscow Witch Trial." Adler in this article replies to the attack launched by Dimitroff and the Comintern against the Second of previous trials, Adler states, especially from the trial of the

tisan, and you, income of the ecutors of moscow plantumy and to 34); The Bund and the Left haven't we all, children of the deliberately extort faise confes. Poale Zion increased their vote from 8,311 to 23,762 (now holding) 6 mandates instead of the preas an instance the testimony revious 3). The two Nazi parties receive no mandates. Neither did San Francisco: the Communists. A similar shift tions in Poland. the summer of 1928, at a time when Abramovich was present in

The Edinburgh Brussels, as a delegate to the International Socialist Congress. Conference of the Adler then analyzes the factual British Labor Party

content of the latest trial and The recent Edinburgh Conferconcludes, that "there is no doubt ence of the British Labor Party whatever that this trial was conmarked a further swing to the structed upon extorted and false right of the Laborites. The re-'confessions,' and that the selfactionaries dominated the Confersame methods were applied in it ence on every issue. The affiliaas in the Menshevik trial of tion of the Communist Party was 1931." Adler says, "We proclaim rejected by a vote of 1,728,000 to

amer "left wing" of the Austrian 2.000 votes, and failed to obtain port to the reactionaries.

tion secretary, Crary Trimble, campaign was on, these modern Room 334, 628 Montgomery, San Footloose Rebels will carry the Francisco. Minnesota has been socialist message into every spot Communists failed even to run added to the list of states affili- where the class war flares.

Big Field

ated to the Federation which al-The Federation plans to proready includes California, Colorado, Kansas, Nex Mexico, Washmote inter-state cooperation in ington, and Wyoming. dealing with the pecial problems, Original plans for the Federa- of western in strial workers. 11 new mandates and now holding the western states at the Cleve- ent agricultural workers from tion were laid by delegates from These include those of the transiland National Convention. The or- Montana to California, the mariganization was formally launched time workers on the West Coast at a September conference in Red and Gulf, the mine workers in Feather Lakes, Colorado. "Or- the Rockies, Spanish speaking ganized for the sole purpose of workers in the Southwest, lumber increasing socialist education, workers in the Northwest, beet activity and organization in the workers in Colorado, share-crop-West by cooperation among the pers in Arkansas and the harvest western states," the delegates hands in the prairie states. dedicated themselves to the build- Simply listing these groups gives ing of a "lasting, confident, ag- some idea of the tremendous re-The swing of the masses to the gressive fighting party proud to sponsibilities and opportunities for

> wish copies of the monthly Federation Bulletin, or who have in-

11 Out of 12 One evidence of the spirit in formation or suggestions on the city in Poland and its biggest in- the West that has made the Fed- problems outlined are urged to dustrial center, the Socialist eration possible, is the fact that write to the Federation secretary parties (Jewish and Polish and of the twelve states leading in in San Francisco. States not yet affiliated German federations) contributions to the National Fund affiliated are urged to do so and International for its position on obtained an absolute majority of Drive, eleven are west of the send in their dues (\$1.00 per the Moscow Trial From the study obtained an absolute majority of Drive, eleven are west of the send in their dues (\$1.00 per the study of Notational Functional the total votes and mandates. The Mississippi. This same energy has month) at once. Volunteers for Polish Socialist Party (P.P.S.) to- been thrown into the initial en- the Footloose Rebel army are

in shops and schools they could claimst, you, Social Louiser, you, "Menshevik United Bureau" in more readily turn their knowledge Catholic, you, Communist, you, 1931, he had become absolutely 22,284 in 1934 to 95,115 (increas- tour plans are launched to revive news of Western Federation activconvinced that "the political pros-ing the mandates from 5, in 1934, a tradition of the pre-war Wob- ity and accomplishments.

March of the Locals

ERVATIONS NOW!

Plans are being made for the A Thanksgiving Party is being to the left is evidenced in the opening of the new Socialist planned by the Central Branch results of other municipal elec- headquarters on Van Ness near in Los Angeles, to be held at Grove, December first. With local Innes Gardens, Saturday, Novemactivity increasing in scope, ber 28;

Young Peoples' Socialist League A class for training Socialist membership and strength grow- Party members in the methods of ing, the old headquarters at 1087 teaching Socialist principles, Labor Steiner Street have become in- History, and other subjects is being organized for the purpose of Local San Francisco decided increasing the number of teachers

available for evening classes during the winter and for the regular Socialist summer schools.

David Stevens, organizer for editorial and business offices of Los Angeles, has been assisting Labor Action, in addition to in the work of organizing the local in Harbor City. An organization meeting was held Thursday, November 12. Socialist cooperation in the maritime workers' strike was discussed at this

meeting.

NEWS from all locals. Reports

meetings, forums, dances, enterstore. 000 to 435,000. The difference in Los Angeles: the votes between the affiliation

adequate.

that the time was ripe for the

establishment of a Socialist

center which could house the local

offices, the State Office, and the

Los Angeles is planning to celeof the C. P. and the united front brate the birth of Labor Action proposal is to be explained by the with a series of dances, dinners

NORWAY.-The Norwegian La- fact that the leaders of the and mass meetings, the first of Note to Socialist Locals:

German nation, the same ambition sions from the accused" (empha-

munist International.

The October 10 issue of Sotziel-

estiheski Vestnink carries an

article by F. Adler, secretary of

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Page Four

LABOR ACTION

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FRANK STERN	Business	Manager
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Signed contributions do not necessarily represent the policy of the editorial board. In the line of party lemocracy and free speech timely articles by social ists expressing differing viewpoints may be published on the responsibility of the authors. SATURDAY, NOV. 28, 1936 VOL. 1, NO. 1

Labor Action

The editors feel that the statement of policy drawn up by the editorial board and unanimously endorsed by the Calfiornia State Executive Committee is our best possible introduction to our readers.

We want you to know what we're after and how we plan to proceed right at the start. Whether you agree or disagree with our position, we want you to know where we stand. Here is our statement of policy:

"As the official organ of the Socialist Party of California, Labor Action is to be conceived as an aggressive exponent of the position of revolutionary Socialism on all important questions o the day. The main emphasis of the paper is to be placed on concrete developments of the class struggle, nationally and internationally, and their interpretation from the Marxist point of view. It will be the special aim to make the paper interesting and attractive to nonparty workers engaged in struggles and to present the message of Socialism to them in understandable terms.

"The paper will publicize the activities of the party and the Young People's Socialist League, as a rule in special departments, but will not give the appearance of a "house organ." The bulk of the space will be devoted to reports of the activities of the broad labor movement and of current political affairs which concern great masses of people. This will not be neutral reporting. The paper will approach every question from the angle of the class struggle in modern society.'

Is Everybody Happy?

The tumult and the shouting dies and the smoke-to say nothing of the fog-of the election clears away and leaves the bright sun shining down on a free, happy and prosperous America. It was a famous victory for progress. The well-known friend of labor rolled up an imposing majority and sailed away for South America ing. The crest-fallen economic royalists tion, and suffer the birth-agony of a new Party were out to defeat Landon turn of another Hoover. The its well-known high standards of fit did not even offer a single cause of a sense of diantity betook their beating like good sports and, by way of self-consolation, are distributing profits and extra dividends among themselves on the biggest scale since 1929. Farley's multitude of postmasters, fixers, ward heelers and bunco steerers are as happy and as fat as pigs in clover, and we mean clover. Even Hearst hails the election results as a vindication of the American system of government which he prizes so highly. They say in Washington that a new "Era of Good Feeling" is upon us. In short, everything is lovely and the goose hangs high. Everybody's happy. That is, nearly everybody. Of course, the thousands of WPA workers who got lay-off slips in their envelopes in the past two weeks are not taking a conspicuous part in the general jubilation. That, however, is hardly to be expected. The kick in the pants they have received is too much like an echo of the vote they cast in the election. Nor can the maritime workers, forced out on strike to defend their organization, be blamed if they are singing "Hold the Fort" on the picket line instead of the Democratic theme song. "Happy Days Are Here Again." And when in the coming months wages lag behind price increases while profits mount sky high again, when the million-headed standing army of the unemployed remains stationary despite increasing production, when military and naval expenditures grow ever larger in preparation for foreign war and strikers are attacked at home with clubs and guns and gas-when all this happens, as it inevitably will, a fairly sizeable mass of working people are quite apt to stop short and ask themselves: "What are we cheering for, anyway?" That question will have point and meaning and may spell the beginning of a great awakening if it is directed to the right place-to the false advisers and misleaders in the labor ranks who told the workers that salvation lay in supporting the candidate of a capitalist political party who swore allegiance to the system of "private enterprise, private ownership and private profit." It is precisely this system that breeds poverty, unemployment and war and is inseparable from them. When this irrefutable idea begins to dawn in the minds of the masses it will be an unhappy day for the labor lieutenants of the democratic party, for Green, Lewis, Dubinsky & Co., not forgetting their poor relations, the Old Guard socialists and the Roosevelt communists. By the same token it will be a day of opportunity and revival for a workers' political party that told the truth | For raiment, shelter, Freedom, all and keeps on telling it.

To Tom Mooney Labor Action takes the opportunity of

its first issue to send fraternal proletarian greetings to Tom Mooney and through him to all the class war prisoners whom he represents and symbolizes.

Old time fighter for labor's cause, Tom Mooney has given his life to preserving and in the sun. He had one shoe and carrying on the militant spirit of Western sock off and was striking his workers. Today he stands as the great symbol of the blind, vindictive hatred of the strings of a lyre. the capitalist class and the heroic neversay-die determination of the advance guard

of American workers. In greeting Tom Mooney we greet, too, was a wild glint in his eye. Warren K. Billings and the thousands of other class war prisoners in America and throughout the world.

To them we pledge that their fight is our fight. We shall not rest until the doors of difficult. I'm out to out-Nero privilege, power and class injustice are Nero. battered from their hinges forever.

Too Much Unanimity

An illuminating sidelight on the Roose- Neroing Nero business." velt re-election is the unanimous chorus of approval from the foreign press.

"In Paris, fiercely-wrangling rightists and leftists were momentarily united in expressions of satisfaction," says the Associted Press.

From officials in Rome, "There is general satisfaction, where the theory of continued opportunity for leaders is ingrown."

People's Front Foreign Minister of France, Yvon Delbos, sees "a triumph for ner won. The capitalists as repredemocratic tendencies" and feels "great sented by Vanderbilt, Astor, joy at the tremendous backing given to Young, Giannini and some of the Roosevelt's policy of peace."

Lord Beaverbrook, England's Hearst, ican Labor Party, the Labor Nonthinks Roosevelt is "grand;" the Berlin Partisan League, the Old Guard Tageblatt sees "the eruption of the fuehrer idea within the democratic system."

"In Moscow, Soviet quarters frankly expressed approval, because Roosevelt show- "Everybody won. Nobody lost. ed friendship towards Russia and insured | That was a victory." no change in Russo-American relations,' while Tokio 'welcomed the re-election of President Roosevelt, declaring they believed it would favorably affect Japanese-American relations."

In Europe—as in America—everybody won! Everybody, except the workers. The dispatches are smashing evidence of the class-awareness of the right from Beaverbrook to Hitler, and the pitiful muddleheadedness of the official left from Paris to Moscow.

It has long been common knowledge that both sides of an argument cannot win. lost." If Japan is happy, the Soviet Union should "But you said the Commensate THOUGHT that it meant a great most Americans a class choice. ent labor leadership very slim. find cause for grief. If French rightists won." are satisfied, French leftists should not find cause for rejoicing. To what end did this. Browder was the Communist between progress and reaction, bigest poil. The Digest question is stooges for Farley and absolutely them honorably and decently." He candidate and he lost. 'However, between a new deal for the work- naires go to telephone and car nothing more The New York out would like in other words to see the Russian workers sacrifice blood, priva- Browder and ne lost. 'However, between a new dear for the work owners. That, in this land with nothing more. The New York out-

Sidelines

LABOR ACTION

By JONATHON DOE

On a Park Bench He was lying there on the park hench, stretched out on his back bare toes across the slats on the back rest as if the slats were

"What are you doing?" I asked. "Practicing, so I can play when the town burns," he said. There

"Nero fiddled," I said.

"Well, I'm fiddling, too," he re plied. "Only I'm fiddling with a lyre. Nero fiddled with a fiddle. What's the dif? The lyre's more

"Why don't you strum with you

'ingers?' "This makes it even more diffi-

cult." he answered. "I don't want any questions about this out-"You're crazy," I told him. He didn't deny it. He sat up and made room for me to sit I hesitated and then down. thought, "Oh, what the hell!" "Well, it was a great victory,"

said. "What was?" "he enquired. "The election. The landslide." "Oh, that. Who won?"

"For Pete's sake! The Democrats won. Roosevelt and Gar-

Morgan partners, won. The workers as represented by the Amer-

Social Democrats and the Communists won. The American people won."

"Hurrah," said my companion. "You're crazy," I said. "The Fascists-Landon, Hearst and the

Liberty League-lost." "That's too bad," he said "It

have made it unanimous." "Nicer, my eye. Browder says-" erican form of government" are "Why Browder was the Comnunist candidate. Everybody from here to Terre Haute knows that." "And he won?"

"No," I was getting mad. "He to them?



Another San Francisco Earthquake

Election Results and Lessons

By GLEN TRIMBLE The sham battle of the presi- trade unionism. Membership and is not likely to get any action dential election is over. Already organization were increased, (though it will get plenty of Republicans and Democrats, busi- tested under fire, shorn of the promises) now that votes won't systems is, according to Seldes, ness men and politicians, are ex- opportunists and the weak-kneed be needed for four long years. middle class rule. He writes. would have been nicer if every- changing compliments like the old liberals, tempered for "the class body had won, wouldn't it? If the friends that they have always struggle of labor against capital liveries; never on gratitude for twenty, read the more romantic Fascists had won too that would been. The great issues which which goes on in and out of elecwere to make or wreck "our Am- tion years.

Socialists face the future with of all. "Who's Browder?" he inquired. put back on the shelf until the a clean record, a growing organnext election. Politicians are back ization, solid rank and file labor at the trough and business men strength, and a world to win! are watching stock profits soar. What Happened? Every analysis of the actual

The people, the workers of Amer-One thing is certain, they

for clean, fighting, progressive ministration needed its votes, it and Fascism.

Labor Party? ica-what does the election mean returns bears out one point. By to McAdoo and Robinson make than moved by humane feelings. averages the choice between the chances of independent po- I am not aware of a sense of Roosevelt and Landon was for litical action through most pres- brotherhood with every other hudeal. For the great mass of Am- This is the real secret of the The "American Labor Party" in all men are not (italics Seldes') "Now listen here. I'll explain ericans the election was a choice spectacular failure of the Literary New York and the Minnesota my brothers, that I would prefer this. Browder was the Communist between "progress and reaction," Digest poll. The Digest question- "Farmer-Labor Party" acted as to live in a society which treated

BOOKS

Off the Mainland Reviewed by

JAMES T. FARRELL Mr. Gilbert Seldes was once editor of the Dial in the days when it was flourishing as an organ of aesthes. Later, he was a contributor to The Saturday Evening Post. Now he is a columnist on Hearst's New York Evening Journal. He writes a rather self-illuminating column. For instance, picking it up today observe that he complains because of a slogan which is being used in connection with the amusement section of the World's Fair being planned for New York in 1939. The slogan is: "A Mile of Mirth." Says Mr. Seldes, none of us will walk a mile, and mirth isn't an American word. I cite this as a suggestion of the intellectual makeup of Seldes. He has just written a book, Mainland, which is one of the howls of the vear.

In Mainland Gilbert Seldes is arguing for a definite class government in America. He is making himself the spokesman for the American middle class. He calls his book a defense of American Democracy, and also poses himself as a defender of "the common man," and of the middle and the far west against the east. He presents the Saturday Evening Post view of Americanism as the true brand, and complains because, while the "intellectuals" have been criticizing America, no book describing the "nobility of the husinessman" has been written. He argues that America and Americanism have been betrayed by the "intellectuals" and the finance capitalists. He declares that because of this betrayal, America now lies exposed to alien European ideas, and we are finding ourselves menaced by Communism

Wants Middle Class Rule The alternative of these two Politicians pay off on future de- "Any one who, at the age of past favors. Labor is due for the works of Friedrich Nietzsche is biggest "morning after" headache theoretically capable of viewing the misery or destruction of mil-

lions of human beings without a What is more both the propor- quiver. I am one of them. If the tions of the landslide and the waters rise and destroy half a unqualified labor support for the million Chinese citizens, I am. I Democratic ticket from Roosevelt fear, more struck by the spectacle man being. It is, in fact, because social order; for what reason do French at all costs and Landon and the greatest vote in the nation's his-defends the economics of Henry Ford. He makes a distinction between an industrial. talist. This distinction is, in his erals can get blue in the face that the Henry Fords can save eyes, one of kind. He believes small farmer were overwhelmingly talking about a Framer-Labor America-Seldes' America. He views such men as typical Americans. Seldes further arrives at from he asks, how can the Seldes is the man who used to tions of the funny papers. He is sary for such weighty thinking Future opposition to the Demo- into the whole range of the social licans. The Lemke menagerie of columnist attempting to solve soill-sorted spell binders has col- cial and economic problems. He lapsed. But out of its ashes a is a shallow aesthetic trying to be The difference between the can- much more definitely and con- a social philosopher. Shabby Apologist He ends up as a shabby apolowhich he must have gotten out of story books. In defending such a conception he even goes to the extent of arguing that Horatio Alger, as a writer, is truer to American life could not put life in the dead. tees. Roosevelt, capitalist by peat, his book is one of the howls and Harry Bridges, Alfred (Gen- National Republican revival in the birth, by training, by purchase, of the year. Its thinking is flabby eral Motors) Sloan and David near future is a very long odds will cling to democratic capi- and its tone is garrulous. And Dubinsky, the Socialist Party bet. It is probably too stodgy and talism while he can. But Roose- he sets himself up as the de-With ship loads of bananas stood firmly in a position which too discredited for further use to velt and all his kind, forced in fender of "the common man." I time to a choice between the think that there are plenty of open, armed rule of capitalism workers who can tell Mr. Seldes that they have their own sense of dignity, and that they are not interested in his pleas that our Fords give them good wages in order that men like himself can The course of the right is clear prate about their own honor and

capitalist-supported, capitalist-pledged re- not for Mr. Browder. They were away. presentative of the capitalist class?

Leading parties of the Communist and and prosperous America." Socialist Internationals have ceased to think in terms of the struggle of the work- said my companion. ers to win the world. They launch "People's Fronts" so that the middle class may 'save" the workers from fascism by sooth- you. Didn't I tell you the Fascists ing them into a false security, and "Na- lost?" tional Fronts" or unity with capitalist- "Oh, I get it. The fifty or sixty salvation to workers, farmers and

which gives the fascist elements an opportunity to better organize and strengthen rascists, while winning, lost." themselves without any effective oppositaking the organized fight out of the work- I'm going to. Thomas-" ers-which is the sole guarantee against fascism.

"He was the Socialist candidate. for president and he lost," I What is really significant about the unanimous world "huzzahs" over the re- lost while losing and while losing class parties, stood on firm in his declaration that he did not Fascism and Revolutionary Soelection of Roosevelt is that there is no he lost. But, by God he won and ground in regard to the main believe in "economic planning by cialism, and Roosevelt represents longer a middle road between capitalism I'm damn proud of him!" and Socialism. Since Moscow and Paris "You're crazy," said the man on have forgotten the language of Marx, their the park bench, putting on his shoe. only alternative is the language of Roose-

velt, Stanley Baldwin and Benito Musso-

lini.

THE STRIKE **By COVINGTON HALL**

Say what ye will, ye owls of night, The strike upholds the cause of right; The strike compels the Judge to pause, The Statesman to remold the laws.

Say what ye will, yet without ruth, The strike drives home the word of truth The strike tears off the mask of things, To Mass and Class the issue brings.

Say what ye will, the strike is good; It clears things long misunderstood; It jolts the Social Mind awake; It forces men a stand to take.

Say what ye will, all else above, The strike is war for bread and love; The human race can justice call.

for a farmer-labor party, for a The Communists

There was a significant dif-People's Front, for a free, happy ference, however, between the "Hurrah. Everybody won then," campaigns of the two working class parties. The Communists went with the tide; even did their "What do you mean?" I was futile best to help it along. They getting pretty sore. "I don't see accepted the Farley-made slogan any use in talking to a bird like of "progress or reaction," urged the defeat of Landon at all costs

and paid the costs by promising fascists - again in the name of a false prom- thousand, who voted against Fas- vouth from poverty, exploitation, ise of safety. Obsessed with the glorious cism won. But they were Com- war and fascism "under the presmission of preserving "peace at all costs," munists and the Communists, ent capitalist system." The enmission of preserving "peace at all costs," while winning lost. On the other tire logic of their program and hand, Hearst and the Liberty campaign: was a vote for the merely furnish the lull before the storm Fascists, and as the fifty or sixty received came in spite of all their thousand who voted against Fas- efforts to the contrary. One recism lost while winning, the sult of the election is certain, The Communist Party of the "Now, look here," I said. "I've United States has committed suition. The left leadership succeeds only in wasted about all the time on you cide as a revolutionary socialist opposition in America. Its hands

are soiled for all time. The Socialists

unparalleled nonsense.

The Socialist Party, alone issue. In spite of the many mil-

I didnt deny it. I began taking A. P. (Bank of America) Giannini off mine.

"Thomas? Who's he?"

Bananas

striking maritime worker was issue is capitalism or Socialism!" asked to speak from a Los Angeles broadcasting station on the perishable cargo issue. The radio announcer said that his talk would be prefaced by music and asked Party emerges from the campaign polls were hardly closed when him to name a selection. He did, as the only clear-cut anti-capiwas "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

Social Note On the United Front

It is rumored that the Communist Party, which believes in keeping the Liberty League out of the White House at all costs, is preparing a tremendous nationwide mass-pressure campaign to standard bearers are votes for soprotest the engagement of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., to Miss Eth'el

more than votes in this campaign. Dupont, niece of Irenee Dupont, In California and in many other Liberty League founder. The slogan will be: "Cupid is a Stoogie for Hearst."

main classes? And if there are two sides been a smashing victory only cans but Socialists and Com. Digest testified. The actual rein that conflict, how, politically, can both Browder got fifty or sixty thou- munists found a large part of sult was equally clear in its testi- satisfactory to the labor busides be "victorious" by the election of a sand votes. But these votes were their fair weather backing swept mony that the industrial workers, reaucracy, Communists and lib-

for Roosevelt and that they were Party but the only kind they will by far the larger section of the get is one stamped and sealed population. These facts are a with the Farley O. K. While that the interesting conclusion that tribute to both the good instincts may make them happy and look and the bad political education good in reports to the Comintern, sists merely of the unskilled of the American working class, it will be only one more means Bad political education because for corralling worker votes for proletariat is disappearing. Thereboth candidates took great pains capitalist exploitation.

to deny any class significance to Certainly, the election brings proletariat be the dominant class their rivalry. If anything, Presi- one question out clearly. Is there in society when it is disappearing? dent Roosevelt outdid Governor any room between Roosevelt's Landon in his protestations of liberal capitalism and clear cut discuss the philosophical implicaallegiance to the profit system socialism for a Farmer-Labor or and the class enslavement that Labor Party that is not simply now carrying the equipment necesit depends upon. It was Roose a tail to the Democratic kite? velt who declared with justice semblance of a "happy family" they can League who voted against Com-Rooseveltian brand of capitalism. history of our country has done the right or from the left. The present. And he gets results such more for the system of private right is more likely to follow in as those I have cited. He is a business, private property and the footsteps of the Lemke out- highbrow trying his damndest to private profit." Yet hundreds of fit than in the outmoded "back be a low brow, and just never thousands of workers voted for to the impossible" of the Repub- making the grade. He is a Hearst him in the hope that he was lying!

Difference

didates consisted in a Roose sistently fascist movement will veltian desire to "do for" private rise. Remember that they laughed business while Landon proved at Hitler for years. America, like shouted. "And furthermore, he among the significant working himself as out of date as the dodo Germany, must choose between tion of America and Americans the government." In fact, the en- neither of the possible alternalion-dollar propaganda which re- tire Republican machine gave a tives.

The Left

cruited Walter Chrysler and Louis convincing demonstration of its Roosevelt cannot save capi-Waldman, Governor (Hoosier Hit- obsolesance. Even the aid of two talism nor prevent the ravages of ler) McNutt and Earl Browder, previous Democratic also-rans poverty and war that it guaran-

lying in Pacific Coast harbors, a the whole world must face. "The its capitalist financial backers. Morning After Socialists, and Socialists alone The Administration itself will and the threat of a workers state,

talked sense in a campaign of get the bulk of financial favors will choose the fascist movement. on the traditional basis of full This is not a guess; it is as cer-As a consequence the Socialist value for money received. The tain as is the record of history.

both business and Administration and the orchestra played it. It talist party with a revolutionary dropped their masks of mutual but what is to happen on the future in the United States. It hostility and turned on labor. The left? Is it to follow the Stalinist

has shorn off the dead and rotten Los Angeles Times of the "morn-social-democratic-liberal line of We have lost the Dubinskys and "Social Democracy" which pulled ing after" carried these signifi- choosing greater and greater "les- Hillmans but we are winning real down the Red Flag and flew a cant headlines "WPA Here Drops ser evils," of sacrificing the offen- socialists from the ranks of labor. faintly yellow one on the Roose- 2000 Women From Rolls," "Ship sive against capitalism for a We have lost the "protest" voters velt bandwagon. Clearly and un- Officers Get Warning-Govern- world wide defensive retreat from but we have gained revolutionary mistakably, the one to two hun- ment Says Men May Lose Li- fascism? Is this defeatest policy votes, membership and activity. censes for Deserting Posts," and to be the left's only offering when We have lost "municipal soc'aldred thousand votes (it will be "Stocks Soar in Buying Rush." popular disillusion follows Roose- ists" but we have won the vanmonths before we know the exact total) given to the Socialist the more effective at Washington system? Is hopeless retreat to be fight in every battle of labor's cialism.

The Socialist Party won far in its opposition guns when it and color of rising fascism? If went into the Roosevelt parlor to so the choice will be fascism. hand over a big blank check. La- But the Socialist Party must stodgy contentment or of vacsections of the country Socialists bor did not ask or receive a single give another answer. We are at ciliating retreat. We have lost increased their militant activity definite promise when the Ad last advancing on solid ground. the past; we can make the future!

dignity. Business pressure will be all velt's failure to revive a dead guard of a working class army to because the bulk of labor turned set against the unlimited promises war. Ours must be an army of uncompromising advance not of