Voice Of Socialism In The V'est

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Western Federation of the Socialist Party

Workers Of The World Unite!

VOL. 1, No. 12

AUTO WORKERS CRACK GENERAL MOTORS

Act To Crush Anti-Picket Militant Labor Group In Spain Organized labor in San Francisco has swung solidly into support of the repeal of

Import "Moscow Trial" Technique To Split Workers' Ranks and Slaughter Revolutionists

Another ghastly chapter in the world-wide campaign Tuesday, March 9th. to "liquidate" the struggle for socialism is now being writ-

As predicted in the last issue of Labor Action, the cam- ports that 75,000 trade paign of incitement against the forces struggling for work- and their families have pledged ers' rule in Spain has now become a campaign of bloody their support for the repeal of suppression.

Farm Strike

Is Crushed

"Popular Front" Engineers

Fatal Truce Which

Smashes Celery Strike

By DICK FRASER

and a couple of incompetent la-

by its agents within the Unions.

and nicely glassed in by a clique

The Unions of San Diego Coun-

struggle. Six months ago the

But such events as the Orange

(Continued on Page 2)

the news of the suppression of the radio station and the daily newspaper of the Workers' Party of Marxist Unity (P.O.U.M.) and the arrest of the P.O.U.M. leaders. Previously the daily newspaper "C.N.T.," official organ of the syndicalist labor fedeation, had been suppressed for five days.

The C.N.T. headquarters near Barcelona were siezed in an attempt to provoke an armed struggle which could lead to the bloody extermination of the syndicalist forces. Fighting has al THE INSTIGATORS

figialdom who make open war, fare against the P.O.U.M. and the deception reminiscent of Public Streets, Sidewarks, A C.N.T. the condition for materi- Orange County. It is a pical assistance from the U.S.S.R.

The charge against the Marxists local politicians and their stooges and the syndicalists is the same as in the frame-up trials and bor leaders who helped these executions in the Soviet Union: agents of the employers to maing agents of fascism!

P.O.U.M. have been the most against the fascists. The crush- the back-bone of the workers' ing defeat of the fascist revolt in offensive. Barcelona, where these organizations have their stronghold, testifies to this fact.

THE REAL CRIME

The real crime of the syndical of Stalinites. ists and the Marxists is their respectacle of the "Moscow trials" broken, and this one without a is to be repeated in Spain!

The campaign against the P. O. San Diego Unions boasted of U. M. is conducted under the good contractual relations with well-known formula of "Trotsky- the growers; their leadership was peaceful picketing, persons reism." The fact is that the P. O. clear and their perspectives U. M., like the victims in the sound; their ranks were filled Russian trials, is and has been with militant union men; they in no way connected with Trot- have given to the labor movesky and disagrees with his ideas ment such men as Jose Espinoza. on many important questions. The C.N.T. is known to all the world County Citrus strike, Los Angeas a militant syndicalist move- les, Salinas, etc., had long ago ment (not Marxist and, there-planted a firm determination in fore, not "Trotskyist."). But these the Shipper-Grower Associations (Continued on Page 3)

Ordinance On Skids

dinance that has been in effect in this city since the day of feverish patriotism and violent oppression of labor in 1916, when U.S. imperialism was girding itself for war. The vote will take place

John F. Shelley, president the Central Labor Council, re-San Diego

The law is deliberately phrased to make any kind of picketing ilconditions and wages. The complete gag nature of the ordinance is revealed in its official de

The pathetic end of the ering, Picketing, Carrying or Dis-San Diego celery strike is an- |playing Banners, Badges, Signs other picture of betrayal and or Transparencies,

neuver the striking unions into the ordinance to protect greedy calling a two day "truce" in pick- employers from being exposed eting just as the Shipper-Growers by organized labor, a group of were beginning to feel the pres- owners, under the guise of a valiant and effective fighters sure of the strike, thus breaking Civic Welfare League, are opening a campaign to keep the ordinance in force, using the slo-The picture was painted by the gan, "Play Safe-Prevent Violent The Building Trades Take Farmers' Protective Assn., framed | Picketing.

In a widely distributed leaflet this "welfare" bunch emphasizes 'intimidating, threatening and coercing" - three words seized fusal to abandon the slogan of a ty up until a week ago were the from the body of the ordinance workers' Spain as the goal of pride of the state, the shining The question of labor's elementhe struggle against the fascists. light of unionism in agriculture; tary right to picket is obscured The C.N.T. and the P.O.U.M. are today they are nothing but an and distorted by an unscrupulous being made the victims of a gi-other menacing blot, marking the attempt to claim that repeal gantic frame-up. The horrible spot where another strike was means unlimited license for vio

> Despite the provocation of the existing gag law, the actual invitation to police interference with sponsible for the leaflet claim that the ordinance has prevented violence on the picket line. According to their short memories, during the twenty years of the ordinance "instances of physical violence in labor disputes have been few and far between."

To counter such propaganda and to actively push for the repeal of the anti-picketing ordinance, a General Campaign Committee has been set up, with of-San Francisco.

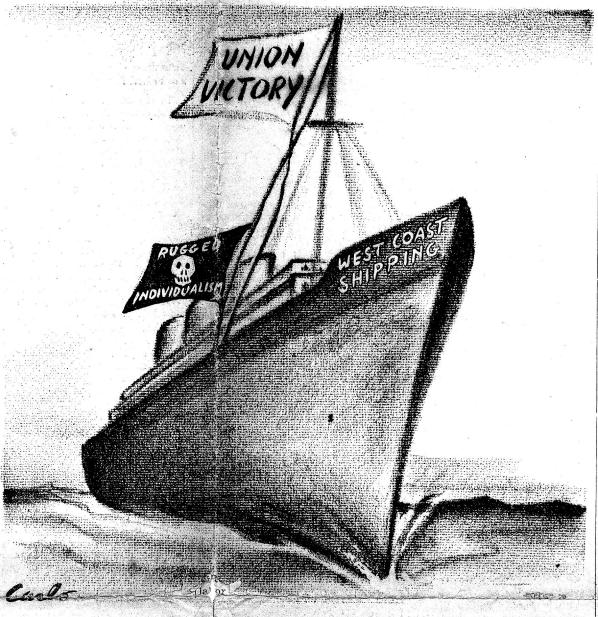
San Diego Labor

All unions unaffiliated have been invited to return to the Council. capita for the present month.

cil, urges unity and states that "the Lathers, and Bricklayers. unaffiliated organizations may seek

Flying The Right Flag

By Carlo



Unions In Six-Hour Day Move

Referendum Vote on Proposal

A movement to establish the six-hour day in the San Francisco building trades has gained considerable headway with the submission of the question by the Building Trades Council to a referendum vote of all affiliated organizations.

Eleven unions have already endorsed the resolution. They are: Carpenters Local No. 22. Carpenters and Pile Drivers No. 34, Lumber Clerks and Handlers No. 2559, Felt and Composition Roofers No. 40, Varnish and Paintmakers, Hod Carriers No. 36, Millmen No. 42, Construction and General Laborers No. 261, Ornamental Plasterers No. 460. Plasterers No. 66, and Painters No.

CONFERENCE FORMED

The driving force behind the campaign is "The Six Hour Buildng Trades Conference Committee," a delegated body from the unions initiating the proposal. J. A. Murphy, Business Agent of Sees Unity Hope Hod Carriers Local No. 36, is chairman of the conference and J. A. MacDonald, a member of

In a leaflet issued by the conference the six-hour day is advocated as a "practical and realizable proposition for the build-

A.F.L. ENDORSEMENT CITED The endorsement of the six-hour center the drive in autos and air- makers of this city. This is the and the unions are promised re- A. F. of L. is cited and it is ers themselves. craft has already resulted in the most ambitious venture yet launch-admission on payment of their per pointed out that five unions in the San Francisco building trades A statement signed by Walter R. already enjoy the six-hour day; workers are very much exploited, Stutz, president of the San Diego namely, the Hod Carriers, Plas-Ornamental Plasterers,

> The conference, declaring its ing the six-hour program and

Call Conference To Form State-Wide Agricultural Union

California State Federation Calls Sixty Local Unions Together for Concerted Action

federal and independent agricultural unions and all central labor unions in the state of California for a conference to be held in San Francisco on February 27th and 28th at the Labor Temple. The purpose of the conference is the formation of a state-wide industrial union of agricultural workers to displace the dozens of small and weak federal and independent unions now struggling for existence.

WIDE REPRESENTATION According to Walter Cowan. vice-president of the California rederation of Labor in charge of ly into the hands of the Assoagricultural organization work, 30 A. F. of L. federal agricultural ately be smashed. unions and a similar number of independent unions will be represented at this conference with

Central Labor bodies throughand of aiding in every possible no substitute for such an organiway to make the conference a zation

two delegates each.

Outside of bona-fide agricultural unions and central labor bodies, no organizations will have a voice cultural unions and strengthening in establishing policy and in setting up the new union. This workers was made at the Stockprecaution is intended to remove the possibility of a "packed" con- 7th of last year. At this confervention which would take the ence 8 independent and ten A. problem of agricultural organiza- F. of L. agricultural unions were tion out of the hands of the work-

combines in the state are already

BULLETIN

Ernest Erber, National Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League, who has recently returned from Spain, will give a first-hand report on the Spanish situation, Sunday night, Feb. 21, at 8 o'clock, at International Hall, 236 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco.

Labor has sent out a call to all sociated Farmers, controlled by the Bank of America and similar corporations, and into Grower-Shipper Associations. powerful organizations plus the weakness of the agricultural workers has resulted in a consistent and successful drive against organization in agriculture. They can only be beaten by a state-wide organization of workers organized industrially. It is expected that a program against one big union of agricultural workers and for a loose federation will be presented by elements within the conference. Any such move would play direct-

The enemies of the workers will stand exposed by presenting such a policy. The only way in which the agricultural workers can fight for decent living conout the state have signified their ditions is through their own state intentions of sending delegates wide industrial union. There is

ciated Farmers and must immedi-

FIRST MOVE AT STOCKTON The first move toward co-ordinating the activitiés of all agriorganization among agricultural ton Conference held June 6th and represented, as were other organizations such as the Workers Al- of the workers to accept them. The great growing and shipping liance and sympathetic trade un-

> ISOLATIONIST POLICY LOSES solid state-wide organization of agricultural workers many strikes in agriculture in the last year this time. were lost. In Orange County, in Salinas, and in Stockton strikes were called which ended in questionable success or outright fail-

This was due to the fact that the Associated Farmers were able (Continued on Page 3)

C.I.O. Union's Victory Begins Wide Advance

National Industrial Agreement and Six Month Recognition Strengthens Entire C.I.O. Campaign In Basic Industries

General Motors has signed its first national agreement with an industrial union. This fact represents a real victory for the auto workers and for the forces of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The first major breach in the iron front of the open shop mass production industries has been made.

California's tional officers of the and of the United Auto Volunteers ficials fought throughout the 44-day strike for separate negotiations in each plant. On this point Begin Trip

Group In New York To Sail With Second Debs

volunteers for the Debs saving dodge does not alter the Column from San Francisco reached New York early this Third, recognition of the union week. They will embark for right to speak for its members gade defending Madrid.

Every man in the group sent from San Francisco is absent in the present settlement. trained and experienced in working class organization, legitimate weapon since it is Spanish working class.

aid to the workers fighting | derous auto speed up. the fascists in Spain.

the forces of fascism disciplined auto workers whose throughout the world will re-ceive a crushing blow in from "now to Christmas" spoke ceive a crushing blow in louder than any honeyed words Spain should support the in the conference chambers. As Friends of the Debs Column.

Definite gains involved in the settlement were: first tions in each plant. On this point they were forced to complete

Second, recognition of the un

ion as the sole bargaining agent in seventeen strike bound plants for a period of six months. This phase of the agreement is made in a round-about signed pledge The first detachment of to Governor Murphy, but the face

the battle front in Spain with the second contingent soon anti-union discrimination. The to join the International Bri- "merit clause," "auto labor board," and rigged elections which

SITTING KOSHER some military field, and in Fourth, the sit-down strike is addition is a member of a by inference recognized as a political party or trade unment and the corporation agrees ion. The loyalty of each is to withdraw all court action basunquestionably with the ed on plant occupation and now pending against the union.

Still waiting in San Fran- to negotiate, again on a national, cisco for funds necessary industrial scale, on all questions The California Federation of organized into the reactionary As- for traveling expenses are of wages, hours and working conover a hundred qualified vol- ditions, beginning Tuesday, Febunteers; aviators, artillery- ruary 16. Points of negotiation men, machine-gunners, etc. include union demands for about tion of piece work pay, 30 hour include union demands for aboli-These men, trained by the week and 6 hour day, time and a capitalist war machine, now half for overtime, wage increases, are eager to give fighting and a slowing down of the mur-WON IN PLANTS

Major credit for these gains Every person hoping that goes to the militant and finely

Fink Book Blocked By Fight Of Unions

Repeated attempts to force the Copeland fink book on the Seamen in the West Coast ports during the past week were frustrated by the firm resistance of the unions of the unlicensed personnel, the Sailors, Firemen and Cooks

Orders and counter-orders from Washington kept the port of San | Copeland Act would be postponed Francisco in turmoil. Some ships were delayed in sailing when the Secretary of Commerce, to force the fink books on the crews ran squarely up against the refusal

The stalemate was finally broken, for the time being, by the fink book in operation. granting of a court injunction re-However, because there was no straining the U.S. shipping commissioner from enforcing the pro- battle for the entire labor movevisions of the Copeland Act at

were entertained in certain cir- the determined and militant polcles at Washington to take ad- icy carried out by the sailors, vantage of the general eagerness firemen and cooks and stewards to resume west coast shipping in clearly shows the way to ultimate order to slip the dog-collar around | victory. the strikes were localized, that the necks of the seamen. Definite promises had been made to the land fink book is to refuse to acunions that enforcement of the cept it!

till Congress could consider the matter further. This promise was categoric orders of Daniel Roper, disregarded—a clean double-cross

If the unions had weakened for a moment during the tense days of the past week the fight would

have been over and the Copeland The three unions of the unlicensed seamen fought a great

ment in defeating these treacherous maneuvers. The fight is not There is no doubt that hopes over yet, not by a long shot. But

The way to defeat the Cope-

Power Of C.I.O. Drive With the addition of representa- of the Pacific coast to move their tives of the Mine, Mill and Smelter plants to open shop Los Angeles, Workers, local 270, the Shipvard in case of unionization drives in Workers Industrial Union, San the former centers of steel pro-

Los Angeles Bosses Feel

group of union men who are lead-Angeles a Union Town.' With local 188, Auto Workers

Union acting as the organizational creation of locals at Willys Overland, General Motors, and Douglas Aircraft. Application for charters are going in this week for locals at Chrysler, Studebaker, and North-

This upsurge of unionization in the automobile and aviation industries has given encouragement to the union men in rubber, and other mass production industries. STEEL THREAT MET

of the East and the northern part ahead.

Pedro, and other organizations, the duction, was answered by the ar- which resulted in the expulsion of retary. rival of Wm. Dalyrimple, field rep- the majority of progressive unions ing an organization drive of the resentative of the Steel Workers from the local Federated Trades C.I.O. unions in and around Los Organization Committee and the Council, a move is under way for Angeles, moved forward to the real- launching of a drive to organize the re-unification of the labor moveization of the slogan "Make Los steel plants in and around Los An- ment here. geles and Torrance.

The I.L.G.W.U. is starting a drive to organize the cotton dress Back per capita tax is to be waived ed by the Ladies' Garment Workers in this city. The cotton goods young girls in the main just out Federated Trades and Labor Counterers,

With locals in U.S. Rubber, and Goodrich the rubber workers are a new election under the Consti- sole task to be "to aid the Buildbusy signing up workers employed tution and By-laws of the local ing Trades Council in popularizby Firestone and Goodyear. These body."

are the two largest producers in

fices in Room 410, Grant Bldg.,

SAN DIEGO-After months of division and internal dissension Carpenters Local No. 34, is sec-

If this statement is made in good mobilizing the rank and file befaith, it indicates an end to the hind the B.T.C. in order to get Numerous Socialists are active virtual dictatorship over local labor complete unity of action," urges in their various unions, pushing affairs forced some months ago by all unions to endorse the resolu-The threat of the steel barons the task of economic organization William Green through his "per-tion and send delegates to the sonal representative" Mr. Casey. | conference.

COLONEL WOOD ON MUSCOW TRIAL The Action Army

Noted Lawyer and Liberal Explains Why He Defends Trotsky's Right Of Asylum

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR NOTES

State Party Hits Farmer-Labor Votes

The Socialist Party of Minnesota has issued a statement critisave one Farmer-Labor senator "neutrality" legislation.

The statement, in part, follows: "This is called neutrality. In actual practice such action constitutes direct aid to the forces of Franco, and Italian and German

"Sincere intelligent representatives of the workers of Minnesota invincible, as has been proved by would never have behaved in this manner. Instead, they would have used the halls of Congress as a forum from which to expose before the workers of America the results attained to date in the rotten hypocrisy of Roosevelt's "neutrality" measures. Naturally, no one expects Roosevelt or the class he represents to give aid to Spain's anti-fascist fighters. But we Socialists do expect representatives of the Farmer-Labor Party to act as a bloc in condemning and exposing such neustruggle with fascism.

and defeat the "neutrality" measure would have meant to provoke one union. the fascists and reactionaries in America is too weak to even consider. Did the rulers of a coun- gun laying the ground work for try EVER permit their hands to an intensive organization drive be tied when it was a case of among the remaining unorganized fighting to preserve their world- electrical workers of Minneapolis. system against the international The drive will be under the suworking class? NO! Class-con-'scious workers everywhere must draw the true lessons from this

Printing Trades Win

In a four-day strike which ended last Thursday, the workers of the Typographical, Pressmen and Assistants, Bookbinders, Stereotypers, Electrotypers, Lithographers, and Photo Engravers, won wage increases and a closed shop

The solidarity displayed by the factor for the strike's success. For example, the help given by the Central Drivers' Union, Local agreed not to sign any agree tional information. ment with the printing bosses unless the bosses signed also with for his able assistance to the Genthe latter group of unions agreed strikes of this union. At that time to do likewise. Thereupon, when the bosses refused to negotiate, reactionary city administration who the unions sent their pickets to feared the power of this man's printing establishments in the class.

city, and proceeded to shut off entries and exits. Even Jenson was denied access to his office, and even more important, all deliveries to the plant were halted cizing the support given by all by the co-operative Drivers' Union. Four days of this resulted and congressman to Roosevelt's in ink, coal, and other necessary supplies running out or dangerously low, which forced the bosses to reconsider their "firm and unalterable" 'decision to not arbitrate or negotiate with the un

With its present solidarity, the Minneapolis labor movement is innumerable strikes since 1934. There arises in the minds of many, the question: If the workers of one city unite and secure Minneapolis, what would be the case if the workers took Karl Marx's advice and united on a world-wide scale?

Electrical Locals

Merge A further cohesiveness of the trality measures, and in vigorous- Minneapolis labor movement will ly fighting to preserve the right no doubt follow the merger of of the masses in America to as- the electrical workers locals of sist in every way their Spanish this city, in which local 292, of brothers locked in a death- the Electrical Workers' 'Union, and local 160, composed of the "The argument that to resist employes of the Northern States Power Company, are united in

The new union, which will remain as local 292, has already bepervision of the combined executive boards of the two former locals, headed by Business Agent Hackett of 292 and Assistant Agent Schultz of former local 160.

Schactman To Speak On Moscow Trials

Max Schactman, outstanding Socialist and the American editor of the literary works of Leon Trotsky, world renowned leader of the Russian Revolution, will address a their demands which included series of meetings in Minneapolis Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 23 and 24. The meetings will be held under the auspices of the Twin unions involved was the main City Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky. The first will take place at the Pioneer Hall, in the Lumber Exchange Building, Tues-No. 544, proved invaluable. This day, Feb. 23, at 8 p. m. All persons union was negotiating with the interested in seeing that justice is printing bosses for a renewal of done should attend this meeting. the agreement covering wage and Other meetings addressed by Mr. working conditions of printing Schactman will be announced drivers and helpers. The union later. Phone MAin 7781 for addi-

Schactman will be remembered

Company, one of the "Big Four" served the cause of the working agriculture and the Unions in able the Unions to break off one strike! **Auto Workers' Victory**

If all those confessions, signed and under seal, were brought forward as evidence against Trotsky in any civilized country of the world, whether it takes its jurisprudence from the praetors of Rome or from the English Common Law and its development, they would not be admitted-not a word of them could be read.—If the whole Stalin government stood ready to swear that they were true reports and true in fact-they

would not be allowed to open

their mouths.

(Continued from Last Issue)

Why not? — Because none of this is competent evidence against Trotsky. Well, think a minute: If some conspirators trapped in Finland swore they were in a conspiracy to murder Sibelius, which conspiracy was directed by Earl Browder in the United States-would that confession be evidence against Earl Browder? If it were true still it would not be evidence against Earl Browder. Why not? Turn to the poor old Constitution of the United States and you will see that every man accused of a crime must be lawfully indicted by an indictment clearly and specifically setting forth the essential acts of his offense. Also he must be brought to trial in open court and must he confronted with the wit-

nesses against him. That is, he must be given every opportunity for crossexamination in the presence of the accused, and for the jury to view the witness and his demeanor. The confessing conspirators waived all this for their own part by confession. Trotsky has never confessed but vehemently denies everything and by every principle of civilized law is entitled to have his day in court-to crossexamine witnesses and to put in his defense.

Our constitution also says the accused must have every assistance to get his evidence and compel the attendance of the witnesses he desires to have present in court. Our constitution is outworn in many respects-but not in these protections to life and liberty-What is set down there is centuries old and has saved many innocent lives. It is more sacred in the preservation of human beings from being railroaded to the gallows than is the code handed down by Jehovah to Moses on Sinai.

You American Communists had better be a little careful how you brush these safeguards away. You may need them sometime. I know what I am saying is useless, for I am

writing against prejudice and emotion: two things quite incapable of appreciating reason. But let us go on:

Trotsky has not been cor t ed of conspiring to assassinate. Whoever says so makes himself a laughing-stock in the civilized world. To convict by the confession of others, in he absence of the accused the settled law of civilized tries, simply ridiculous,

from such conviction no is safe. This may be made aw under dictatorships. They can do anything. It is not the law of the United States, England, France or any other civil zed

So, whether you like it or not my young enthusiasts, Trotsky is not convicted by the law of the United States or by the law of any other Democratic civilized government: only by the say-so of some men in danger of their lives, and not in Trotsky's presence nor subject to cross-examination.

Trotsky may be guilty. Trotsky may some day be proved guilty.

But not yet. Trotsky must have his day in

Of course, it is not necessary for the country granting asylum to give reasons for ending the protection. As a sovereign country she can end it at will: for no reason at all. But with Americans it is different. They are bound to respect the legal code of this country and should really be considerate of the same uniform code in all countries except the dictatorships and the African tribes.

Don't Discard Life-Preserver

Then, my young friends, Selfpreservation is the first law of Nature. Don't be in a hurry to throw away your life-preservers. Fascism and dictatorship may come here also.

If the class has no objection we will take up the next ageold protection to the helpless: Every man is presumed to be innocent till proved guilty. Trotsky by our law and all civilized law must be presumed innocent till proved guilty. He has not been proved guilty. He has not had his day in court Of course I can see the sm' as

on the pretty faces of my tional young revolutionis s "Presumed to be innocent fill proven guilty?-He is proved guilty-by the confessions of the conspirators."-So we go round and round the sawdust ring while the emotional young revolutionist in green tulle skirts uses what brains she has to whack her spotted charger and leap through the hoop, shouting "Get up, Dobbin: Trotsky is guilty. The conspirators have confessed it. And Mr. Browder says so. What more do you want?

-Only this. Read the Constitution of the country which country shelters you.

"Shall be confronted with the witnesses against him."

-Is that plain? Can you really comprehend its meaning? It is not schoolboy oratory. It is not only our own "Supreme Law"-It is the crystallization of the thought of centuriescrystallized in revolutionary combat with tyrants and autocratic governments-and not to be lightly erased to suit the convenience of Moscow and the emotions of the young American acolytes.—Please use your

Traitor— To What?

In the campaign against Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce, we went into bivouac one evening in a hot, rocky canyon, alive with rattlesnakes. After a general slaughter of snakes, we had our meagre supper and went to bed. Soon afterward I thought I heard a rattler in the blankets of my Captain, Colonel Robert Pollock, a Civil War veteran, of more than two hundred pounds weight, by whose side I was sleeping. I called to him-"Colonel, I hear a rattler in your blankets," and heard a very drowsy answer—"I kin stand it if he kin."

I am suddenly now a "Traitor."-Traitor to what is not clear to me. I never swore allegiance to the Russian government. I never was a Communist and am not likely to be from the specimens I see about me. I do not confess.

Before these young enthusiasts were out of diapers, long before the Russian revolution, I was preaching the basic principles of that cosmic event: "No special privileges or monopolies, natural or social, in private ownership."-So were many other "Enemies of Society." Russia has no copyright on the idea, but she was the first in human history to put it into practice. Read what I

in my book, "Too, much Government," pages 56-57, "I look to Russia as the Dawn," "Traitor"—No: it is bad English-and I will not confess. Please also read-"Heavenly Discourse," "Satan Asks for Help," pp. 297.

One young emotionalist whom I dearly love, says in effect

that in joining the Trotsky Defense Committee I have destroyed the work of the Russian Revolution and blocked civilization. I did not think I or Trotsky was so important, nor the Russian Revolution so weak.-I think it would go on if we were all blotted out. But she also says, what is more important, to me, that I have broken her heart and lost my own soul.

I still refuse to confess, except to the last. But I lost my soul years ago, and am used to it. I have lost it many times. When all else fails I may join a vaudeville circuit as "The Man Without a Soul"—I only hope they will not mistake me for the Publisher of the chaingang of newspapers which print all the news not fit to print. Other than this I will not confess-but I will explain.-I have not joined Trotsky. As to him I have no opinion.

But I have heard the voice of "Justice" and have signed for her defense, All I have done I have done for the Eternal Spirit -regardless of mortal names. I would do the same again, were the name Stalin, Trotsky, or Judas Iscariot.

Testimony of John Reed

There was a boy; a playmate and classmate of my younger sons, who came much to our home in Portland, Oregon, until he went away to college. But when the Russian Revolution shook the world, he hurried there and went through it. When the Revolution was established and things had quieted down a bit, he returned to this country and to his home in Portland. One day he came to my sick bed and said he was going back to Russia, but did not care to have it generally known. He said he might never return and he could not go without saying goodbye to me.

Then he told me, very simply, that I had been a great influence in his life, though he did not appreciate it at the time, but only as he grew older and began to remember my views and utterances. I was surprised at this and the almost emotional though very quiet feeling with which it was said. When he had written me from college he did not write anything of this kind. Usually he asked questions about writing poetry and sometimes submitted verses for criticism.

So we parted. I never saw him again. He lies in the Kremlin, by the side of Lenin. -CHARLES ERSKINE SCOTT

WOOD.

By Frank Stern

Last week Labor Action missed an issue because of a shortage of finances. That means that the Action Army has been laying down on the job. Just one month ago the special trial subscription drive was announced in order to add a thousand new subscribers for Labor Action, and in order to raise funds without forcing the membership to contribute beyond their means. To date 409 sub cards have

Fisher Hits **Distortion** Of Speech

Illinois Chairman Calls Daily Worker to Order For False Report

John Fisher, Illinois Socialist state chairman and president of Local No. 1 of the Progressive Miners of America at Gillespie, which alone has raised \$2,000 in cash from its members for the Spanish workers, writes in to protest against deliberate distortion in the Daily Worker of his remarks as chairman of a meeting for the Spanish Young People's Delegation in Gillespie where more than \$600 was raised situation makes such an appeal

Comrade Fisher's statement fol-

"I have a copy of the Daily Worker which quotes me as say and paying for a weekly bundle; ing the issue in Spain is between democracy and fascism. I deny our drive for 1,000 new subscribthis statement as an untruth. More of their double-crossing misquoting and distorting truths. Here is what I said: "That the government of Spain was a legal government elected by a large majority, and pledged to carry out certain reforms, and among them the land question.

the present government was re- port. turned to power, drew a parallel of what the government of February was trying to do, when Hitler and Mussolini stepped in fair for Labor Action. Arrange and aided the reactionary forces red Sundays and visiting camof Spain to declare a war on the paigns to build circulation. Check legal government elected by the up on the membership and make people. Also said that Hitler Ger-sure they subscribe. Sell copies many wanted Spain for raw ma- at your union meetings and at terials and food stuffs.

to defend capitalist democracy. I still believe the issue, not only in Spain but the world, is whether we are going to go forward with the Cooperative Commonwealth of two-bit sub drive. If your name mankind or backward with the democracy which the Communists your part. You still have a proclaim Status Quo Capitalism -reform private ownership, become respectable, legal and good folks, and defend good Capitalism gainst bad Capitalism, support

good wars against bad wars. "No, I have not sunk to such low levels as to become like the Communist Party—the bridegroom for the bride Capitalism. I still maintain the issue is for the toiling masses the question of Socialism versus Capitalism. Sotalism with its war, insecurity

and want. Defending capitalist democracy is misleading. It holds no hope or promise for the future. Democowning class when it stands in the way of those who gave it birth, the owning and ruling class. They championed democracy when it furthered their cause—the destruction of the feudal system—and they will destroy it when it no longer serves

"I am no fool. The democracy which the Communists defend is the Socialist freedom of a full will be a king as far as plenty, peace and freedom is concerned. I deny again the Daily Worker's statement."

Workers of San Diego County very meager. Local politicians party. mit itself completely and utterly and cannot rally to their support and in other organizations of to be seduced by its own leaders their legitimate allies in the W.P.A. workers. It will serve ranks of organized labor.

New SUBSCRIBERS are financially.

Every reader is urged Send in for sub-cards now! shows.

drive is successful the regular appearance of Labor Action will be jeopardized. Now is the time to send in money for your sub cards. It is not hard to sell a three month subscription for 25c-all it needs is a little application. If one comrade in Oakland can dispose of 80 of these cards, certainly it should not be difficult for any

comrade to appose of four or

eight weekly.

been sold - and most of these

have been in the San Francisco

Bay area. This drive is the most

important Labor Action has had

since its establishment more than

three months ago. Unless this

The missing of an issue is a graphic reminder of the precarious financial position of Labor Action. Thus far there has been no wide-spread western appeal for funds. Our present financial imperative. You can give in more ways than one. First, by direct contributions to the sustaining fund; secondly by taking and thirdly by getting active in

Action is required now-immediately. We must assure the regular appearance of Labor Action. This is no time for retreat. Sacrifices must be made if necessary. Extraordinary efforts must be put forth to build "I also quoted wages before Labor Action and widen its sup-

Take this matter up at your branch meeting. Arrange an afparty mass meetings and forums. "I never mentioned Democracy See that copies are put in all versus Fascism, but said aid prominent bookstores and news should be given to help defeat stands. Appoint a responsible fascism, and stop it spreading comrade as Labor Action agent over Europe. I know more than to continually boost sales and circulation.

> We are listing those who have come through thus far on the is not listed you are not doing chance to come through. Join the vanguard of the Action Army!

Tom Kerry, Oakland.....80 Minneapolis S. P.....80 Los Angeles S. P..........50 Flo Wyle, San Francisco...20 R. Marie Hansen, Billings.20 Milen Dempster, Stockton.20 Dave Bers, Berkeley 20 Marjorie Kerrigan, San

Diego16 Norman Henderson, Berkeley14

Harry M. Lux, Lincoln, Nebraska14 Charlie Beckett, Chicago 12

D. T. Burbank, St. Louis. Mo.12 John Brum, San Francisco. 8 Joe Bowen, San Francisco. 8 Eloise Booth, San Francisco 8

Glen Trimble, San Francisco 8 A. C. Doughty, Los Angeles 8 Stuart G. Brown 8 H. Goldenberg, Montreal.. 8

Chas. P. Fischer, Kansas City E. A. Kulps, San Francisco 4

A. B. Ellis 4 L. E. Graham Ida Bear, Berkeley 4

A. Ferguson, Vancouver... 4 J. A. Fox 4 B. Kasser, San Francisco.. 4 Jan Koblik, San Francisco 2 Al Furth, San Francisco ... 2

"Socialist Builder"

Raoul Leon, San Francisco 2

CHICAGO.—The first issue of The Socialist Builder" for Somore than the nonsensical yap- the main body of organized labor cialist members of the Workers' ping of the Stalinists to explain in the state and must depend Alliance of America has been ishow the proud Independent (Mex. upon their own resources in any sued by the national unemployment committee of the Socialist

The object of this bulletin is to coordinate and advance the work of Socialists in the W.A.A. two purposes: 1. To improve The salvation of these unions and advance the interests of the as a medium of information and Similar bulletins will be issued

Stoolpigeon Profits

WASHINGTON, D. C .- The Corporations Auxiliary Co., stoolpigeon outfit, made \$1,750,019 between January 1, 1933 and November 1, 1936, evidence presented to the La to get behind the drive. Follette civil liberties committee

less the bosses signed also with the printing crafts unions, and the printing bosses with for his able assistance to the General Drivers Union during the 1934 the printing crafts unions, and the printing crafts unions are printing crafts unions, and the printing crafts unions are printing crafts unions. At that time

(Continued from Page 1) San Diego in particular.

ATTACK LEADERS The first and most important line of strategy followed by the growers agents in the Unions with a vicious campaign of lies and slanders so that by the time (Continued from Page 1) | good, NEC member and C.I.O. or of the strike all of the stable former stability of the Union was publicity and education staff of Stalinists took the cue from the for "settling" the strike. the U.A.W.A. In Cleveland, Ed employers' attacks upon the unturned out to be an ideal stooge for either the bosses or the Sta-

ligious experience.

tying up considerable of the cel-support. ery crop.

The idea that under the best Stalinists yelled "charge" while was staged. file defeated the police, despite erties Committee's revelation that conditions these Unions might beating a hasty retreat to the

after another several Shipper-Growers from the Association.

No. 2, are among the Socialists ly out of the ranks of the Union. porated districts" (the agricul- been sold out. One principal reason for the tural areas) of the county. Without consultation with the Central the fact that its leadership never | Strike Committee a meeting was struggle gradually melting away permitted the Communist Party hastily prepared wherein a super- and the strike slipping through Alan Strachan worked on the to get a foothold. This time the visor was to present a "plan" their fingers. In a last great re-

ous "build-ups" around a second- mastership of Chet Moore jerked was in the hands of the bosses.

ment in any of its forms except win. This strategy, said the poli- ly as they were cleared. Another perhaps as a sublimation of re- tician, consists in removing your flare-up occurred the next day picket line for two days in or but by this time the leadership At the same time a vile cam- der to save us poor politicians had lost sight of everything but paign against Jose Espinoza was the embarrassment of passing an saving its own face. The picket initiated, and to make it sure, anti-picketing law at the insist lines dwindled away and died. just before the strike was to be ance of the Farmers' Protective gin Jose was thrown in jail in Ass'n. No one was taken in at Orange County on his old vag- first, some of the workers actualrancy charge along with Velarde ly laughed in his face, but the This commentary on the auto of the CUCOM. The united front stage was well set. At Bellon's settlement carries far more of the bosses and the Commies right sat our two-bit, build-up weight than William Green's (is this the People's Front in ac- leader and his trusty Stalinite 'sour grapes" press release charg- tion?), then forced out Lillian builder-upper, also two local niting Lewis with "surrender." | Monroe and Castillo, leaders of wits, stooging for the politician, ing of the plant revived union Green's action was an inexcus- last year's successful strike along and a representative of the San Diego County Building Trades Thus the Unions entered the Council. They were all pleading stalling wouldn't stop the auto even in the craft union camp. strike with the membership con- for the Agricultural workers to The statement is discussed edi-siderably demoralized by the re-help them fight the anti-pickettorially in this issue, but one cent turn-over of militants and ing law, directed at the Celery sidelight deserves notice here. little confidence in the leader- Strike-by removing the pickets

concentration of the workers cipline" themselves, and urged tion supplemented by some misthe plant of the Jenson Printing tongue and pen which has so ably to wipe out the existing unions in forces in such a way as to en them on to break their own The Mexican Consul (Castro)

blandly said that he was glad The sixth day of the strike that the workers were "doing the Stalinite provocateurs were availfound the Ass'n. in the agony of right thing." The politician and a sure split as a result of well the boys had a few uncomfort-Launches C. I. O. Drive was to undermine the authentic concentrated workers' forces. The lable moments when the present powerful apparatus of the bosses, writer spoke but the stage was concentrated workers' forces. The able moments when the present placed near me and admitted that both inside and outside the un- too well set and the militants the "traitor" was nor what he racy will be abolished by the ions sprang into immediate ac were caught unawares going had done. After attacking him tion. The County Supervisors home heavy hearted and with a predicted in these columns, the ganizer, Phil Wise, Sr., sit-down and militant leaders of the Union threatened to pass an anti-picket choking feeling in their throats, strike leader in Fisher Body Plant were either discredited or entire ing law effective in "all unincor-knowing that their strike had Three days later the men be-

gan to feel the fruits of militant flex the pickets attempted to re-So the puppet-stage was set turn to life and sweep like a Socialist trade unionists con- Simpson was an officer and pick- ion and started one of their fam- and the puppets under the puppet hurricane through the county, clearing fields from which the rate demagogic politician. He on their strings, and the strike green gold was being taken. Disorganized and frantic the picket-The politician, Bellon, smiled ing finally petered out, its leadlinists, being absolutely ignorant and ogled and told how workers ers were arrested and that was of the meaning of the labor move- must use "strategy" in order to all. The fields filled up as quick-

However, the overwhelming majority of the striking men stayed out of the fields faithfully awaiting the decision of the Union although all realized that to carry on further would be folly. The question then took per-

spective: here had been a good into selling its own strike. strike situation, a militant picketline and a healthy spirit in the unions.—but the strike is lost. All at once it occurs to the lead-

partial victory lay, however, in agricultural workers can "dis- had a well-drilled cheering sec- isolating the workers from their

guided workers plied with liquor until they were rolling drunk and cialism with its program of sequite irresponsible. The best curity, peace and plenty or capiable. One member of the cheering section was unfortunately he did not know who, nor where as a "microbe" with all weapons, doing everything in their power to create a good witch-busing spirit among the workers, those who originally sold out the strike were able to muster only 27 votes out of 300 strikers present for expulsion of the present writer their purposes. from the meeting. This alone is a final condemnation of their entire course and an indication that built on sinking sand. I want the victory of the forces of reaction within the union will be and happy life, when every man short lived.

The path of the California agricultural workers in the state has constantly been beset by betrayals of this same character. The local American Union is small legitimate leaders and projecting and young and could not be ex- them into a strike helpless as a pected to stand up alone under ship without a rudder. heavy pressure, but it will take ican) Union of Laborers & Field situation. These resources are could, with one small puff of and labor fakirs find in these Ina politican's sugary breath, fold dependent Unions easy prey, in up like a tent in a gale and per- that they stand and fall alone

In the first place it must be

recognized that these unions were rests on a State organization for masses of workers who are now fighting a state-wide organization, agriculture in the A.F. of L., and members of or eligible to affiliawhereas every tendency to at- it is with hope that these work- tion with the W.A.A. 2. To act ers of the fiasco, to the politic- tempt to localize the problem was ers receive from the State Federaians, to the Stalinites and stool- played up by the employers, the tion of Labor a conference call discussion of Socialist policy. pigeons, to the Mexican Consul, Stalinites, and the politicians, so sent to all Agricultural Unions Vic and Ray Ruether, B. J. Wi- Bill Green's own International ship. Nevertheless, after a very from the celery fields. At Bel- to everyone who had a hand in that the membership and the for the purpose of beginning the shortly for Socialists in other dick, editor of the Rubber Worker Labor News Service comments fair walk out on January 27th a lon's right sat the crafty Mexican the sell-out: where to dump the leadership of the unions was unification of Unionism in Agri- fields of activity. and William Carney, militant rub- favorably on the settlement and militant picket-line succeeded in consul giving silent but effective responsibility? So on the night kept from a correct understand- culture on a sound basis. when the strike was formally to ing of the nature of the enemy. "Discussion" started and the be called off another frame-up The bosses had an intelligent machine working in and about the The Stalinite-boss combination union that time after time sucgun and gas fire which wounded GM had paid \$167,000 to the Pink- have been able to deal with the protective shelter of impotence, went to elaborate pains in order ceeding in blocking a correct po-20 class conscious workers in erton Spy Agency in 1935 and Celery Growers' Association as a Stalinite Roscoe (AIWUA) yelled to shift responsibility to one in sition. The Communist Party cluding party-member and bus nearly half a million to the same whole (tributary to the Farmers' that "we are not afraid to make dividual against whom all the clique dove-tailed exactly into the strike leader, Fred Stevens. Jack outfit in less than three years Protective Assn.) is at best over a sacrifice." Delgado called upon anti-labor forces in and out of machine of the employers. This Monarch, with volunteer organiz with a share in "weakening the optimistic. A good chance for his fellow workers to show that the Unions could unite. They vicious combination succeeded in

These Unions are isolated from

needed to build LABOR ACTION and to sustain it

tributed largely to the effectiveness of the strike. In the crucial "battle of Flint" it was Genora Johnson, 23 year old Brigade, who seized the union the workers and shouted at the police "Cowards! Cowards! Shooting unarmed and defenseless men!" and then in appeal, "Women of Flint! This is your fight! Join the picket line! Defend

battle was really won in the fac-

tories. The guarding of that

strengthened organization and

greater gains will continue to de-

pend on the intelligent militancy

of the auto workers themselves.

SOCIALIST AID

It was again Socialist leadership which inspired and led the "capture" of Chevrolet Plant No. 4 at a time when the strike seemed to be petering out in futile Washington maneuvers. The takmilitancy in Flint and served able attack which met with no with Espinoza. notice on the corporation that favor among sincere labor men

and your children's homes"

HONOR ROLL

Kermit and Genora Johnson, among the worker-generals who in winning recognition. along with an aroused rank and It credits the Senate Civil Liber's credentials, Powers Hap-company's resistance."

victory while moving on to who carried the industrial union line of the party to the Flint

battle-front. In Detroit Walter Reuther and et leader.

WAR AHEAD

The strike is but one battle in leader of the Women's Emergency a far flung war. Indication that employers are well aware of this sound truck "mike" and rallied fact came with the announcement on the same day of the settlement, that Carnegie Steel was attempting to hold its "employee representatives" in line by granting a \$5 a day minimum wage, an 80c a day increase your jobs, your husband's jobs and a 40 hour week in all Carnegie steel mills.

ber workers' organizer, were says the UAWA "had its way"

The Notebook of an Agitator

After the Maritime Strike—Main Aspects of the Victory-Two Conceptions of Trade Union Policy

sympathies regulated primarily

of Karl Marx against the con-

servative labor leaders of his day

answered all these questions. All

and against all conceptions which

In the strike the Maritime Fed-

eration of the Pacific went

through its first real test. The

results show that this formation

was an aid to solidarity. The

federation proved its superiority

over the system of every craft for

itself. The habit of co-operation

between the crafts and the prac-

tice of solidarity, through the

federation, tested in the strike,

will undoubtedly bind the federa-

But for all its unquestionable

uperiority to the isolated sys-

tem, the federation should be re-

garded as a transitional form of

organization. The organizational

goal of militant labor is indus-

trial unionism. The militants

should begin to consider this

problem more concretely and to

devise steps to advance its solu-

SITDOWN IN

STEEL

CHICAGO-The first sitdown in

teel in this area was successful

when the Amalgamated Assn. of

Iron, Steel & Tin Workers forced

union, was forced to recognize the

grievance committee as represent-

ng the workers and to answer by

February 4 a request of the union

TOLEDO.—The striking work-

Win Increase

regarding a pay increase.

Glass Workers

tion.—J. P. C.

tion together more cohesively.

overlook the class struggle.

The more thoroughly the result | different interests and different of the 99-day maritime strike is does the victory of the unions stand out. The gains of the workers have two aspects. The immediate material benefits in the the experience of the labor moveform of increased wages and cash ment since that time, including payment for overtime are worth the recent West Coast strike, the struggle and suffering which speaks for the position of Marx the workers had to pay for them. The shortening of the working day of the Cooks and Stewardseven if it fell short of the 8-hour objective-is a benefit which the workers involved will enjoy every day they are at sea. The general movement of labor for better wages and shorter hours is greatly stimulated by the tangible concessions won by the maritime workers in these respects.

But, in my oninion, the outstanding and most important result of the strike was the unquestionable strengthening of the individual unions, and of the Maritime Federation as a whole. That is the safeguard and the promise of better things to come.

The 1934 strike, with all its heavy cost of struggle and sacrifice, laid the foundation for all the advances of maritime labor in the past two and a half years. But it left the question of the stability of the unions still undetermined. The sea-faring crafts had to fight every inch of the way by means of job action-the only recourse left to them-to wrest the recognition and the consideration denied them in formal agreements. The attempt to wreck the Sailors Union in connection with the revocation of its charter showed that the stability and strength of this militant organization was doubted by labor fakers as well as by shipowners. Finally, the arrogance of the shipowners last Fall only demonstrated their underestimation of the stability of the Federation as a whole. They had to be convinced by the strike that maritime unionism is no passing phenomenon.

The unions survived this test of a drawn-out struggle and came out of it stronger than beforeand consequently with more confidence in themselves.

The results of the strike are the vindication of the strike. Who could argue now-in the face of off indefinitely until Washington came to the rescue of the workers? All the Roosevelt administration ever offered to the maritime workers is the Copeland ducer in the industry. Book. It is clear now, or ought to be, that the strike was a ne-

The prevailing policy in the strike was, in the main, a policy of militancy. That accounts for the victory. But this policy made its way and prevailed at times in a peculiar, indirect way-from the bottom upward rather than from the top down. The maritime rank and file are fighters. They are traditions. That is the real secret, if there is a secret, of the strength of the Federation and its affilfated unions, not some new inventions in the line of strategy. The maritime workers FEEL the class struggle, and instinctively act accordingly. That is why they were right every time they blockconception of capital-labor relations.

Some very erroneous conceptions were entertained in some of the leading circles of the Federation. At times they were even put forward as official decisions, have been.

Among them the following stood out most prominently: (1) The policy of stalling off the strike so as "not to embarrass President Roosevelt": (2) The decision to er and a frisky Russian White opponents and critics, it invarimove "perishable cargo" from the Guard." From Gide's mouth is ably ascribes to them its own strike-bound ships; (3) The ten-sues cackles of idiot laughter, his views and attitudes. dency to make a fetish of the eyes drip rheumy tears, and all "Pravda On "Public"; (4) The conciliatory the while his lips drool spittle— Self-Criticism" attitude toward government inter- | "poisonous anti-Soviet saliva" ference; (5) Most dangerous of which is seized upon and smeared da dares to answer Gide "direct- in the USSR precisely at the time the counter-revolutionists, the all—The proposals to "accept the over the pages of the "German ly" is on the charge there is no of the All-National discussion on Fascists and the Trotskyists? Copeland fink book and protest and Polish Fascist press." Such afterward."

There was really nothing new in any or all of these erroneous psychological study, is a "socio- feels free to quote from Gide. We ism? Andre Gide does not dare ples of the Soviet land are also proposals. The argument against sists simply in an explanation here it is verbatim: that a conflict between workers

is itself divided into classes, with tiny of the petty bourgeois intell to him who ventures too far! You printed scarcely anything but ture."

Back Militants

TOLEDO,-The Socialist Party won a smashing victory for the policies of its members within the Workers Alliance when the state executive board of the Ohio Workers Alliance, after a 14-hour hearing in this city, Sunday, January tional Executive Board member of the WAA, and Art Preis, chairman of the powerful Lucas County Workers Alliance, of all charges brought against them by Workers' Spain. Communist Party elements in the local organization.

Pries and Selander have played idea of socialism in the Spanish a leading role in building one of struggle. the most powerful locals of the Workers Alliance in the country strike which won 4,200 new WPA

After nearly six hours of totally unsubstantiated slander against Pries and Selander, Communist members on the state executive board attempted to railroad a motion through to discontinue the hearing without permitting the accused an opportunity to testify in their defense. Socialists and non-partisan members of the board successfully defeated this motion.

charges by proving from the records of the organization and the results of their policies that the charges were a deliberate attempt by the Communist clique to

frame them up. By a majority vote, the state board approved the recommendations of the accused for the establishment of their policy of organization within the county local. Paul Rasmussen, general or-

ganizer of the WAA; Nelson Meagley, national executive memher and Ohio WA executive secretary, and Lee Morgan, Ohio WA vice-chairman, participated in the meeting and hearing, and played the Hamilton Steel Co. to rehire an influential part in establishing a militant policy in the mat-The company, which employs 200 | ter of pressing for adequate flood men and girls, all members of the relief legislation.

AIRCRAFT WORKERS' DANCE

LOS ANGELES-Aircraft work ers in and around Los Angeles are getting together Saturday. Februarv 20. at a dance sponsored by the Aircraft Workers' Organizing Committee and Local 188 of the Auto Workers' Union. The dance will be held at 14001/2 East Florence Ave., ers at Libbey-Owens-Ford have re- near Compton, in Los Angeles.

ceived an 8 cent hourly raise. After holding out for 6 cents an drive has brought many workers the results—that the strike should hour for several days, the glass into the union in one of the most have been postpened and stalled company agreed to the same important large-scale industries won by the Federation of Flat first social affair at which workers ciability.

Ohio Alliance Moving To Crush Militant Workers' Groups In Spain

(Continued from Page 1) considered the more convincingly by these interests. The polemics 31, cleared Ted Selander, Na two organizations have this in other revolutionary forces: They fight, according to their own ideas and by their own methods, for a

> THE REAL ISSUE They are the symbols of the

The C. P. daily proclaims that it is "hoarse from repeating that and recently led a WPA sit-in we are not engaged in a proletarian revolution; this war leads olution, and it is those solutions, not those of proletarian revolution, which must be envisaged." As against that the C.N.T. and the P.O.U.M. declare: "The choice the anti-fascist struggle in Spain is between Fascism and Revolution.'

That is the real issue of the bloody drama unfolding behind the lines of the anti-fascist forces in Spain.

As the revolutionary vanguard

of the Spanish workers, interpreting the real desires of the Spanish masses, the P.O.U.M. and the ommon with Trotsky and all C.N.T. must be "liquidated" by force in the name of "bourgeois tended by Elizabeth Gilman of democracy."

Philadelphia, Alfred Baker Lewis This is what France and England want as a guarantee of no and Ralph M. Harlow of Massachusetts, and Margaret Lamont, socialism in Spain. This is the demand of the Stalin bureaucracy which has long ago turned its back on the workers' revolution everywhere.

SOUND THE ALARM! The revolutionary workers of Spain cry to the labor movement of conducting collective bargainto the bourgeois-democratic rev- of the world for help in exposing ing negotiations for the pullman the foul conspiracy against them. Let the truth be known!

> Let the workers movement everywhere, which has supported with such unanimity, raise a mighty demand for unity and workers' democracy in Spain! Let the uncorrupted labor movement of the world proclaim in ican Federation of Labor conventhundering tones: "No ghastly tion against race discrimination 'Moscow Trials' in Spain!'

State-Wide Union For Farm Labor Sought

(Continued from Page 1) function on a state-wide basis and "pick their spots," catching the labor movement unprepared. Lack of funds also seriously hampered unions in isolated spots from carrying on extended strug-

STATE FEDERATION HELP The necessity of state-wide industrial organization in agriculture was forcefully brought home industrial union of agricultural to the entire labor movement in unions. California when the Salinas lettuce strike, marked by even more police violence than is the rule in tion.

The conference called for this

Guild Members Pass No Picket Lines

NEW YORK .- The refusal of 11 members of the Newspaper Guild to pass through a picket down" technique as well as the line posted by typographical workers was unanimously approved as the New York News- voiced by the 26th convention of a field organizer to coordinate least afford it. The recent C.I.O. organization paper Guild's representative as the American Federation of Hosembly voted to authorize a strike siery Workers here.

The action made official a joint missals and demanding white strike of pressmen, typographical collar educational projects be SpyStillLyingGlass Workers from Pittsburgh in this industry will get together strike of pressmen, typographical collar educational projects be Plate Glass, the other big pro- for informal acquaintance and so- and editorial workers against the taken over by a permanent gov-Long Island daily.

field workers' struggles, broke out during the holding of the annual convention of the California Federation of Labor last year. The convention immediately

took action to prevent re-occur-Crisis" as a 2-cent pamphlet: rence of what happened in Salinas by adopting a resolution to Locals and branches are urged finance organization of agricultural workers and to fight for the establishment of a state-wide support for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union;

month is the result of this resolu-

Textile Workers Approve Sit-Downs the Workers' Alliance as well.

WASHINGTON D. C.-Wholehearted approval of the "sit-"lie-down" method employed by strikers at the Berkshire Knitting Mills in Reading, Pa., was

unions, protesting WPA staff disernment agency.

the work of local committees.

addressing forums and meetings.

Party Group

Meets To Aid

Negro Work

gro work sub-committee of the

Socialist Party met here and re-

ceived reports of the growth of

Socialist sentiment among Negro

workers. The meeting was at-

Baltimore, Eloise O. Fickland of

Norman Taylor, Frank R. Cross-

waith and Noah C. A. Walters of

Chairman A. Philip Randolph

of the committee could not be

Locals and branches should

Socialist trade unionists should

The National Association for

the Advancement of Colored

effort they make for justice to

The question of the National

work for the passage of the

Randolph resolution at the Amer-

again be urged to appoint Negro

ernational president.

work committees:

in the unions:

Negro workers:

vention:

March.

The committee decided:

New York.

LOS ANGELES-James Scrudder, chief prosecution witness in the Modesto Standard Oil frameup, told a State Assembly investigating committee he "lied" when he confessed his trial testimony was perjured.

Scrudder insisted he testified truthfully at the trial in 1935, say ing his confession was made to mislead questioners. The confession was recorded on dictaphone records in the home of William

Briggs, film studio employe. In the confession, which led to union men convicted in Modesto of were framed

He told the investigating committee, however, that he was "suswere asking him questions, and March. "lied to lead them on."

But he admitted receiving \$600 Oil hired him to "protect" Scrud- through the northwest.

San Francisco, where Scrudder and another prosecution witness, To Convention Harold Marchant, were acting as "under-cover men" for Standard

Costa Rican Aryans Wait Hitler's O.K.

seen the Monroe Doctrine lately? ately to the Federation Secretary! for one dollar.

The Party At Work

State Convention In San Francisco

236 Van Ness Avenue at 1 p. m. for a three-day convention of the Socialist Party of California, annually held in February.

Reports of the year's work will be given by the State Secretary of the Socialist Party and the District Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League. Delegates will consider resolutions on policy and lay down the basis for organization work and party activity for the coming year. A new State Executive Committee will dividual members are expected be elected to serve until the next to realize their Socialist obligaconvention.

present because he is in the midst Recommendations regarding national policy will also be considered as a guide to delegates porters of which union he is infor the special National Convention which will be held in Chi-stamps. Members-at-large should cago March 20-23.

Fresno Local Reorganized

With a newly established central headquarters at 2044 Mariposa Street and the return of some members who have been away from Fresno for several months, the local has re-organ ized for active Party and YPSL People is to be supported in any work. Regular meetings have been scheduled for Tuesday eve

Negro Congress is referred to the national convention of the party; California Behind On Three issues of the Negro La-bor News Service are to be **Debs Fund Drive** issued before the national con-

Although California went over the top of its quota for the It will undertake to reprint United Fund Drive during the Norman Thomas' article in "The campaign and stood among the first twelve states (along with ten other western states) in perto call conferences of labor or- formance, the record is not so ganizations. Negro groups and good on the Debs Organization others to get moral and financial Fund Drive.

Only \$3.00 has been sent to the National Office so far from Local Negro work committees California! This is a very poor Attempts will be made to secure who are often those who can ping a day in Sacramento on the

The assessment schedule calls for purchase of only one 25c Debs stamp by those earning \$10 per week. From \$10 to \$20 weekly wages are assessed fifty cents (for two stamps). Four stamps should be bought by those earning \$20 to \$30 a week; eight stamps between \$30 and \$40; sixteen between \$40 and \$50. Those earning \$50 and more are asked to buy thirty-two of the 25c stamps-a reasonable demand for the cause of Socialism!

The Socialist Party has no Federal Agents or tax collectors. Intions and voluntarily step forward with the money for the stamps. Local secretaries should approach every member of the local if they fail to purchase their order at once from the State Office as many stamps as are due on their income. Anyone who wishes to act in the spirit, as well as the letter, of the assessment plan can buy more than the assessed number and thereby help California go over the top again in support of the National Office!

Red Truck Schedule

Unmistakable in purpose-with 'Socialist Party of the U.S. A. Organization Car Number One" inscribed on its panels-the Red Special sound truck has been visiting Socialist locals, membersat-large in outlying districts, and contacts since its arrival in this state January 26. From San Diego the truck went to Los Angeles for three days, visiting contacts as far out as San Bernardino, and then continued up the valley, stopping at Bakersfield, Fresno, and Stockton.

On Friday, February 12, Comrade Anderson, National Organcould be valuable in stimulating showing, particularly in view of zer who brought the Red Special the organization among colored not only the need for money, but across the southwestern states people of tenant leagues and en- of the very fair assessment into California, left for Marin couraging union organization and schedule prepared by the Nation-County, accompanied on the Red unemployed organization through al Office. If every individual Special by Howard Rosen, Dismember (members-at-large as well trict Secretary of the YPSL. Another meeting of the com- as those in organized locals) There will be a meeting of Sonittee will be held in Chicago in would buy stamps on the income cialist sympathizers in Yuba City assessment basis, the fund for on Tuesday, February 16. The It was reported that members the pre-convention period would Red Special will return to the of the committee have been busy be raised without throwing the Bay area to assist in publicizing whole burden on the loyal few the Erber meetings, after stop-

against the North Shore Daily Journal, Flushing, L. F. Shore Daily Japan Unions to form credit Journal, Flushing, L. F. Shore Daily Japan Unions To form Credit Standard Oil's Western Federation Of the Socialist Party

New Mexico

Mexico suffered a heavy loss January 28 in the death, after State Chairman, Comrade Colorado Notes Claud B. Blackburn. He was been for many years a faithful worker for the cause of Social-

Red Special Federation Plans

The rest of the Western Federation Red Special tour is exfrom Standard Oil after the trial, pected to start immediately after Sunday, January 23, Comrade plus a \$5-a-day job. He admitted the convention when the Red Spe- Jean Rudd was appointed State Gide. Assuredly, stability was incapable of anything except re- boundary. Beyond that, criticism also he is being guarded by a pri- cial will start west again through Secretary to fill a vacancy caused vate detective, W. J. Gordon. The Kansas, Colorado, Utah, on up by the resignation of Comrade latter acknowledged that Standard into Washington and back Paul McCormick, who has moved

Inasmuch as there will be no and that plans be made in ad- Denver, will be kept open at least vance for meetings along the way until after the state convention, to raise money for traveling ex- according to action of the SEC. penses. State secretaries are re- Local Denver will assist in keepquested to write immediately to ing headquarters open by renting

strated when President Leon Cor- Federat'n Conference

(Crary Trimble, 236 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), giving The Socialist Party of New their opinion as to the advisability of issuing such a call.

Socialists of Denver Local, and a man loved and respected by of locals immediately surrounding people who knew him, and had the state capital, heard Comrade Ernest Erber, national chairman YPSL, at Grace Community Church on Tuesday, February 9, speak on a program under auspices of Local Denver Spanish Solidarity Committee. Comrade Erber talked on, "What I Saw In Spain." Comrade Simon Bloom Because of snow and flood acted as chairman of the meeting. conditions further north, and the Comrade Marjorie McCormick is short time between now and the chairman of the Solidarity Comconvention, the Red Special will mittee. Other speakers on the platform, besides Comrades Erber for delegates to go to Chicago and Bloom, were Comrades John the Soviet youth and the Soviet sists in learning whether this or minds of the readers of Pravda picious" of Briggs and others who for the National Convention in Maley, J. Austin Beasley and Harley Murray.

> At the meeting of the SEC, to Thermopolis, Wyoming. Comrade McCormick retains his membership in Local Denver, but suggested that a new secretary be appointed due to his inability to attend SEC meetings and take ing of the State convention.

Colorado State Headquarters. ings and through voluntary

ganizer-some day. At the meetred until after the national con-

Subscription cards sell

PRAVDA'S "REPLY" TO ANDRE GIDE

a long article in Pravada, entitled, cember 3, 1936, entitled, "The 'The Laughter and Tears of Andre Gide." To put it mildly, it is a strongly influenced by militant piece of journalistic blackmail, a thinly veiled threat to unleash a campaign of defamation against Gide, if he does not recant. The only charge that Pravda "still forebears to make" is that Gide is a paid agent of the Gestapo.

That is still held in abeyance. Gide, you see, has always been: ed policies inspired by a different his sudden change. Says Pravda: and not the bureaucracy. Says correspond to this sacred general speech and self-criticism. There "We are ready to ascribe this the emotional instability of Andre never a virtue with this writer." On top of that, Gide is an old man. Add senility and instability are alike. And they are rude, "Proofs" but fortunately they were not and you get a man who easily not at all jouous. They walk carried out and therefore were "falls prey to the skillful anti- around with bowed heads, never the deletions are made here for not so harmful as they might Soviet sharpers." Senility, instaneither a blond nor a brunette ass's ears immediately protrude cross between an old French writ- Stalinist bureaucracy attacks its is the psychological leitmotif of

> the article. neither our readers nor ourselves, by Gide himself:

"He was and remains a true and employers is not a mere mis- offspring of the French petty admired it from afar, and I think understanding between two ele- bourgeoisie. Andre Gide belongs, that it could yield marvelous re- that very few people in the world scribed the now famous episode swig-Holstein while it was ensprings from an irreconcilable to the bourgeoisie. . . . Virtually quickly that this criticism is "dares not deny." In his book, bureaucrats insisted on writing it January 28.

The long overdue Stalinist re- ligentsia. Under certain condi- may criticize to your heart's con- comments of approval. In the ply to Andre Gide is contained in tions, it might lead a strong man tent—up to the line. Beyond that personal conversations I was able into the camp of the revolution- criticism is forbidden." (Return to hold with many workers on ary proletariat. But it often leads from the USSR, pp. 51-52). a weak man into the camp of Fascism." The man who was as quoted by Pravda: vesterday universally feasted. lauded and pampered in the USSR 'self-criticism from afar.' But the lie to Gide, Pravda hastens to is today to be pelted with mud. when he arrived in the Soviet add: "It is an actual fact that the Assembly investigation, Scrud-This mud constitutes the bulk of land he discovered that: 'This this general line does not meet der admitted that eight maritime the article.

> peating like parrots what they is forbidden." are told. . . . All Soviet people Charasteristic

to-do about 'self-criticism.' I, too, world."

"He writes that he admired

Both the "subtle" changes and Falsified bility, plus gullibility gives you a writer once acidly remarked that barb of Gide's criticism. The as reprint any direct illusion to but a sort of a piebald mongrel on the paper. When ever the the ruthlessness of their regime. 'And woe to him who ventures too far-"

that there is free speech and self- tionary criticism. What is Andre criticism in the Soviet Union, Gide sorry about? Is he sorry Pravda rests its case on the fol- that he failed to hear in the land The only point on which Prav-lowing: "Andre Gide was himself of the Soviets the open voice of freedom of speech and no self- the draft of the new Constitution; There was no need to undertake criticism in the USSR. Says Prav- and on the draft of the law to a trip to the USSR merely to disda: That is a "deliberate false- secure the family (on abortions). cover that together with the liqui-The only thing lacking to this hood." On this issue, it even Was this criticism and self-critic- dation of the bourgeoisie, the peological foundation." We spare give first the passage as written deny this directly. He would ap- liquidating the agents of the bour- alistic forms, was again demonpear too ludicrous if he were to geoisie."

this topic, I heard only timid re-We now give the same passage criminations and plaintive resig-

nation." But immediately after giving criticism consists in discussing with criticism among the broadest The remaining portion is spent the extent to which this or that layers of the popular masses of reckless possession of dynamite in deliberately distorting Gide's coincides with the 'general line.' the Soviet Union." It is of parabook so as to create the impress But this general line is not critis mount importance, you see, that sion that it is the Soviet Union, cized. The entire criticism con- no misunderstandings arise in the "unstable emotionally." Hence children who are being criticized that gesture, this or that theory concerning their rights of free Pravda: "Gide . . . depicts the line. . . . You may criticize to is no criticism of the general line sudden and mysterious change to Soviet youth and Soviet children your heart's content everything not because criticism is forbidas a herd of dumb people who are that lies on the other side of the den-that is a lie spread by Gide is: COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY -that is the Stalinist Gospel:

Gide's Report

"The general line of the party umph of the proletarian revolu-Stalinist portrait of Gide: "He is when a fool resorts to the pen his Stalinists do not dare so much tien, the victory of socialism, the complete liquidation of capitalist classes. . . . It was and is being criticized by all the restorers of when the Modesto case broke. capitalism, the agents of Gestapo-To prove that Gide is a liar and Trotsky. This is counter-revolu-

Apparently, Pravda believes falsification. Andre Gide has de the German Nazi warship Schle-

The international character of fascism, regardless of its nation these arrangements. "I know that they make a great deny facts known to the entire Pravda tops off this piece of tes and his cabinet became honimpudence with a characteristic or guests at a luncheon aboard At Convention

remain in California until time

The investigation will resume in Western Caravan

national allotment to states for care of state business. Comrade Oil during the 1935 tanker strike, delegate expenses this year, some Rudd has been assistant state of the California delegates will secretary for some time past. Members of the investigating travel in the Red Special. The Her appointment is for the incommittee are Assemblymen Jack Federation Secretary suggests to terim between now and the meet-B. Tenney, Inglewood; John G. other states on the route east-Clark and Kent H. Redwine, Los ward that they co-operate in the Angeles; Paul A. Richie, San formation of a caravan for dele-Diego, and Seth Millington, Gridley. gates, headed by the Red Special, Room 205, 1026 Seventeenth St., the Federation Secretary to plan

Several members of the Western Federation Executive Comments who have a common gen- by his social origin, his entire sults if applied seriously and sin- will ever read Gide's book, and of how he tried to send a tele- gaged in "maneuvers" at sea, off mittee have suggested the aderal interest. On the contrary it education, and his personal ties cerely. But I had to recognize become familiar with what he gram to Stalin, and how the San Jose, Costa Rica, Thursday, visability of western delegates vention but members of the comgathering a day or so ahead of mittee displayed an "up-and-atconflict of interest; it is an ex- throughout his entire literary life, strictly confined to denunciations Gide devotes a lengthy footnote for him. This incident has been Anti-Nazi demonstrations, while the convention in Chicago for the 'em' spirit toward thorough and pression of a ruthless class strug- Andre Gide remained alien to and remonstrances (the soup in (p. 63) to the circumstances sur- reprinted in hundreds of newspar the officers and crew visited for purpose of holding a Western complete organization of the state gle wherein power alone decides broad social ideas and ideals. He the commissary is poorly cooked, rounding La a week in San Jose, resulted in Federation conference. Important that will undoubtedly result in a is a typical representative of the or the floor in the reading room anti-abortion law. Here is an bor Action. It has made a laugh- five arrests. The government has matters, other than the planning Viewed in this light, a dispute decaying bourgeois intelligentsia, is poorly swept) and to worries as excerpt from his "evasive" acling stock of Stalin the world over. promised that if the prisoners of the Red Special field during the summer months. between workers and employers an individualist in love with him- to whether this or that is in account: "An overwhelming major- But Pravda uses it as proof of are convicted, it will grant "clem- tour, should be discussed for the Colombia to cannot be settled fairly by the self. One of the most "exquisite" cord with the general line. But ity expressed itself against this Gide's insincerity: "Andre Gide ency"—provided such elemency is purpose of making the Federation Colorado locals whose membergovernment; the government is writers in France, he is one of the general line itself is not sub- law (more or less openly, to be on his own initiative, and of his specifically requested by Chancel a more effective means for proan instrument of one of the parthose who find special beauty in ject to discussion. The only sure). The public opinion was own free will—as he himself ad- lor Adolf Hitler. Thus is demmoting Socialist organization and bers at large who feel a local
countries to the dispute in this case. ties to the dispute—in this case perversion. He rose up in muthing discussed is whether this disregarded and the law was promits in his little book—sent, after onstrated the blood-brotherhood education throughout the west.

should be established in their the capitalists. The class conflict the same, amid all making a tour of Georgia, a con- between one "Nordic" nation and State Secretaries and Federation communities. cannot be handed over to the morality. It is the very common- this or that theory conform with most universal stupor. The news- gratulatory telegram to comrade another, or isn't that the answer? Executive Committee members "Public" to decide; the "Public" place and extremely cheap mu- this sacred general line. And wor papers, it goes without saying, Stalin, full of ecstacy and rap- And, by the way, has anybody are requested to write immedi-

the room for regular weekly meet-Colorado will have a State Oring of the SEC recently appointment of an organizer was defer-

LABOR ACTION

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SATURDAY, FEB. 20, 1937

Labor Action

In our last issue the following editorial statement appeared:

Labor Action will be faced with the necessity of retrenchment until the rallying of the fighting Socialist forces in the West can be accomplished. Unless this necessary awakening is immediate we must resort to bi-monthly instead of weekly publication."

You did not receive last week's Labor Action. All subscribers will, of course, have their subscriptions extended to cover this omission. With today we are back on regular weekly schedule and we hope to carry on on that basis, come hell or high-water. Realistically, however, the decision is YOURS, not ours. Bills and obligations must be paid every week. Your bundle orders, sub-hustling and sustaining contributions will tell the story. Like the Flint workers, we pledge to "Hold the Fort" but you must supply the food and ammunition for the battles ahead.

The Forgotten Man

Mr. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, rushed into print on the day of the auto settlement to declare that the whole labor movement had been "injured" and that the settlement represented a "complete surrender" of all major demands.

"As regards the closed shop principle, the defeat is complete," says Mr. Green.

It would be hard to find any person in the entire range of American life who is less entitled to criticize the auto agreement. It was Mr. Green's A. F. of L. which accepted the infamous 1934 auto labor board and agreed to elections in the individual plants which rivalled Hitler's best efforts. The consequence of that complete surrender was very nearly fatal to the young and struggling auto workers' union.

It was again Mr. Green's organization which maintained a virtual dictatorship over the auto workers, refusing for many months to allow them to have any voice in the selection of their own officers or their own policies. The result was a steadily dwindling union and the creation of dozens of independent and company unions in the industry. Still Mr. Green has the gall to talk of "the need of solidarity of all labor in America."

Throughout the present strike, Green has pulled every string and violated every fundamental of labor ethics to weaken, and if possible destroy organized labor's support of the militant auto workers. General Motor's chief argument against the "closed shop principle" was that they must deal with minorities among their employes. Although Green's craft unions have never made any headway in the auto industry, he publicly seconded every corporation statement with a demand that craft "rights" be protected. This is the Green version of solidarity.

Protection of an aristocracy of labor at the expense of the working class as a whole leads inevitably to anti-labor strikbreaking tactics. While the CIO throws its whole power into the most vital economic campaign that American labor has ever undertaken—the organization of the mass production industries; the work of

Green and his little group of craft reactionaries is reduced to mud-slinging press

The capitalist press still gives these statements space, but in the real struggles of the working class there is no room for William Green,

Teapot Tempest

tiring supreme court judges on old age pensions has created a sizeable tempest in the capitalist teapot.

The judiciary branch of national government is the one farthest removed from any possibility of democratic control. It is logical, therefore, that reaction which is undemocratic to the core should prefer that that branch have final and complete pow-

change in this happy arrangement. Young- party members on all subjects to er judges might give less evidence of senility but they would offset this by a more vigorous and timely defense of 'American system" of private enterprise, private profit and private property - for the few.

The popular notion that the supreme court is the defender of a written constitu- can open the door to peace and tion is a favorite myth of the capitalist | plenty under workers' rule, or ancourts. Supreme court precedent, interpre- other door into war, fascism, and tation and downright distortion has written and rewritten all meaning out of the original document.

Men, not words, are the constitution; and the men appointed by Roosevelt, or any of every Socialist worker. Old line other capitalist executive, will defend the system which guarantees their privilege.

The absurdity of the tempest can be seen key industries. Not only did craft in the one fairly certain appointee when, and if, the court modification gets congressional O. K. The man is Joseph T. Robinson, senate floor leader from Arkansas, generally known as "Greasy Joe" for his slick political record and his faithful service to big business.

"New blood" on the supreme court bench will not solve the workers' life and death Capitalists See problems - exploitation, insecurity, war Threat To Power and fascism. Only a new order which sweeps out the whole rotten debris of a de- to their power inherent in the leadership. The Communist party man Amlie (Wis. Prog.) as he told caying system offers real hope.

Why?

Georgyi Piatakov and 12 other defendants in the recent Moscow trial were shot twenty-four hours after an official announcement was made in Oslo proving Piatakov's "confession" was false.

Five days before the executions, while dustrial unionism implies the strug- Decision On the trial was still in progress, Trotsky pub- gle for power between all workers The Spot licly asked for factual verification of Piatakov's decisive testimony concerning his airplane trip to Oslo. He listed 13 specific not to say that all workers or trat points, which could be checked and counter-checked with Piatakov and with officials and others in Norway. He asked that this check be made before Piatakov was

Acting on their own initiative the Oslo They are but temporary and almost authorities conducted an investigation of accidental actors on a stage far too line was given in my article of this open shop center is proceedtheir own and announced to the world that big for their narrow talents. no such airplane as that described by This fact and the responsibility work for industrial, militant, demo-Piatakov in his "confession" ever came to

This information was officially wired to Andrey Vishinsky, the Soviet prosecutor, on January 31.

Nevertheless on February 1 Piatakov and the others were shot!

What did the Moscow prosecutors fear? The day before the executions the Ameri-The day before the executions the American Committee for the Defense of Leon For Socialist Trotsky wired to Stalin himself asking for a stay of sentence for the accused "pending investigation by an impartial commission of inquiry composed of genuine friends of the Soviet Union." This appeal too went unheeded.

thorities afraid of?

Why do they hasten to shoot men although the most serious doubt has been raised as to the validity of their testimany?

These questions can only be answered when all the evidence has been studied and sifted by a group of men in whom world public opinion can put its unquestioning linois; Austin and Minneapolis, dictate or interfere in the problems trust. This means the creation of an IM-PARTIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY!

Erber Brings Message Of Spanish Revolution The Nevada State Legislature is the twenty-sixth to ratify the Child Labor Amendment. Only ten more cialist co-ordination in C. I. O.

man of the Young People's So- fore working class audiences in cialist League, is at present tour- California at a time when the ing California. He has recently fate of the Spanish Workers' Revreturned from Europe where he olution and the outcome of the represented the American Social- Civil War against the Fascist ist Youth at the World Youth hordes hangs in the balance. As Congress. Almost single-handed- a close observer of the structure ly he championed the position of of the Spanish Working Class Revolutionary Socialism as against | Movement he will interpret the the chorus of patriotism and re-recent events in Spain which

at close range the Civil War People's Front. which is now raging in Spain. He | Erber has a revolutionary mespolitical organizations. He lis- fornia: tened to countless appeals for International Workers aid and he gave his pledge to the Spanish Workers that upon his return to this country he would do all in his power to mobilize the work-3 of this country to give aid to eir embattled comrades in

Ernest Erber, National Chair- | Comrade Erber will speak be formism that dominated the Con-ominously indicate the development of an internal counter-revo For two months he witnessed lution behind the mask of the

strengthened the ties between the sage to bring to the workers in revolutionary Socialist section of California. The Socialist Party the Spanish Labor Movement and and Young People's Socialist the American Socialist Movement. League have done everything to Mass Meeting at 236 Van Ness He discussed at length the pros- make this possible. We print be- Ave. Admission 15c. Unemployed pects of the Spanish Workers' low a schedule of events that free. Subject: "Spanish Workers Revolution with various leaders will take place for the remaining Cause In Danger." and members of trade-union and period of Erber's tour in Cali

> Fresno-Feb. 17, 8 p. m. Parlor Lecture Hall, 1350 Van Ness.

Stockton-Feb. 18, 8 p. m., Teamsters Hall, 491 E. Minor St.

San Francisco-Feb. 20, 6 p. m.,

Nevada Ratifies

The Nevada State Legislature is amendment to the Constitution. vorable House action seems likely

STABILIZE LABOR ACTION . . . GET **NEW SUBSCRIBERS**

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come Erber gathering. International Hall, 236 Van Ness Ave.

San Francisco-Feb. 21, 8 p. m.

Berkeley-Feb. 23, 12 noon, Mass Open Air Meeting at University Sather Gate.

Oakland-Feb. 23, 8 p. m., Mass

Further information is available at 236 Van Ness Ave., San State Convention Dinner and Wel- Francisco; UNderhill 9296

Socialist Policy In The Trade Unions

Roosevelt's ultra-mild suggestions for rering supreme court judges on old age pen | C.I.O. Support and Methods of Union Work | No one really took him serious it!" Kratschmarek, there's a tough specimen! We should have

By GLEN TRIMBLE

series of articles on issues confronting the March convention of field. the Socialist Party. They are intended as a basis for local and branch pre-convention discussion. We are sure that non-party read ers will also find them interesting and educational. Labor Action will Roosevelt's proposal makes no material welcome articles submitted by be considered at the Socialist National Convention .- Editor.

The answer to the major political and economic question of our day-Socialism or Fascism-lies in the basic mass production industries. These are the keys to control of the life of the nation, they trebled exploitation of the working class.

That is the reason why the drive of the Committee for Industrial Organization commands the support A. F. of L. craft unionism in fifty years of effort failed to penetrate more than the outer fringe of the unionism fail to win the overwhelming majority of workers, it did not even begin to organize the most important section of the American working class. The American labor movement will have no serious significance, either political or economic, until it gains firm foothold in the basic industries.

manded the attention of the entire influence in the unions merely to class government and press. The serve its People's Front perspecsit-down strike, foreign to the tive, to slide into favor in reform-"business methods" of craft union- ist political movements, and to ism, is a logical tactic of industrial supply delegates to its swarm of unionism. By its very nature, in- 'League' and 'Congresses.'" and all owners.

That capitalists recognize this is gaining-around-the-table tactics of the bulk of A. F. of L. officials.

C. I. O. Work

The first of a series of Industive trade unionists and members of Workers' Alliance was held at industry but submitted a report. above.

The object of the conference C. I. O. vs. was to formulate a concrete pro- A. F. of L. New York where Senate approval ports and discussions in the foland Central Labor Union delegates and their relations to the C. I. O. organization drive; and the Workers' Alliance.

Each report included an analythe industry and the union, sug- at every turn. gested a policy for the future in view of the present situation, and ecutive Council our sympathies are the possible party machinery for best carrying into effect the suggested policy.

Reporters to the conference

were: B. J. Widick of United Rubber Workers' Union, Harold sociation of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, Hyman Schneid and Marianne Alfonse of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Arthur McDowell, delegate to Chicago Federation of Labor, Paul Rasmussen of Workers Alliance of America, Ardell Nemitz of In-

Lewis No Cure-All

officials of the C.I.O. cannot at all in each union. be relied upon to provide correct cident of history brought it about gestions which can be made. Al- listened attentively and after- nerve to come into the neighborism and organization of the mass forcing their officers to modify lize that they would say no if he and the handling of the steel drive, out organization. all prove this clearly enough.

will not be built at all. The fact lead the way. that the Communist party in the unions has altogether abandoned any fight against class-collabora tionism-which, as always, is the key question in trade union policy -is an additional demonstration of the necessity for Socialist leadership of the progressive forces; and, The capitalist class is fully aware furthermore, leaves the road free why the auto strike, although in for economic demands and the rewas not extraordinary, has com- struggle, more and more uses its death.

Disciplined trade union work raises some problems and many bogeys. The bogeys have to do with present C.I.O. leaders have to the horrible example of the Comsuch revolutionary vision. For the munist Party's trade union policy most part they share the "pure and which is both arbitrarily dictatorial simple" philosophy and the bar- and almost totally unrelated to the real interests of the workers directly concerned. Socialist policy is an opposite one. Its general out-February 6th — uncompromising ing steadily. which it places upon genuine pro- cratic, class struggle unionism, gressive and Socialist union work- solidarity of all workers, clean-cut ers is graphically expressed in a workers' education and independent Hamilton Steel plant was transsection of the "Road Ahead" pro- workers' political action—these are formed into a victorious strike gram offered for the consideration the essentials. Their application to when the men thrown out of the day-to-day problems of a par- work turned to the Amalgamated ticular union should be decided Iron, Steel and Tin Workers union Plans Drafted ticular union should be decided Iron, Steel and Tin Workers union democratically by the Socialist for organization. Wage increases trade unionists who are, by active of as much as 33 per cent were membership in the union, best fitted gained, and the company signed

to make these decisions. Similarly an agreement with the union. in national unions, state federations, city central bodies, departments or federations of unions, Socialists should arrange the necessary contact and exchange of intrial Conferences for comrades in formation and opinion to guarantee We repeat: What are the Moscow au- Mass Production industries, ac- uniformity of action on the best possible basis of judgment.

The function of the national 6th and 7th. Comrades present officers should be to cooperate in came from Elkhart, Indianapolis, the routine work of these arrange-Indiana Harbor, Michigan City, ments and to give all possible aid Hammond, and South Bend, Indi- and cooperation to labor's organiana; Toledo and Akron, Ohio; zation and campaigns, but not to linois; Austin and Minneaplois, of its union members except in Minnesota; representatives from cases where their decision is in Flint and Detroit, Michigan were conflict with the essentials of Sonot present due to strike in Auto cialist trade union policy listed

How would this policy apply to the present vital C.I.O. - A.F. of L. states are needed to add this organization campaigns. There controversy? Socialists favor the were definite programs worked solidarity of labor, the unity of the Next state in line seems to be out and agreed upon after re- labor movement, but at the same time we believe that only indushas already been gained, and fa-lowing fields: Auto, Steel, Pack-trial unionism can win the unoring; the role of craft unionists ganized workers and unionize the basic industries. We stand, too, for democratic trade unionism and the attack of Green and the Executive Council on the C.I.O. has been carried on in such a way as to destroy sis of the present situation within or hinder democratic labor action

> As against Green and the Exall with the C.I.O. The former represents an outworn philosophy and tactics which gained a little for a handful of "labor aristocrats" at the expense of the majority of the workers and the unity of the work-Rasmussen of Amalgamated As ing class. The C.I.O. tendency, given increasingly clear-headed and progressive leadership, can accomplish an inclusive unity of all American workers.

Special Problems **Need Solution**

dependent Union of All Workers (Packing House Section), Vincent their support of the C.I.O. effect by SEC for a state-wide referent "agitators" who seek, as in the are a menace to public safety on R. Dunne of General Drivers' Un- tive? We have Socialists in every dum on questions of policy to be case of Ross, to organize the the highways due to the danger of ion, and Roy Burt and Frank Tra- union from the most progressive submitted to the national conven- WPA workers. ger for the national organization. to the most reactionary. The probletion by state delegates.

of the Party by a number of ex- lem for each union, local and na ed him Kratschmarek. Besides NOTE: This is the fifth of a perienced Socialists, many of them tional, is a special one. One thing he had crooked legs, a piping active leaders in the trade union however, should be obvious-noth-voice and for full measure a deing can be solved without a clear fect of speech. All these qualigeneral policy and application to ties tended to make him slightspecial circumstances by the or-ly ridiculous. "It must be remembered that the ganized Socialists and progressives

> leadership for the progressive ment by attempting to dictate tac- cured a revolver because the Na- would make mince meat of him. forces in the trade unions. An actical details, there are certain sug-zis were after his life, we all that Lewis and his associates have ready the suspension by the Ex- wards were greatly amused. "Man appeared temporarily as nominal ecutive Council has been largely alive! Imagine Kratschmarek representatives of these progres- nullified by the refusal of state and with a revolver!" sive forces by advocating what are local bodies to break up labor unity. is an example of the coming armunder present circumstances pro- Already strong progressive move- ed mass resistance to the Nazi gressive policies. But this accident ments within unions led by reac terror. Was it because they didis not at all permanent. Socialists tionaries have succeeded in forc- n't take him seriously and therenaturally support industrial union- ing C.I.O. support or, at least, in fore ignored him-or did he reaproduction industries, but Lewis their opposition. Instances such as asked to participate? cannot be relied on even to carry Green's vicious attacks on the auto through his own avowed plans, strike and settlement are justified much less to continue in a pro-opportunity for rallying every progressive direction. His whole past gressive trade unionist for protest. career, the way in which he runs There are many other ways in his own union, his social philoso- which Socialist trade unionists can phy and his political role, the gain support on this issue. But no character of current negotiations | fight, small or large, is won with-

From the details of local policy "The real progressive wing of to the smashing of labor's greatest the trade unions will have to be enemy-capitalism, with the war built under independent revolu- and fascism it guarantees-Socialtionary Socialist leadership, or it ist trade unionists must organize to

Amlie Denounces U. S. "Hypocrisy" anti-fascist front.

WASHINGTON, D. C .- "I am tired of this hypocrisy of responsible people saying here that no One of us stands guard at the nitwits dropped the package, one is going to be permitted to be of this and of the potential menace and open for the assumption of that left in want," declared Congress-C.I.O. drive. That is the reason in the unions, neglecting the fight of receiving ten death certificates ing for familiar faces. It is my heard the command and followed from a single Colorado county giv- turn to look. Here is Frednumbers, duration, or violence it sultant sharpening of the class ing starvation as the cause of here is Franz (life imprisonment)

> Nevertheless, Democratic congressmen, functioning smoothly, Kratschmarek! approved the \$650,000,000 administration appropriation to carry WPA and resettlement through the fiscal nerve. trator Harry L. Hopkins.

Garment Workers Gain

DALLAS, Tex.-Moving ahead n their campaign to unionize the dress-making industry here, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union signed closed shop agreements with three plants. The drive to clean up

They Took a Day Off

TOLEDO.-Members of the United Auto Workers of America in this city piled into their cars and hurried to Flint when the crisis in the General Motors strike seemed to be near. 500 auto workers took a day off from South Bend, Indiana on February state, and local parties and party the City Auto Stamping Co. and drove their cars into Michigan to give their brothers on the strike front a hand.

Alabama Fears Sit-Down

MONTGOMERY, Ala. -- A bill outlawing sitdown strikes and providing liability for unions en- his family, the testimony of Mrs. couraging them, has been favor- Davis carried more weight with ably reported by a state senate the reactionary judge and jury, so committee. This latest attempt of owners to make Alabama safe for union-hating industries is being combated by the Alabama Federation of Labor.

West Likes Lynching! NEW YORK. — In a poll con-

lynching law. Greatest opposition agitator. came from the Pacific Coast, while the southern states found attorney, Gilbert Carlson of the packing a union card, the Company 65 per cent of the voters in favor of the proposed law. The great- Ross was the only WPA worker est support came from the east in St. Louis Park who had been and central states.

Colorado Discusses

Resolution for and against, and up and down both sides of the national agenda are flying thick and fast in Colorado locals, especially in Local Denver, where resolutions have been introduced Now how, practically should So- ing steadily, and is chock full of | fit to hand the relief clients, and | hour and whose working day is cialist trade unionists act to make interesting material to be used above all, to strike viciously at usually 16 to 18 hours at the wheel

The Slacker A True Story of Germany

unpronounceable name and since

When he came to us once and Without violating my own argu- him and that he had now pro-Kratschmarek At any rate he was never

around when there was a question of showing the Nazis a fist, and was therefore rated as a portant expression on his face lives in our building. that amused us royally and then disappeared again.

job or we would be sorry for the

September 1933. Prison for indetachment of prisoners walking still three paces distant Kratschin single file five steps apart. | marek crowed "Hands up." The door to warn when someone is turns at the grated window look-- Heine (8 years prison) and here-I hardly believe my eyes-

At that instant he looks up, If the sentry had seen year. This amount will make ne-that it would mean 14 days soli-standing behind them. cessary the elimination of 600,000 tary. I step off the sill to make jumped into the car and dashed from WPA, according to Adminis room for the next man and tell through the park. On their way them the incident about the fist. they spread the alarm to a group

"I must take a look at him," says of S. A. cyclists who were doing the one at the window. "Describe some kind of drilling. In a couple him to me." "He has his cap in of minutes the whole park was his hand and walks behind a fat surrounded. And so they well-dressed one." All at once Kratschmarek once more. Day the man at the window becomes before yesterday they brought excited. "Do you mean that one him here from the hospital. with the crooked legs?" He waves has hand through the window, dozen Kratschmarek's things suddenly he jumps down. (The would look different here. In 1935 guard is coming.) He is highly I saw him once more. Fifteen excited. "You know him! You years prison for Kratschmarek, know Kratschmarek. Then you the man who once had been t know the story of the raid."- | laughing stock among us

'Never heard of it. Let's have

You should have seen the sendoff he gave the Nazis when they cheers for him. He lived with his fiancee. The Nazis made match-wood of her house. they searched his mother's house told that the Nazis had attacked for him. They told everybody hood almost every evening. Once I met him and said to him, "You had better make yourself scarce."

"Never mind." he said. "but But I knew they would catch him some day. And that is what happened. When they seized him, on a Sunday I believe, they wanted to know first of all where his revolvers were kept. At first he said he knew nothing. Then coward by some. Then he sud-they tortured him until he adlenly disappeared from our cir- mitted he knew where they were Now and then he came and what I'm telling you now is rushing on a bicycle with an im- from an eye-witness, a man who

They shoved Kratschmarek into an open car and drove to Once someone brought the news the suburbs, a chauffeur and Kratschmarek is cell leader in three officials. At a certain place Eimsbuettel." But we gave him they stopped. The fools got out the good advice to tell them out and began digging at a spot pointthere to find someone else for the ed out by Kratschmarek. A package became visible. They put it in the car. They dug some more found a second package, started vestigation. In the yard goes a back to the car. When they were raised their paws in the air, even The rest of us take the chauffeur who really hadn't the example of the others.

Kratschmarek made the chauffeur get out, ordered all four to turn their backs, and took their pistols. Then he told them not to stir for five minutes and made sees me, and God! the man has for the bushes. The officials could hear that he was no longer

That's why I say if we had a

New Wrinkle In "Welfare" Brings Jail To Worker

A new wrinkle in "welfare" | Minneapolis and Hennepin Counties of Hennepin County, in which is situated Minneapolis, is revealed in their latest tactics to persecute and terrorize the relief cliweek Frank Ross, of St. Louis Park, a member of the Federal Workers" Section of Local 544, was sentenced to 90 days in the workhouse, having been convicted of "non-support" on charges brought against him by Florence Davis of the Hennepin County Child Welfare Board.

TESTIMONY IGNORED

Despite the fact that Ross's wife testified that Ross had always been willing to provide for Ross was sentenced although the jury recommended clemency. Teshad a good reputation in St. Louis ment of freight to and from the and that he was constantly seektimony against Ross alleged that ducted by the American Institute he had failed to work out direct Wilmington and Long Beach. of Public Opinion 70 per cent of relief orders issued by the relief the vote favored a federal anti- authorities, and that he was an

It was shown by the defense Workers' Defense League, that asked to work out his relief order. Proof was also given that Ross had agreed to work out his relief order if he were paid in Party Convention cash. This was refused, however. PERSECUTION

It was brought out that later on other WPA workers had been forced to work out their relief orders but that they had been men are determined to let nothpaid in cash and script. It was ing stand in the way of making the clearly shown by Attorney Carl motor transport industry 100 per covering practically every phase son that the reason behind the cent union. of the agenda called for by the persecution of Ross is to terror-NEC. The argument is good for ize relief clients into accepting the unorganized men who are worklocal attendance, which is gain- whatever the relief authorities see | ing for from 25 to 50 cents per The unemployed organization of from sheer fatigue.

work on the part of the authori- ty, the Federal Workers' Section, is fully aroused to the danger of having the Ross case serve as a precedent in future cases of a ents under their charge. Last like nature. They are therefore considering appealing the case to the Supreme Court. In the meantime this organization and the Workers' Defense League are taking steps to see that other relief clients are not brought to trial on such flimsy pretexts as brought forward by the relief authorities in the Ross case.

Teamster's Campaign Gains in San Pedro

With the ending of the maritime strike the San Pedro Local of the Teamsters Union, taking advantimony for Ross showed that he tage of the resumption of move-Park as a conscientious worker, harbor district, are attempting to organize completely the seven to ing work in private industry. Tes- eight thousand truck drivers who work in and around San Diego,

> When union organizers attempted to go onto the Matson Company docks in order to talk to and sign up those drivers who were not called on the police department to prevent this so-called trespass on their property. This is in line with the pólicy of all shipowners and operators to work with the M. and M. Assn. of Los Angeles in trying to keep Los Angeles and Southern California open shop. The Union now has more than

60 per cent of the Harbor district truck drivers in its ranks. These

The union stresses the fact that a driver falling asleep at the wheel