

Down with exploiters, "rugged individualists" and tyrants.

# LABOR ACTION

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

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## NIRA Code Greeted By Strike Wave

### Textile Workers Throat East Revolt Against Low Wages

#### 20,000 OUT IN PENNA.

#### Say Bosses Will Make Minimum Wage Maximum Pay

By J. T. GODBER

Workers of America, determined that the minimum wage level set up under the Industrial Recovery Act shall not also become the maximum are continuing to revolt.

In Reading, Pa., 16,000 workers, out of a population of 110,000 ranging all the way from pretzel benders to full-fashioned hosiery workers, are still on strike and report that their ranks are being swelled daily.

Hosiery workers who are now on strike in Reading number approximately 10,000. Mass picketing of the Berkshire Knitting Mills at Wyomissing, and at other plants in the locality that are not yet completely shut down by the rising strike movement is being continued.

The Stunzi Silk Company is completely shut down, workers from both the day and night shifts having responded 100 per cent to the strike call.

The company had prepared a wage increase notice but the workers got tired of waiting for it to appear and decided to join the ranks of the strikers.

At another plant, where a strike is also in progress, the workers claim that their wages had been cut 40 per cent in the last year and that the 10 per cent increase offered by the firm was not only too late, but also too small.

About 200 workers of the New Bedford silk mills at Lebanon went out on strike for higher wages. They expect to close the mill in a day or two.

Three hundred workers in the Webster, Strouse and Rose Bros. clothing factory at Quakertown are also out for higher wages.

In Lansdale, Pa., 1,500 hosiery workers, who have been on strike for about two weeks were joined by the employees of the S. H. Kendig clothing factory and the workers from the plant operated by Perfect Foods, Inc.

In Philadelphia, about 500 hosiery workers have been arrested in the past week for picketing the plant of the Walburton Hosiery Company.

It has been pointed out, by numerous sociologists who have studied the textile industry, that for a number of years wages paid in this industry have ranged from a few dollars for the low paid workers in the South to about 25 dollars for some of the more skilled workers in the North, and that, thus, the average wage in the industry has always been around 12 or 13 dollars. Now while the minimum wage has been set at a 12 dollar level no guarantee has been made that the higher paid workers won't be brought down to this lower level.

## Hitler Undercover Agents Active In German Sections

NEW YORK—Undercover agents of the Hitler regime are active in German neighborhoods and organizations in all the large cities in the United States, declares a statement sent out by the National Committee to Aid Victims of German Fascism. Thousands of copies of a Hitler leaflet, printed in English, imported from Hamburg, continues the statement, were distributed in workers' neighborhoods and on the subways in New York City recently.

The United Front movement to protest the Hitler terror and to aid its victims is paying too little attention to the mobilization of the German speaking population for the struggle against Fascism in

## Soviet Buys U. S. Cotton



This was the scene as Maxim Litvinoff, foreign commissar of the Soviet Union, passed out to the press in London the word that the Soviet Union was buying four million dollars' worth of American cotton—the first business transaction between the two governments since the Bolshevik revolution, and a first step toward recognition. Other business is to follow, and recognition is expected this summer.

WASHINGTON (FP)—Chairman Jesse Jones of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. has announced a loan for one year at 5 per cent interest of about \$4,000,000 to American exporters of cotton who will sell 60,000 to 80,000 bales to the Soviet Union through the Amtorg Trading Corp. Jones took pains to state that Pres. Roosevelt and Sec. of the Treasury Woodin approved this loan, which followed a discus-

sion in London between Raymond Moley, confidant of the president, with Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet foreign minister. Since the loan is secured by notes of the Amtorg, and is unconditionally guaranteed by the State Bank of the Soviet Union, and since the Amtorg will pay 30 per cent of the purchase price of the cotton in cash, the loan is actually made to the Soviet government.

This is the first venture of the Roosevelt administration in financing a revival of trade with the U.S.S.R. Washington officials believe that this will be followed by a declaration by the president that export trade to Russia will be financed in much bigger sums in the near future. Such an expansion of the loan would naturally be considered hazardous unless early recognition of the Soviet government were planned.

## Food Union Will Fight Boss Bakers

By LARRY COHEN

"Bakers Weekly," speaking for the boss bakers of the nation, has announced that the price of bread must go up under the National Industrial Recovery Act. The processing tax on wheat is to be passed on to the consumers, which means that the purchasing power of the already impoverished workers is to be still further reduced, and the baker bosses, they say, "have the good right to adjust their prices to the higher cost of labor and the shorter working hours expected."

As General Organizer Gund of the Amalgamated Food Workers Union says, however, "this will mean no recovery, national or otherwise. Workers are out of work because long hours and low wages have made it impossible for them to buy back the goods that they have produced. To pay work-

(Continued on Page 2)

## Prices Balloon

### Steep Rise of Food Grows Out Tiny Wage Increases

NEW YORK—(FP)—Food prices have jumped 30 per cent in four months. Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., announced the first of July. Prices were 19 per cent above the figures for June, 1932.

This is part of the price increase which has affected practically everything the worker buys and which has kept away ahead of the 5 and 10 per cent increases that have been distributed in a few of the industries where wage cuts had been drastic. The warning has been repeatedly issued to those negotiating wage contracts that the Roosevelt administration has frankly announced that prices are going to be boosted and unless workers are protected against inflation what seems like a pay increase will in reality be a decrease in real income.

## Cotton Barons Offer To Omit Time for Food

MANCHESTER, N. H.—The Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, operators of the largest cotton mill in this vicinity, whose voluntary wage increase ballyhoo was exposed in Labor Action for June 1 have just adopted a new plan.

In an effort to comply with the requirements voiced in the new cotton textile code, the Amoskeag Company is going to inaugurate a 40 hour week schedule for workers in its cotton division. Under this plan two full shifts will operate eight hours daily, five days a week.

It is proposed to have the day shift start work at 7 a. m. and (Continued on Page 2)

## "Little Caesar" Kicked Out by International

NEW YORK—H. H. Broach, more commonly known as "Little Caesar," International President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has just been removed from that office by the International Executive Council for destructive union wrecking policies which he has forced upon electrical workers.

After four years of dictatorship, which came near to wrecking this, one of the most powerful unions in the country, the electrical workers "new deal" group, which has received the endorsement of the CPLA, has won another victory for the terrorized spirit broken members of Local 3.

Hogan, the present treasurer of the IBEW was defeated last year, when he ran for the office of financial secretary of Local 3, through the efforts of the "new deal" group, who in a series of circulars showed the members that Hogan who had served time in Sing Sing for embezzlement was unfit to serve them. In his place was elected David G. O'Hara who had the endorsement of the group.

A long list of atrocities committed on opposition members, the latest of which are the cold-blooded murder of Henry Godell in front of his home and the acid hurled in the face of Bert Letscher, brought a storm of protest from all public spirited leaders in the Labor movement.

### Call Scottsboro Meeting

NEW YORK.—The National Scottsboro Action Committee has just issued a call for a mass conference to be held Sunday, July 23, at Bronze Studio, 227 Lenox avenue. All organizations are entitled to two delegates.

An open air protest meeting will be held at Union Square on July 21.

## Hunger Call

### Boy, 15, Wanders from Home of Poverty to Tragic End

FRIONA, TEX.—(FP)—The spirit of adventure still calls to youth to go wandering. But hand in hand with its dream stalks starvation.

Driven by hunger, Edward Holdinski, 15, felt the urge to leave a home where there was nothing but poverty and learn what the outside world held for him. So he traveled 1,000 miles from Moundville, W. Va., where he lived. As he met with hunger and exposure of every kind, the glory departed from his illusions. He staggered into a little Friona cafe, too weak to talk.

He died in jail—a nice, new jail, so they say—crying for his mother. His parents had no money to pay for having his body sent back home. They had to request that he be buried in Friona.

At the end of Edward's rainbow lay a pauper's grave.

## Jobs Rare Among N.Y. Tenements

### 50 Per Cent of Breadwinners in City's Apartments Found Workless

### MANY PAWN CLOTHING

NEW YORK—Half the breadwinners in nine typical blocks selected at random from wage earners' districts in New York City were found to be totally unemployed, a survey covering 419 families in 400 apartments in 63 tenements revealed. The study was made under the direction of Lillian Zahn of the research staff of the Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences.

Borrowing from relatives, friends or on insurance policies, taking lodgers or pawning articles was resorted to as a means of "getting along." No less than 80 households reported borrowing amounts up to \$1,200. Some 56 householders admitted having to cash or surrender insurance policies, while 42 were forced to pawn valuables, such as jewelry and clothing.

In eight of the nine blocks visited either gas or electricity, or both, had been shut off for non-payment of bills at the time of the investigation. No less than 34 of the householders admitted having been evicted within the last three years.

Because of the economic crisis, and its consequent loss of jobs to wage earners, many cases of "doubtful up" were recorded. In one case, a parquet floor layer who had earned as much as \$65 a week in 1929, had been forced to move his family to the home of his wife's parents. Their sole means of support was the \$12 a week income of the elderly father-in-law.

Another family, whose total income averaged \$9, including a daughter's \$5 a week as a millinery finisher, was ineligible for relief. Two children of school age were forced to remain at home for lack of shoes. The parents occupied the sole bed in the apartment, four of the children used a day bed—which the family expected to lose any time for non-payment—and three children slept on the floor with old rags as covering.

## U.M.W.A. Miners Get Dirty Deal

JENNY LIND, ARK.—(FP)—Prosperity under the new deal will be a dirty deal for miners in the Southwest under the contract signed last year by the United Mine Workers of America with the operators, after a 2-month strike. The new scale is fixed at depression levels and runs for three years up to the spring of 1935. As the cost of living goes up under the Roosevelt manipulations the miners will sink farther into debt each year.

## Ohio State Jobless Vote Relief Strike For August First

### Delegates of Nearly Million Organized Unemployed Set Up National League, Call for Unity at Combined Convention

COLUMBUS, OHIO.—Militancy and unity were the keynotes of the Ohio State and National conventions of jobless workers which met here from July 1-5. More than 1,500 delegates and visitors, coming from states as widely separated as California and Connecticut, representing nearly a million organized unemployed, sat through the five days of the convention and by an exchange of experiences and problems hammered out a program for united action on the part of all the unemployed.

### Convention 'Peps Up' Unemployed Leagues In Franklin County

By Arnold Johnson

COLUMBUS, O.—Franklin County leagues are all pepped up over the results of the convention. Solidarity, based upon an understanding of the common problems of the unemployed throughout the nation, is 100 per cent strong here now. Delegates who attended the convention have gone back to their locals with renewed courage and enthusiasm to carry on the fight against the forces that oppress the workers and poor farmers of this country. "We know that the fight is about now," they say, "we know who are our enemies and who our friends—and God help anyone who attempts to break up our League."

On the second day of the Ohio State convention a resolution, calling for a state wide strike for 60 cents an hour on all relief work, was passed amidst tremendous cheering and applause. A spokesman from the Unemployed Councils of the State, sitting in as a fraternal delegate, pledged his organization to active and full support of the August 1 strike.

Another resolution, calling for united action with other unemployed groups in the state, was referred back to the local leagues for discussion and action, although the sentiment of the League delegates was overwhelmingly in favor of unity.

The first day of the National convention, July 3, was given over to reports from the various state delegations present. These reports, covering conditions in a third of the United States, were repetitions of the unbelievable misery and degradation the unemployed workers of the country are made to suffer at the hands of callous and brutal public officials. The only hope for the workers of the country, employed and unemployed, declared every delegate, is to organize and fight.

"We must put spine into the spineless," declared Leach of the Chicago Unemployed Workers' League after telling about the garbage eaters of that City of Progress. The bosses and politicians of North Carolina have at last taught the workers, black and white, that we must fight together, reported Presswood from High Point.

"You workers are responsible for your misery," said Jane Rose from California, "you have the power by your numbers to take the country and run it for yourselves but because you have not organized, because you mistrust one another, you let the bankers and politicians rob you, insult you and starve you."

"The bosses like to talk about the survival of the fittest," pointed out Dick Harrington from Seattle, Washington. "Well, if its a survival of the fittest we'll organize and whip them off the face of the map."

"In traveling over the state of Ohio," said Bill Traux, president of the Ohio State Unemployed League, "I have found thousands of starving children and seven of them are mine. I have found mothers who were dressed in rags. I

(Continued on Page 2)

## Technocratic Confab Hits Squall and Crumbles Apart

CHICAGO—Three technocratic organizations, meeting in convention in Chicago June 27-30 at the Morrison Hotel, found they could not agree. Two of them blew up. The third, Technocracy, Inc., with Howard Scott as director, will continue to function.

The convention developed a fatal split between those engineers who are patriots first and technocrats second, and those who are technocrats above all else. The patriots led by P. E. Stevens of Byllesby Engineering & Management Corp., hotly disowned Howard Scott's statement on the opening day that it is the job of the technocrats to run the country and that this cannot be done without force. Scott

seemed to look to a coming civil war but the Stevens group declared that if it comes to force, "whether the engineers agree with the policies of the politicians in power at the time or not, they will be formed solidly behind the government to the last man."

"We have a name for that type of individual," Scott retorted, "a name in current use borrowed from the racketeers—a rat. That type will go down in history as the yellow rats of their profession. We say as engineers that we are under no illusions that violence will be introduced. If it is introduced we as engineers do not propose to find a hole in the ground. We propose to supply an answer to that also."



FOREIGN NOTES  
By CHARLES LAGNER

United In Action  
In Allegheny Co.

AUSTRIA  
The Free Thinkers' Association, an organization controlled by Socialists, was dissolved by the government...

BULGARIA  
Since June 27 the following revolutionists have been murdered: Arso (National Revolutionary) in Petrish; Dimitar Surlaw (Nat. Rev.) in Sofia; Dr. Vitschew (Nat. Rev.), member of the General Council of the Anti-Imperial League...

DENMARK  
Ib Kolbjorn, Secretary of the great Danish Workers' Educational Association, announces in "Sozialdemokraten" that the tours annually arranged by this organization for workers visiting the continent, will not touch German territory.

ESTHONIA  
The Parliament decided to abandon the gold standard for the purpose of encouraging foreign trade.

DANZIG  
The Nazi Police President ordered the suppression of the Communist daily, "Die Freiheit" for three months...

FRANCE  
The permanent directorate of the Socialist Party of France decided to call the attention of all members of the party to the fact that they have no right, in accordance with the decisions of Party Congresses held in Lille and Clermont-Ferrand, to join the newly founded "United Front against Fascism."

GERMANY  
The Municipal Council of Munich decided to remove the graves of the Revolutionists Eisner and Landauer who were murdered by reactionaries during the Munich uprising in 1919.

SPAIN  
To support the striking workers in Santa Maria the workers of all industries went out on a general strike...

SOUTH AFRICA UNION  
The boycott of German goods by citizens here has led Hamburg exporters to threaten to cut off all imports from South Africa to Germany if the boycott against German wares is continued.

By MARGARET RODGERS  
PITTSBURG, Pa.—The United Front in Allegheny County snowed itself on the streets here when the Unemployed Citizens League and the Unemployed Councils staged a series of demonstrations against a 20 per cent relief cut threatened earlier in the month and enhanced increased relief for the jobless.

In about a dozen sections of the county parades, demonstrations, and street meetings were set up. Leaders from both groups gave the main speeches urging the unemployed to protest against relief cuts by making their demands for adequate food, clothing and shelter felt in the comfortable offices of the county relief board.

HOLLAND  
On June 27, 109 members of the navy were dismissed because they held subversive political views.

JAPAN  
At the insistence of the Japanese Minister of the Interior, the showing of foreign or Japanese Marxist films has been strictly forbidden.

POLAND  
Serious peasant uprisings are reported in Central Galicia. The suffering farmers are cutting down private forest preserves and are plundering the stores for food.

RUMANIA  
The Rumanian revolutionist Bujor who was condemned to a life sentence for his heroic opposition against the World War, was released after having served fifteen years of his sentence.

SAAR REGION:  
The Executive Committee of the Mine Workers' International in session here adopted a sharp anti-Fascist resolution in which the League of Nations is called upon to act in the suppression of the rights of organized labor in Germany.

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SOVIET UNION  
The news that the homes of a number of employees of the Berlin Trade Corporation of the USSR and of the Derop were again raided on June 22 was received in Moscow with much indignation...

police and other agents of the law. In spite of this interference there was excellent spirit as the leagues and councils pressed their demands and defied the threat of the Jones and Loughlin officials to dismiss any of their workers who joined unemployed groups.

On the South Side, Jones and Loughlin pressure had full effect and no permits of any kind could be secured. E. R. McKinney, U.C.L., spoke from a broken down Ford in the blazing heat at the Wilkinsburg demonstration after a parade through the main streets of the town.

Bloomfield, Herrin Hill, McKee Rocks, Carnegie all had their demonstrations attended by 200-500 members and scores of onlookers too timid to join the crowd. Turtle Creek, the home of the Westinghouse Electric and notoriety for its anti-labor policies, put on a parade of 1,500 led by a drum corps, and 2,500 attended a meeting in the very shadow of Westinghouse where Elmer Cope, U.C.L., spoke on the need for united action against relief cuttings.

Leaders state these demonstrations, in spite of widespread fear of the mills and police, accom-

Generous Rich  
Drive Servant Girls 16 Hrs. a Day and Then Make Them Sleep in Filthy Quarters

NEW YORK—Amazing exploitation of servant girls by employers, capitalizing on the depression, has just been revealed in a sensational report from the State Labor Department.

Living quarters are so bad that in many cases the Labor Department holds them to be a menace to morals.

Girls, 15 and 16 years old, are often made to work from 6.30 in the morning to 11 at night. Little or no wages are being paid, declares the report.

Already plans are laid for a united front conference for July 16. U.C. and U.C.L. together will rally all forces in Allegheny County for increased relief.

U.C.L. and U.C. executive committees appear regularly before the Allegheny County Emergency Relief Board. Recently Elmer Cope, U.C.L. and John Meldon, U.C., sat in on a session of the county emergency relief board and the state relief board to insist on the rescinding of the 20 per cent cut for June and the abolishment of the commissary at Tarentum.

The Columbus Convention of Unemployed—An Analysis

By A. J. MUSTE

THE conventions of the Ohio Unemployed League and of the National Unemployed League held at Columbus, Ohio, on July 1-2nd and July 3-5th respectively, constitute a landmark in the history of the entire working-class movement in this country.

In the first place, this national convention was the most representative gathering of unemployed which has yet been held. Fifteen hundred delegates and visitors were in constant attendance.

The Columbus convention was representative not only as to geographical distribution but as to background and viewpoint. Here were typical workers of the typical Middle Western industrial heart of the United States.

Typical American Workers  
Certainly these delegates were not trained in the history and the-

ory of the labor movement. They were quite nationalistic in their outlook, suspicious of "foreigners" and "outsiders" and "Communists."

While there were at Columbus many who under certain circumstances might swell the ranks of Fascism, there is decidedly another side to the picture. The delegates were not individualists; they looked to organization and not individual advancement for their salvation.

Out of the Columbus convention came a national organization for unemployed leagues—the National Unemployed League. Organizations of unemployed are eligible to affiliation provided they admit unemployed and part-time employed regardless of race, creed, color, national origin or political affiliation.

The N. U. L. will seek greatly to extend the organization of leagues, not merely to be a paper organization to "coordinate" existing units. The national committee has begun to plan for four regional conferences, Pacific Coast, Mississippi Valley, South Atlantic and North Atlantic in the next 90 days.

The Movement Toward Unity  
It is a matter for rejoicing that both the Ohio and the National convention voted unanimously to work for a unification convention of all unemployed organizations to be held as soon as the ground has been prepared.

Not only did the convention plan for unification, it was itself a symbol of the underlying unity of the unemployed movement. A fraternal delegation from the executive of the National Unemployed Councils was present, was seated without a dissenting vote and its representatives heard with attention.

This concludes Tess Huff's true story about the Kentucky Miners. Back installments of this story may be had by sending 10 cents in stamps to LABOR ACTION to cover postage.

general run of delegates details of argument and the reasons why certain groups or individuals took certain positions were obscure, they were on the whole shrewd in sizing up the situation and clung to their two main clues: We want an organization of Leagues, but it must be an organization which is our agency for unity and not for division.

While the fundamentals of the united front were clearly and unmistakably laid down, not as much progress in working out detailed plans for unity was made as might have been hoped.

The Communists and the Councils  
In conferences between leading elements in the Conference for Progressive Labor Action and some of the Leagues on the one hand, and leading elements in the Communist Party and the Councils on the other hand, the following broad policy in the unemployed movement has been agreed upon:

1. A single national organization of unemployed must be achieved.  
2. Meantime united action in concrete struggles must be developed as rapidly as possible in town, county and state situations.

3. It is recognized that unity cannot be forced, the pace must be slower in some places than in others. Real unity of the masses and not paper unity is the goal. While unity is being achieved, therefore, the autonomy of leagues and councils is respected.

4. Disruption and duplication are to cease.  
5. The basis of unity is a program of militant struggle.

No one will expect that in a movement so vast as this, there will not be difficulties, misunderstandings and differences of opinion. It is our observation, however, that in the main the Unemployed Councils have adhered to the program outlined. It is significant that not even the bitterest critics of the Councils have pointed to a single action of theirs either at the Harrisburg convention in Pennsylvania or at the Columbus conventions which was not constructive and in good spirit.

Frank discussion and criticism are necessary, however, if the best results are to be achieved. Therefore one or two observations are in point. On their own admission the Councils have in the past made mistakes in their approach to the American masses.

The Councils made a serious mistake in setting the date for their Ohio Hunger March at almost the same time as the Ohio U.L. convention and on very short notice asking cooperation with the Hunger March.

... KENTUCKY MINERS ...  
A Four-Part Story About the Harlan Coalfields

By TESS HUFF

Part IV  
What Howard Conner said.

"I met Anna Ball last January. We were on the same bus, coming from Pineville. I was just coming back from college. She told me about the miners, and wanted me to read a book she had."

"The labor movement and radicalism—I knew absolutely nothing about them, and really I didn't want to know. At the time I was reading philosophy. In fact, at the time I thought I wanted to be a philosopher. Yes, I saw myself screening the big lumps from all the philosophies and bringing them together in a sort of modern power plant, where they'd turn into electricity and light the world."

"I tried to explain my thoughts to Anna. It sounded crazy to her, just as her explanation of all his history as a class-struggle thing struck me as childish."

"She laughed at me, and then she got angry. She accused me of letting my bourgeoisie background prejudice me against the truth—the class-struggle. Bourgeoisie! I hardly knew what the word meant. But she insisted that I read the book."

"Well, I did. It was 'The Iron Heel,' by Jack London. I read Oil, by Upton Sinclair, and I read pamphlets. And in a month I had read everything I could find. And so it happened. Yes, I got converted. I saw it all—miners versus the coal operators, workers versus the bosses, the fight all down the line. What really got me was the way the profit-system chokes off distribution. And industry is not operated for the benefit of society, the many. It is operated for the few. And it ought to be turned around. This is the function of the labor movement, to turn it around. It was all plain. And I saw that it is the class-conscious philosophies that explain history, the philosophies that justify class action. I saw that the future belongs to the workers. I didn't wait to read Karl Marx. My conversion was complete and I went at it headlong. I began organizing the miners."

"If I had had any doubts left, the sheriff would have soon dispelled them. I hadn't been working a week before I received the first warning."

"And then, the next thing I know, I'm in jail."

"They arrested us on Main Street. A fellow named Jackson and myself. They took our petitions—yes, you see we were getting signatures to place Foster on the ballot—and they marched us to jail."

"Next morning they released us. 'As we were leaving the courthouse two deputies stepped up beside us. 'This way,' they said. And they crowded us into a car waiting at the curb. I knew we were in for it, and for a moment I thought of escape."

"They drove us to the lower end of town and stopped. They opened the door and told me to get out. Yes, they were taking my friend for a ride, would probably kill him, I didn't know. But me—they wanted to stay behind. I was the son of Abner Conner you see. I refused and they shoved me from the car. I got a letter from Jackson; they whipped him, and said they'd kill him if he came back. He is working in the Hazard field now."

"And then all this other business came along, the federal sentence to Atlanta. 'That happened this way. 'I go down to the Baxter post office—yes, out of town—and I receive a bundle of twenty Labor Actions. I've gone about a hundred yards, carrying the bundle, when I'm arrested. And the next thing I know I'm in jail again, this time in the Pineville jail. They keep me there three weeks. Then the trial comes up. And I'm charged with selling a gallon of liquor to two miners. And the miners are there to testify. The trial is before Judge Cochran in the federal court at London. The judge must be about eighty years old. Well, it turns out that the warrant charging me with selling liquor was issued before the date they swore I sold them the liquor. But what can I do? I know they haven't got me for selling liquor, and they know it. But suppose I raise a row, suppose I stand up, expose them? What happens? They bear down. They make it nasty for me. All they have to do is issue another warrant, with the date changed. So I keep quiet, and leave it to the judge. Anyway, I have a feeling they'll turn me loose."

"But the judge decides I'm to have two years in Atlanta. They take me to the office of the federal prosecutor. By this time I'm feeling just so so. I want to run my fist through a wall or jerk some props from under the courthouse. I feel better when the prosecutor tells me my sentence will be reduced to six months, and that I will be turned free on good behavior. Probation, you know. Well. They settle it that way, and he gives me a lot of report blanks to fill out. I'm to fill one out every month for five years. Then he gives me a nice lecture. I'm to associate with good companions, keep regular hours, lay off liquor, look for work, and—finally came to the surface—I'm to leave that radical literature alone!"

"Imagine! 'The word hadn't been mentioned before! 'And that's the case. 'That's my position. 'I make out a good-conduct report monthly for the next five years. I submit it to Uncle Sam, and if he doesn't like it, or if I'm arrested for anything on any charge within the five years, the government sends me to Atlanta. And the Law knows how to work it. So that's the position I'm in. 'But come; let's go to the Cumberland Hardware. 'I knew two of the miners who were killed. 'Oh, the company won't be prosecuted. That goes without saying. Yet look! The company lets the coal dust accumulate—waist high in some places, Jim Boggs said—and it explodes, and kills twenty-three miners. Is the law violated? Is murder a crime? 'I want to go up and see the dead men. I'll put it in my report to the government. I'll say I've been associating with good companions, twenty-three miners. The government's suspicion will be aroused, but I'll explain. Yes, I'll add that they were dead miners. That will make it alright."

"Come." (End)

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Under Direction of the National Executive Committee of CPLA

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## BIG BOOM OR BIG SMASH?

LABOR ACTION has been criticized in some quarters because it has refused to see any good for the workers in the New Deal and has warned them against pinning false hopes on it. Already there are many indications that we were right and that even the exponents of the New Deal themselves are getting worried that much sooner than they expected it will become clear that they cannot make good on their promises.

Thus the *New York Times* points out that "an extraordinary amount of manufactured goods is being piled up on the shelves." These goods are made under present low wage payments and long hours. They are being piled up in anticipation of rising prices and consequent big profits. There is no real basis for prosperity here, only a speculative boom. Meanwhile prices of food stuffs and other goods are already going up, relief is being cut down, and the workers suffer.

Many of the leaders of the unemployed at the great Columbus convention believed that the workers must prepare themselves not for "good times" but for a big smash in the fall and winter. The exponents of the New Deal fear the same thing. Let the workers, employed and unemployed, be alert and ready! Let them organize to take things into their own hands!

## THOSE CONVERTED BOSSES

A FEW weeks ago pictures in the newspapers showed all the big bosses and bankers giving up their profits and power, and in the codes for industry under the Recovery Act giving short hours, high wages and what not to their workers. A couple of weeks ago amid great to-do the cotton textile code hearings were held and a new era proclaimed.

Now cries of rage and anguish arise from Poo-Bah Hugh Johnson, administrator of the Recovery Act. No other big industry has submitted a code. A whole lot of little ones have, but between them they employ only 150,000 workers. Financial organs are beginning to whisper that many industrial leaders "believe that the corner has been turned in the depression and that the program of the National Industrial Recovery Administration can now be discounted." In plain language the bosses are over their scare and are now setting up the old cry that "government must be taken out of business."

And administration leaders are thinking that the "campaign of persuasion" cannot be relied on much longer if "the re-employment of three or four million is to be realized by Labor Day." The screws must be put on the big fellows. Who will do that? The Roosevelt administration? We beg leave to doubt. It's up to the workers to show that they mean business.

## THE UNITED STATES PREPARES FOR WAR

THE London Economic Conference has been tropped. It may or may not be kept afloat a while longer. It is certain that for the present it will get nowhere.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, who only a few weeks ago preached a sermon on international cooperation to Hitler and the rest of the world and declared that the fate of all mankind hung on the success of this London Conference, has decided that the United States can bring itself back to prosperity by plowing under a lot of cotton, etc., and that meantime the rest of the world can look after itself. It is no accident, however, that just as we decide to pursue this nationalistic course, Roosevelt also orders Secretary of the Navy Swanson, a big navy man from of old, to get busy on a \$250,000,000 building program. Battle-ships are to fight with. They mean war.

Naturally other nations follow suit. As one big newspaper puts it, "The American example has intensified nationalism elsewhere and the conference summoned to promote internationalism finds itself confronted with nationalistic sentiment in whichever direction it turns." In plain words, capitalism is preparing for war. The workers must fight the war-danger. All must rally to the great Anti-War Congress to be held in New York City this coming Labor Day.

## Anti-Fascist Front

ALLENTOWN, PA.—At a conference called by the local branch of the "Nature-Friends" on July 5 an Anti-Fascist Front organization was set up here. Attending this conference were 14 delegates representing 8 organizations.

Resolutions were adopted pledging solidarity with the German workers in their fight against Fascism, and the immediate release of all political prisoners was demanded as well as the return of all confiscated "Nature-Friends" camps in Germany.

The elected United Front committee was ordered to draw all working-class organizations into the Anti-Fascist Front and to make preparations for a general demonstration on August 1.

## Ready to Strike

KANSAS CITY—(FP). Fortified with a 99.67 per cent strike vote employees of the Kansas City Southern are awaiting the decision of the mediation board appointed by President Roosevelt to ponder the union-smashing plan of the railroad. The board has 30 days after which Roosevelt will have another 30 days before coming to a showdown on his new deal.

Efforts by company officials to split the workers are being fought by the Brotherhoods. A Southern Pacific representative, called in as an expert by the K. C. S. before the board, was quickly exposed by the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. Should Roosevelt favor the company, a strike will probably be called in a few hours.

## Camp For Workers

With over sixty children in attendance, the Modern Sunday School Camp at Lincoln Park, New Jersey, has commenced another season of service to the labor movement.

The Modern Sunday School Association has for over a decade conducted children's schools in various sections of greater New York. It is a non-partisan revolutionary organization in which members of the German branches of

the CPLA play a leading part. In the summer the children, or as many as can afford it go to the camp at the rate of five dollars a week. Here they enjoy all the activities usually associated with camp life and receive a good working-class training at the same time.

Many workers will remember that during the 1931 textile strike in Paterson, the camp entertained many of the strikers and their families.

## CAPITALISM THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

—By H. A. H.

### These Destructive Reds

Paid agents of the capitalist class—stool pigeons, police spies, detective agencies, scab herders and capitalist politicians—are continually trying to divide the workers by peddling lies about labor organizers and radicals. No sooner does a group of workers get together to fight for their rights than one of these rats starts a whispering campaign against their leaders. "These fellows are reds," they say to the workers, "they want to tear down our institutions, they are agents of foreign governments and don't believe in our flag."

And the sad part of it is that a lot of workers, not having had experience in unions or other organizations of workers, fall for this stuff. They get all het up about protecting "our institutions, our flag and our government" and forget about being unemployed or about their slave wages and their starving children. Which is exactly what the bosses and their politicians want. That is what they pay the stool pigeons for doing—making the workers forget about their troubles and fight one another.

But we workers are learning. The more intelligent of us are now asking, "Who are these people who fear the radicals so much, who get so excited about labor organizers? Are they unemployed today, are their children starving, are they working for measly relief orders?" And when we get the answers to these questions we find that the haters of radicals are almost always well-to-do people, business men, bankers, politicians, people who live by making profit out of the sweat and blood of the workers—that is, people whose interest it is to keep the workers ignorant, to keep them from getting together and organizing.

Take fellows like J. P. Morgan, for instance. Do you think that he likes labor organizers? Of course not. Mr. Morgan is a great patriot, an ardent flag waver, and he will tell you that Communists, CPLAers and other radicals should all be deported or shot. Yet Mr. Morgan did not think that it was unpatriotic to rob the United States government of millions of dollars in taxes. Mr. Morgan's theory seems to be that since by hook or crook he has secured legal title to a very large portion of the wealth of the country, therefore the government belongs to him. And perhaps he is not far wrong since, in spite of his criminal actions, he is still free.

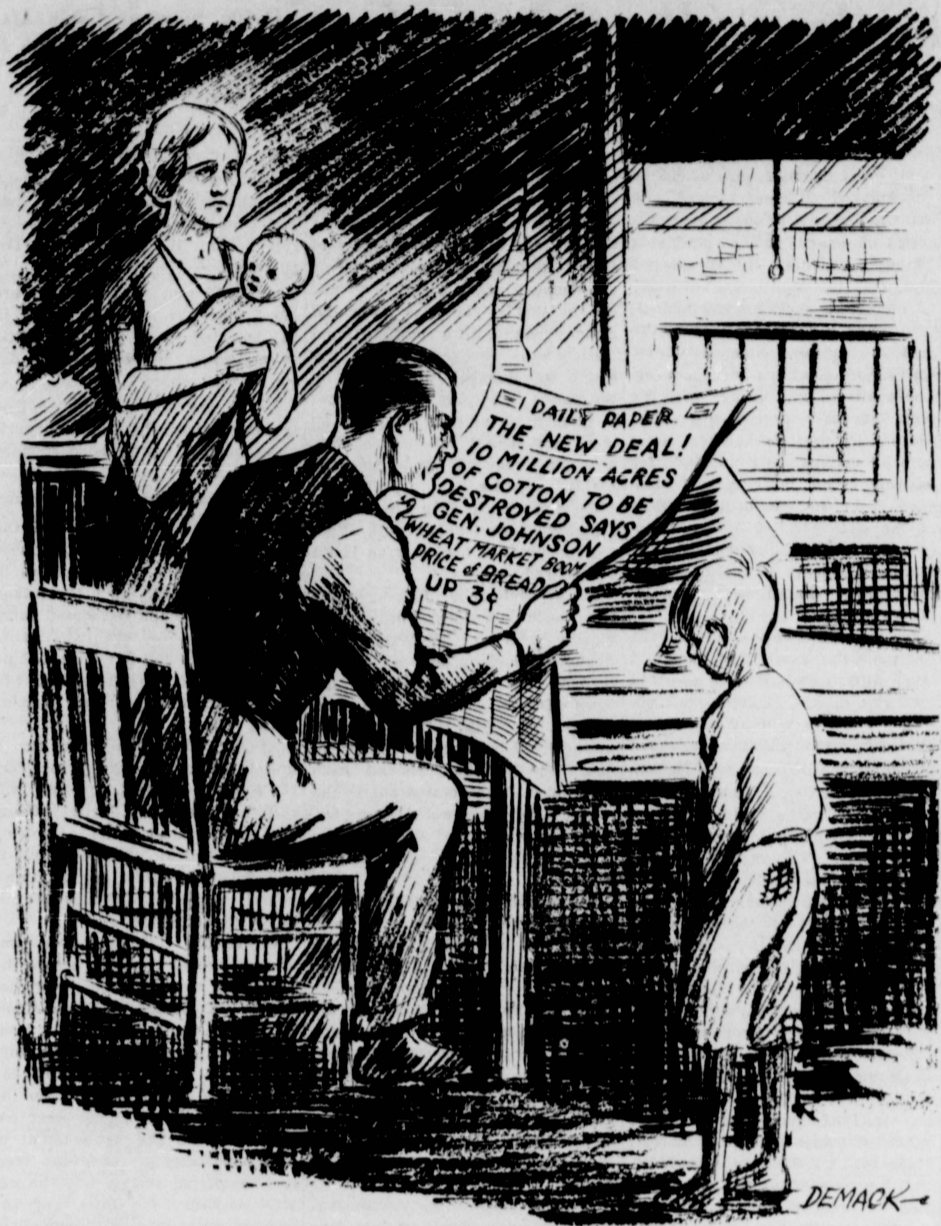
Which is exactly why radicals, so-called reds and Communists, get so mad about the government. They see a worker who steals a loaf of bread to keep his children from starving sent up to the pen, while a Morgan, who robs the government of millions, goes scot free. Is it any wonder then that we say the government belongs to the bosses, the bankers and politicians, and that it is the enemy of the working-class?

In this connection, consider how Roosevelt's New Deal, which is supposed to help the workers, goes about relieving the distress of the millions of ragged and starving unemployed. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace issues an order to the cotton growers to destroy 10,000,000 acres of growing cotton. This order is endorsed by President Roosevelt, who points out to the bankers and cotton plantation owners that this is the only way to raise the price of cotton and thus to save business. During the past few years millions of bushels of wheat, vegetables and fruit have been destroyed for the same reason. Think of it, you workers who are starving, who have no clothing but rags. Is a government which acts like this interested in your welfare?

Yet they accuse radicals of wanting to destroy. "They want to destroy but not build," they tell you. Did you ever hear of a labor organizer, a radical, a Communist advocate the destruction of food and clothing? Of course not. It is only the patriotic people, the bosses and their politicians who advocate destruction. It is they who place the profits of business above the lives of the workers.

**WORKERS, FARMERS!**  
**Write LABOR ACTION about conditions in your section.**  
**Order Bundles of LABOR ACTION to sell to your friends, neighbors and fellow workers!**

# The New Deal



## The Columbus Jobless Convention

(Continued from Page 3)

though they were overwhelmed with work in preparation for the convention and in connection with the strikes for cash payment on relief jobs in Franklin County and elsewhere, nevertheless gave what cooperation they could to the Hunger March, and sent out, against the better judgment of some of them, to the local leagues in Ohio a united front resolution to be voted on prior to the convention, and thus risked being misunderstood by their own rank and file. This attempt to force the situation, to impose a certain method of approach on League officials, was a dangerous mistake, no matter how sincere and correct the motives involved.

### "Communist By-Products"

On the subject of a unification convention the Council had a simple, straightforward proposal, viz., that the arrangements be made by a Committee of five each from the National Unemployed League, the National Unemployed Councils and the so-called Chicago Federation. This proposal would undoubtedly have been adopted by the convention but for opposition from the fraternal delegates from the Chicago Federation and Lovestonite and Trotskyist delegates in the convention. The convention accordingly voted to leave this matter of procedure in the hands of its national committee, which has already appointed its five representatives.

Some of the representatives of the Chicago Federation proposed that the N.U.L. join the Federation, then the Leagues and Councils being in the Federation, the latter would already be the one center of the whole unemployed movement and could call the unification convention. This proposal had a superficial appearance of being logical, but was illogical from a realistic standpoint. In the first place, the Federation has a potential rather than a real existence. Most of the big organizations which attended the Chicago convention reported at Columbus that they had not yet joined the Federation. In the second place, the Federation executive is hopelessly divided and brought no concrete proposal to the Columbus convention. In the third place, the Federation committee could not assure the N.U.L. and other organizations that they would have proportional representation in the Federation.

in effect the Federation's executive is built up on the theory that each "political tendency" must have approximately equal representation on it. Thus Stalinists, Lovestonites, Trotskyists, CPLAers, Proletarian Party, Socialists, etc., must all have their representations. A "political tendency" having 5000 unemployed in organizations which they influence, must have about the same representation as one with 50,000 or 500,000. We regard this basis as utterly unsound. Certainly there must be no discrimination against any political group. Certainly all political groups ought heartily to support the building of a unified unemployed movement. But unemployed organizations are not political tendencies. They are the basis for control in the unemployed movement.

Under the circumstances it is easy to understand though not to excuse the fact that Lovestonites and Trotskyists who have representation beyond their strength in the Federation executive should have fought bitterly, and in some cases to the point of obstructionism, for recognizing the Federation as already the one center of all unemployed organizations. Much of the discussion in the Presiding Committee and in the convention amounted simply to a jockeying for position by these groups as against the official C.P. This had no proper place in such a convention. The effect produced on the delegates was certainly not favorable to these groups.

### The Role of the Socialist Party

Whatever criticisms may be made of the various groups already referred to, they made a contribution to the convention and did it in what was at least from their own standpoint an intelligible and straightforward fashion. The Socialists, on the other hand, with a few individual exceptions, played a most despicable, underhanded, disruptionist role, most of the time actually allying themselves with the most reactionary Fascist elements in the convention! So inexcusable was their role and so plain was this exposed to the delegates at Columbus, that the Socialist Party must speedily repudiate the course of the party members at Columbus and change its course in the unemployed movement, if it is to retain any vestige of a claim to participation in this movement.

The S.P. is trying to control the unemployed movement or to build its own through the Continental

Congress. In a letter sent out under date of May 2, 1933 by Clarence Senior, Executive Secretary of the S.P., and ordered read at all party branch meetings, the following statements are made: 1) that "the Continental Congress has proved—that the S.P. is capable of leading the masses" (and there are other statements bearing out the point that the C.C. is definitely an S.P. movement); 2) that "the continuation work of the C.C. now provides that the only nation-wide organization through which non-factional unemployed organizations can function, is beyond our power to comprehend. Little wonder that the Socialist Executive Secretary, after having so openly declared the Party position about taking over the unemployed movement through the Continental Congress feels that he must instill a bit of caution into his membership and tells them in this same document that "the Socialists themselves will have to watch their step, use lots of common sense—in order not to scare away those groups that are now coming our direction by trying to force them to swallow Socialism at one dose!" Slip it over on them, when they're not looking is the slogan!

The CPLA (Labor Actionists) flatly opposes this policy of the S.P. to capture the unemployed movement as being contrary to the interests of the unemployed and especially because it is inimical to unification of the unemployed movement. At the Harrisburg, Pa. unemployed convention and elsewhere we have blocked this policy. We can understand that the S.P. does not like this.

We assert, however, that the S.P., if it wishes to be considered a part of the labor movement, had no right to use the tactics which prominent S.P. members used at Columbus, Lieberman and other Socialists of the Pittsburgh (Allegheny County) delegation at Columbus, both before and during the convention, circulated a printed pamphlet purporting to set forth how the CPLA and the C.P. had "double-crossed," the leagues at Harrisburg and warning that undoubtedly a "similar stunt" was to be tried at Columbus.

We point out: 1) That this pam-

phlet was unsigned, anonymous; 2) that it was not openly distributed, but circulated surreptitiously, those most concerned such as Bill Truax, Arnold Johnson and other officers of the Ohio League not knowing for some time about this cowardly attempt to undermine their influence in their own organization; 3) that the pamphlet did not bear the union label; 4) that money was spent by Pittsburgh Socialists to print a lot of copies of this scurrilous tract though to this date money to print the constitution of the Allegheny Co. Unemployed League has not been forthcoming.

Naturally, honest delegates were plunged momentarily into the suspicion that perhaps once trusted leaders were trying to put something over on them. Naturally, also, reactionary Fascist elements and labor spies seized the opportunity to try to throw the convention into turmoil, in fact to break it up. Thus developed the brief, hysterical flag-waving episode already referred to (in which both honest and dishonest elements took part but of course with very different motives.) Socialist delegates sat by during that episode and never made an attempt to rebuke or allay the mob spirit. They subsequently continued their subversive activities in that highly charged atmosphere until the candidacy of a delegate with obvious Fascist leanings for the presidency of the N.U.L. was making considerable headway and Lieberman himself said "this must be stopped," dimly realizing at last presumably that he had gotten himself and his party into a shameful fix. Even then, however, he would not accept the opportunity offered him, for the sake of harmony, to withdraw the pamphlet and apologize for the way in which it had been circulated.

All these matters were brought before the Columbus convention in its closing session. Paul, S.P. organizer of Ohio, was given the floor to answer. He evaded an answer to the question whether he and the S.P. repudiated such tactics, went into a speech about Germany, the Second and Third International, etc., and on his persistent refusal to answer was booed off the platform by the delegates.

In the very S.P. letter to which we have already referred occurs a warning that certain groups (meaning Communists) are barred from the Continental Congress. The S.P. does this on its favorite high ethical ground, viz., that the policy of these groups "has consistently been to rule or ruin other organizations." We ask whether any labor organization has ever sought to "rule or ruin" by more dangerous, sneaky and despicable methods than prominent Socialists used at Columbus?

### Labor Actionists and Unemployed Work

The CPLA comes out of the Columbus convention with its prestige greatly heightened and with more clearness and confidence in its own ranks. Labor Actionists were active in the convention and in preparation for it as they had been in the building of many of the local, county and state leagues. They were "put on the spot" at Columbus and came out with an enthusiastic vindication from the rank and file of the delegates. The delegates were no fools. They made sure that the convention was theirs, and having made sure of that, freely and enthusiastically adopted Labor Actionist policies and elected numerous known Labor Actionists, along with others, to office.

### The Immediate Tasks

Labor Actionists pledge the utmost support to the August 1 strike of the Ohio Unemployed League for cash payment on all relief jobs, payment at union wages and workmen's compensation insurance for all workers on relief jobs.

We shall do our utmost to make this strike nation-wide as rapidly as possible.

We shall push the movement for federal insurance against all forms of unemployment, to be paid by industry and government, not the workers.

Labor Actionists pledge their utmost support to the National Unemployed League in all its work and especially in the building up of the four great regional conventions.

We shall everywhere promote united action of all unemployed and their organizations in concrete struggles for immediate ends.

We shall continue to give every support toward bringing about a great unification convention to build a single national organization of the unemployed, for the unemployed, by the unemployed!