LABOR ACTION In This Issue -Let the Bankers Fight On the Dutch East IndiesPage 4 Maginot Line, Labor's Fight Is Churchill-ReynaudPage 3 **On the Picket Line!** George ScalisePage 3 June 3, 1940 ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY, SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL THREE CENTS 98 WALL STREET IS 'FIFTH COLUMN'

AGAINST U. S. LABOR AND FREEDOM!

The Real Blackout



GPU Tries to Murder Trotsky

As Hitler's war machine thunders over Europe, a 'Fifth Column' hysteria is sweeping over this country. President Roosevelt devoted much of his "fireside chat" of last Monday to denouncing "the Fifth Column that betrays a nation unprepared for treachery." A Long Island township sets up a special commission to meet the Fifth Column menace. A Pittsburgh gun club organizes a squad to shoot down parachutists. Mayor Maverick of San Antonio, Texas, mobilizes the city against an expected invasion of Fifth Columners from Mexico. The Governor of Georgia proclaims that all aliens must be registered and fingerprinted. The marble halls of Congress ring with oratory about the Fifth Column.

What is this terrible Fifth Column exactly? It means, of course, our own home-grown Nazis, Bundists, and fascists-the counterparts of those who in one European country after another worked to deliver over the land to the Nazi invaders. But if this were all the slogan means, there would be no such nation-wide pressure campaign. The Bund and the other fascist groups are not strong enough to be worth it.

REAL OBJECT IS ANTI-LABOR

No, the real object of this 'Fifth Column' talk is not to guard against a handful of Nazi agents and sympathizers, but to prevent the American workingclass from fighting for its economic interests and its democratic liberties. The campaign is aimed at parties like the Workers Party and newspapers like LABOR ACTION which speak for the workers and against the bosses. Under the mask of defending American democracy against the Fifth Column, a deliberate and vicious anti-union and anti-"red" drive is being launched.

In his 'fireside chat' of last Monday, President Roosevelt frankly recognized this. There are two kinds of Fifth Columns, he said. One kind—"spies, saboteurs and traitors"—he dismissed in one sentence: "With these we must and will deal vigorously." But to the other kind of Fifth Column-"campaigns of group hatred or class struggle" which destroy "the unity of the State"to this he devoted six full paragraphs, concluding "These dividing forces I do not hesitate to call undiluted poison."

But what does "the unity of the State" really mean, Mr. President, when the State is controlled by the DuPonts, the Morgans, the Rockefellers and the great banks and corporations which these families and their fellow plutocrats control? Doesn't it mean a unity in defense of the interests of big business? And

Roosevelt "Chat" Means Wage Cuts for Labor **Profits for Business**

By ERNEST ERBER

Red Herring

Dragged into

Wilson Case

Police Persecution

Fails to Intimidate

Cambridge Jobless

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.-The case of

James Wilson, the unemployed work-

er, who was severely beaten by some

thug consorts of a city official, is

still arousing interest and indigna-

tion among Cambridge workers. In

the first place Wilson was released

from the hospital before his wounds

had healed. He went home and dis-

covered that he was about to be

evicted. Then to make matters worse

As LABOR ACTION goes

to press, word is received that

James E. Wilson has been ar-

Flash - - -

In a "fireside chat to the American people", last Sunday evening, President Roosevelt made full use of his ability to sugar-coat bitter pills as he sought to;

(1) prepare public opinion for a Wall Street raid on the U.S. Treasury in carrying out the "national defense" program;

(2) frighten labor from taking strike actions to defend its wage standards in war industries; and

(3) use the hysteria against "fifth columns" to intimidate any and all foes of his administration as another step toward a wartime dictatorship. Roosevelt promised Wall Street

government funds with which to build and enlarge privately-owned industrial plants which will turn in billions of dollars of profits on war orders.

"Therefore, the Government of the United States stands ready," said Roosevelt, "to advance the necessary money to help provide for the enlargement of factories, the establishments of new plants, the employment of thousands of necessary workers, the development of thousands of new sources of supply for the hundreds of raw materials required, the development of quick mass transportation of supplies."

Business in Control

The whole program, according to Roosevelt, will be run by men now in "private industry". By this he means the Big Business executives whose corporations will share in the cléan-up on profits.

Even in this detail, Roosevelt imitates the Wilson administration of the last war with its "\$1-a-year" men who came swarming from banks and business houses all over the country to help their firms make a "killing" on war orders. The revelations of the Committee headed by Senator Nye which investigated the munitions makers showed that in the last war no swindle was too rotten for these "\$1-a-year" patriots.

Ever since the announcement of

Cardenas Wires W.P. Safety Measures Will Be taken

Once again, the GPU, the secret police of the Stalinist counter-revolution, has made an attempt on the life of Leon Trotsky, living symbol of the Socialist revolution. Once again it has succeeded in abducting, and possibly murdering, another of his secretaries.

Sheldon Harte, kidnapped by the twenty well prepared terrorists who broke into the Coyoacan villa, was not the first assistant of the former Red Army chief to fall into the hands that managed the frame-up of the Moscow "trials". Twice before the secretaries of Trotsky were killed by Stalinist agents. In 1937 Irwin Wolfe was kidnapped in Barcelona and never heard from again. The next year another secretary, Rudolph Klement, was kidnapped in Paris,

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in.

and his headless body was later found floating in the Seine. The Mexican police are being helped in their search for Harte by American private detectives hired by his father. If their joint efforts prove unsuccessful, he will be the third secretary killed by the OGPU. If

Mink and Pissman, who are said to be the leaders of the twenty Stalinist assassins, remain at large, it will be the third murder to go unpunished

Not the First Attempt

Trotsky's family, no less than his immediate associates, have fallen victims to counter-revolution. His son. Leon Sedoff, died in Paris in 1938 under circumstances that point directly to the work of Stalin's agents. Another son and two daugh-

Akron Shachtman Meeting Largest in Branch History

In the midst of the increasing war though small gathering. Preparations preparations of the Roosevelt Administration, the coast-to-coast antiwar speaking tour of Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, continues to be highly successful.

Over a hundred workers were present at his meeting in Akron, Ohio, where he spoke on the subject: "Will the United States be Drawn into the War?" The meeting in this city was the largest ever held there by the Fourth Internationalist movement. Many trade unionists, rubber workers and Negroes were present, asking numerous questions and remaining to the very end of the meeting.

Worcester, Massachusetts: A fine meeting was held in this town, attended by numerous trades unionists, who came to hear Shachtman speak on the war and its effects on the United States.

Gloversville, New York: For the first time in many years, a meeting of a revolutionary organization was held here. Some twenty-five workers were present to hear the national secretary's speech on the war. Rochester, New York: The meeting in this city was a fine-spirited PHILADELPHIA

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are made for further propaganda work against the war.

Good meetings were held in Pittsburgh and Youngstown, prior to Shachtman's arrival in Akron. A number of meetings are still scheduled in the Middle West States at Cleveland, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Chicago, Streator and St. Louis.

TOUR SCHEDULE MAY 16-JULY 20, 1940

MAL 10-JULL AU	, 1340
City	Date
CHICAGO AREA June	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAN FRANCISCO AREA	A
, June 13, 1	4, 15, 16, 17
LOS ANGELES AREA	
June 20, 21, 2	22, 23, 24, 25
AUSTIN	July 2
HOUSTON	July 3
ST. LOUIS	July 7 8

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ters, who remained in Russia after Trotsky's exile, are all dead as a result of Stalinist persecution.

This attempt on the life of Trotsky himself, although the most ambitious, was not the first. Driven from one country to another, from Turkey to France, to Norway, to Mexico. Trotsky has escaped with his life only by maintaining elaborate precautions. Two previous attempts were made at Mexico City within the past two years. At the first a man dressed as a peasant brought a .bomb during Trotsky's absence and tried to leave it for him to open. Only the presence of mind of one of his secretaries saved him then. About a year later the alarms were set off in the middle of the night by someone climbing the walls of the villa.

This time the Stalinists came determined to succeed. Machine-gunning through two doors and a window into the bedroom of their intended victim, they peppered the pillows on which but a minute before Trotsky and his wife, Natalia, had been lying. Together they drop-

Cardenas Cable----

Max Shachtman, National Secretary of Workers Party 114 West 14th Street, New York

Message of May 24 received. Government has ordered measures for the necessary pro-

tection of Citizen Trotsky. He can stay in the country as long as he desires. Signed, President of the Republic,

L. CARDENAS

ped to the floor, lay behind a heavy pillar for protection. Only slightly injured by flying glass, Trotsky soon after gained the admiration of the assembled reporters by dictating in his usual steady voice a political treatise. As one of them put it, "This is a man." Workers Party Wires

As soon as the news of the attempted murder reached this coun-(Continued on page 4)

isn't any working man who asks for higher wages or who objects to dying to defend those business interests-isn't he, Mr. President, a member of that Fifth Column you call "undiluted poison"?

The President, the Congress, the press and all the other mouthpieces of America's big business rulers are trying to pin the Fifth Column badge on those who alone have fought against Hitler and Hitlerism from the very beginning-the militant workers and the revolutionary socialists.

We say the label should be put where it belongs-on American big business, on Wall Street and the Sixty Families! There is the Fifth Column against democracy, which is even now preparing to make this country into a totalitarian state—in order to fight Hitler's brand of totalitarianism.

(Continued in Editorial Column, Page 4)

raigned on an assault charge and ordered to appear in court May 29. The warrant was sworn out by Emile Lauziere. one of the men that Wilson claims beat him. Wilson pleaded not guilty and all of the persons involved have been ordered to be in court Wednesday.

he was served with a summons charging assault and battery, by "Wacky" Lauziere one of the men who had assaulted him. Wilson is now in bed at home having been ordered to remain in bed for at least (Continued on page 2)

the program for 50,000 planes and other military expenditures, the Wall Street Journal and the Journal of Commerce have been advocating the steps Roosevelt proposed on government financing of private business and control through Big Business executives.

As a sop to satisfy the public fears that a good share of the defense billions will go into the pockets of profiteers, Roosevelt promised that "no new group of war millionaires" would be created. In the light of his other proposals, this would seem to indicate that all the war profits will go to the old group of millionaires who have a monopoly on bank-

(Continued on page 2)

Dubinsky Sounds Jingo Note at ILG Meet

Holds Lewis Responsible for Failure of CIO-AFL Unity Negotiations

Square Garden yesterday, President David Dubinsky demanded an endorsement of Roosevelt's preparations for driving American workers into the slaughter-house of imperialist war. Dubinsky presented a pain-**Splendid** Pageant ful spectacle as, without reservation he threw the weight of 250,000 organized garment workers into the reactionary "fifth column" campaign started by Roosevelt which threat-

ens to strip labor of every right

Apart from war-mongering, the

resolution; (2) further moves for

uniting the CIO and the AFL with-

out affiliation to either, as yet. On

the latter point, Dubinsky gave a

factual and first-hand report of the

unity negotiations between the CIO

and AFL, placing the responsibility

for failure squarely on the shoulders

of John L. Lewis and the CIO. He

listed however, three obstacles to

the affiliation of the ILGWU to the

AFL at the present time: (1) The

gained through years of struggle.

and appealed for labor, management and government to unite in a "common cause." He attacked subversive movements, but did not include bankers in that category.

> A splendid mass pageant, "I Hear America Singing" gave the lie to all. the speeches that preceded it, as it unrolled in impressive and pulsequickening manner the history of the struggles of American labor since the American Civil War. In striking and realistic fashion, the 500 workersactors portrayed Morgan and the imperialist seizure of the Phillipines;

Homestead slaughter; the Pinkertons; Sacco and Venzetti; Debs; Wilson and the first war for democracy: the stock market crash and the depression. All of this was there, and, if a eulogy of Rooseven was tacked on at the finish, its complete lack of any connection with the spirit and the letter of the rest of the pageant must have been apparent to every-

Mass Reception

New York members of the ILGWU knocked off work for the afternoon and gave a tremendous reception to the delegates as they paraded in bannered busses through the gar-(Continued on page 2)

the McCormick family and the Haymarket martyrs; Rockefeller and the Ludlow massacre; Carnegie and the

principal convention decisions fore-\$1,000 in Cash from Local New York! shadowed by Pres. Dubinsky's report were: (1) endorsement of the New Deal ,and a "draft Roosevelt"

Two hundred members of the New York local of the Workers Party were present at an exceptionally fine membership meeting on May 24th to listen to reports by the National Organizational Secretary, Harry Allen, on the War and the Party, and J. R. Johnson, who spoke on the development of the war in Europe and its effects on the revolutionary movement.

assumption by the AFL Executive Allen reported on the formation Council of the right to suspend interof the Workers Party, the establishnational or national unions. (2) The ment of branches throughout the levy of a monthly one cent per country, the great efforts made by capita tax on affiliated unions for the national office to maintain LA-

BOR ACTION, the weekly organ of the party, the issuance of the NEW INTERNATIONAL and the plan for a series of popular pamphlets on the war and the coming elections. He was followed by Johnson, who made an excellent report on the war and the state of the workers movement abroad and the United States.

In the light of the reports, the membership responded to the request for support to the Press Fund Drive which would secure the Party publications, in a manner exceeding all previous efforts. The New York

meeting subscribed and paid over to the national office one thousand dollars in cash! These payments were made in addition to the original quota taken by the local in the present Press Fund Drive. The results of the membership meeting has given an added impetus to the publication program of the Party and has acted as a spur to the general anti-war activity of the organization. The National Office takes this opportunity to thank the comrades for their generous response. The next issue of Labor Action will carry a report on the drive nationally and

the payments of other cities.

NEW YORK, May 28-Opening the the purpose of fighting the CIO, and 40th Anniversary Convention of the the expulsion of the International Typographical Union for refusal to International Ladies Garment Workpay this tax. "We are willing to pay ers Union before 20,000 delegates, members and guests, at Madison five cents per month for constructive

comed the convention to New York

work, but not a single cent for destructive labor warfare," said Dubinsky. (3) Failure of the AFL to take action against racketeering leaders in national and international unions.

International Vice President Luigi Antonini, manager of Local 89, welcomed the delegates to New York and introduced Dubinsky in a speech similar in content to that of his leader. Governor Lehman also wel-

Canadian F. D. R. Opens Way for Wall St. Profits Patriotism

War Time Dictatorship and Wage Cuts in Store for Labor

(Continued from page 1)

ing and big industry since the last war. In contrast to the open pocket-

book held out to Big Business, Roosevelt only "hoped" that the big war orders "will cause many businesses which now pay below the minimum standards to bring their wages up."

Warns Labor

But his "hopes" and "promises" were immediately followed with a warning to "responsible leaders" of labor not to permit "some specialized group, which represents a minority of the total employees of a plant or industry to break up the continuity of employment of the majority of the employees." Behind these vague phrases lurks the threat to clamp down on any strike which the administration feels might endanger the "defense" program.

Even if Roosevelt meant no more than he said, it would be a terrible blow at the rights of labor. Except in highly organized industries, strikes usually begin with a "minority of the total employees." And even in an industry as highly organized as the coal industry, it would mean that the miners in Illinois could not go on strike until miners in all other fields had agreed. Or it would mean that workers in an airplane-parts factory could not go on strike if it would affect workers in an aircraft plant.

This threat against labor's right to strike was Roosevelt's answer to the demand of John L. Lewis in his speech before the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' convention that

position on the left-from the opthe administration take a stand on portunistic John L. Lewis to the the organization of workers in the aircraft and other industries working on military orders.

Whips Up Hysteria

Instead of calming the mass hysteria that has led to mob actions against individuals on the slightest rumor, Roosevelt deliberately sought to further whip up this sentiment and direct it against those groups who will oppose the establishment of a military dictatorship in time of war.

With a dramatic effort, Roosevelt warned, "The Trojan Horse. The fifth column that betrays a nation unprepared for treachery. Spies, saboteurs, and traitors are the actors in this new strategy. With all of these we must and will deal vigorously."

Roosevelt then went on to warn against an "added technique":

"The method is simple. First, discord-the dissemination of discord. A group-not too large-a group may be sectional or racial or political - is encouraged to exploit their prejudices through false slogans and emotional appeals. The aim of those who deliberately egg on these groups is to create confusion of counsel, public indecision, political paralysis and eventually a state of panic."

The obscure and vague references in the above quotation are broad enough to be nearly all-inclusive. Without a doubt it was Roosevelt's Club. intention that they should be so. Roosevelt was, of course, thinking above all of the workingclass op-

the Cabinet arranged to have the

bill introduced by Major Attlee, la-

bor lieutenant of British capitalism

and Labor Party member of the

government. The inclusion of Major

Atlee and Arthur Greenwood as La-

bor Party representatives in the

Cabinet, rather than serving as a

guarantee that the capitalists will

not take advantage of the new regu-

lations to skin their workers, is real-

ly a cover with which to conceal

liam Gallacher, Communist Member

of Parliament, and David Kirkwood,

left-wing Laborite from Scotland.

Gallacher's vote, like the position of

and international labor solidarity

The only votes cast against the

the skinning process.

against the war.



the present hysteria about "fifth

furnishes more and more complex columnists" could easily be turned against them.

LABOR ACTION

velt must beat down before he feels it safe to impose a wartime dictatorship is that to be found among militant workers who refuse to see why they should give up their hard won working conditions in the interest of a national defense swindle that fills the pockets of bankers and munitions makers.

gressive policies and practicing de-

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PROFITS - OR LIVES

Not so long ago the Lake Shore

Limited failed to make the curve

near Little Falls, N.Y. The train

jumped the track and 30 people were

page and promptly forgotten.

The anti-trust division of the Jus-

Why should Thurman Arnold's

the answer from Merry-Go-

"Investigators are checking up on

low-slung cars. Particularly, Justice

Department investigators are check-

glut of top heavy cars already manu-

trustbusters investigate an apparent-

tice Department, smelling a rat, has

been investigating on the Q.T.

Rounders, Pearson and Allen:

mocracy within the union.

May 26, 1940

the engineer.

Editor:

Our Readers Jake the gloor ...

MORE ON OPPOSITION VICTORY IN FOOD Dear Friends:

Of all of the developments in the New York culinary industry in the last six months, the most important and significant to the workers in the industry has been the progress of the United Opposition in the Cafeteria Employees Union, Local 302. This local of 10,000 members was until recently the largest in the International Union, and certainly the most important. Its administra-

> tion, since the conviction of the racketeers, Pincus and Williams, has consisted of a coalition of the Stalinists with a group of rightwingers known as the Culinary Trades Unity

> During the past four years this administration has been guilty of innumerable crimes against the membership-appropriation of \$25,000 for the defense of the racketeers, establishment of lower wage scales for the chain stores in a separate branch of the union, recognition of a bosses' association, establishment of compulsory arbitration in association shops, discrimination against oppositionists in union hiring, frame-ups and suspensions of administration opponents, and finally only last year a contract that binds wages for two years at a time when prices may

> skyrocket because of the war. Against these reactionary policies a progressive group was formed-a group, which though hounded and persecuted for three years, little by little grew in strength and prestige. Meanwhile the Spanish workers, the largest nationality in the union, who once overwhelmingly backed the administration, broke away from the

totalitarian laws were those of Wilmachine. Finally, with the resignation of a group of members from the right-wing Culinary Club, a United Opposition was set up, consisting of the Progressive Group, the the Communist Parties in the Allied Spanish Club, and the New Deal countries, was determined by Stalin's support of Hitler rather than con-Group (ex-Culinary Club). In the elections last November, the Opposicern for the British workingclass tion cracked the machine, electing two business agents, eight council and board members-leaving the

When Atlee was questioned in the machine with a narrow majority. House of Commons about the authority of the government over civil But oppositions have had momentary successes in many culinary lorights wages hours conscription of

machinery with which to carry on its imperialist wars, so it produces But the real opposition that Roosemore cleverly complex forms of war-

mongering propaganda. One outstanding example comes from Canada as related by a worker just returned from there: "The young fellows there are not unlike their American brothers in that they like to have a good time, drink beer, have dates, go to movies, etc. And like their American brothers they have had precious little experience

might ride the street cars, drink beer, go to dances and movies, this aside from their regular pay as soldier.s" progressive group by the hundreds! A Low Price Since the election the Opposition This worker reports that from all has had a majority on almost every he was able to learn there has been disputed question at membership no conscription as yet in Canada. meetings. In a dozen cases where The Canadian Government has had the Council was too cowardly to no trouble finding among the povsettle grievances apealed to it, the erty-ridden unemployed youth, those membership meeting has instructed who would voluntarily sell their lives it to settle the grievance or call a on a foreign battlefield for just one strike-and in each case the grievor two months of half-way normal ance has been settled. Today we are life before they die. confident about the future of Local The worker continues: "Of course, 302-a local that will have a mili-

S.M.

now that the Canadian Army has tant administration, following proenlisted enough of these unsuspecting young men it has "discontinued" the practice of distributing slugs. Now their fling is over and they have settled down to the grim business of drilling."

Just as modern capitalist society

in spending a few dimes and en-

joying themselves.

What greater irony has the capitalist society offered us than this example from Canada?-youth selling their lives before they have had a chance to live for a few lead slugs.



SAN FRANCISCO - Forty - six American ships have changed to foreign registry on the pacific Coast since the war broke out, according to the records of the United States Maritime Commission.

ly accidental train wreck? Well, here The ships, totalling 196,021 gross tons were listed under foreign registry by their owners in an attempt to cash in on the war trade. Travel whether the Pullman Company was in the war areas is forbidden to using top-heavy cars which could American ships by the Neutrality not make the curve, instead of new, Act (0) ters of

It is not possible to say how many ing on whether the Pullman Comof the 46 ships were really sold to pany is working in conjunction with foreign companies and how many were listed under foreign registry he Brill Car Manufacturing Comthrough a "dummy" company set up pany to hold down the production in a foreign country by the Ameriof low-slung cars because of the can ship owners. That a large number were only transferreed to "dummy" companies is indicated by the I wonder if this Mass Murder case large number, totalling 49,795 tons, will appear in True Detective Magachanged to a Panaman registry. Pan-

Most of the ships were either al-

ready in the "boneyard" or were,

what sailors call. "rust-buckets".

ships that are no longer fit for the

sea. The boom in the shipping indus-

try brought on by the war has led

ship owners to make use of "every-

profits. Little thought is given to

cleaned up on war business is the

American-Hawaiian Steamship Com-

pany which has just announced a

three months of the year.

sea in such ships.

SUB RATES REDUCED FOR MANHATTAN AND BRONX

City

The subscription campaign for LA-BOR ACTION is well under way. With the acquisition of Second Class Mailing rights, the management is able to make a reduction in the rates for Manhattan and the Bronx. The standard for subscriptions to the paper is \$1.50 per year and \$1.00 for six months. This is for the entire United States. Rates for Canadian' and foreign subscriptions remain at the price of \$2.00 per year and \$1.50 for six months.

The month of June is LABOR ACTION subscription month. We What was the delight of the want 500 new subscribers to LABOR younger lads of the teen age when ACTION in this period. This drive the Canadian Army began to give should not be difficult to complete all volunteers slugs with which they within a period of a month and we are certain that every branch will do its job. The following are the quotas for the branches: Everyone into the Drive!

		HOM STREET
	New York	
	Chicago	50
	Los Angeles	
	Philadelphia	
	Boston	
	St. Louis and County	y 20
	Akton	
	Cleveland	
	San Francisco	
	Washington	
	Lynn, Mass.	10
	Worcester	
	Newark	10
	Oakland	10
	Texas	
	Youngstown	
	Gloversville, N.Y.	1
	Gloversville, N.Y	
	Rochester	
ł	Pittsburgh	1-3
	Ann Arbor	
	Gardner	
	Labor Action Bus. C	

Quota

Scab Labor Fails to Dent Fall River Taxi Strike

Mass.

FALL RIVER, Mass .- Six weeks 304 South Main Street, Fall River, ago the taxi drivers in this city went on strike. They had been working a 72 hour week and earning \$.50 a day for several years. Finally, in an effort to improve conditions in their industry, they organized Local 198 of the Transport Workers Union.

The bosses have tried everything from intimidation to physical violence in an effort to break the strike, and when these methods failed to bring the men back, they hired a local labor faker from the AFL Teamsterms Union Local 496. He signed a contract and immediately supplied scabs to take the jobs of the workers on strike.

Since the entire labor movement of the city is behind the strikers, the Cab Companies will have to come to terms because most of their business has been paralyzed. Funds are needed, however, for the aid of the strikers. Send contributions to Transport Workers Union, Local 198.

WITH THE THIRD CAMP FRANCE

The strike committee consists of

Ed Phelan, Joseph Escobar, Alcide

Giroux, Albert Boissoneau, Charles

Wilbur, John Oliver, Roger Lizotte,

and John Texeira.

"On the front the morale is bad. The soldiers in the 'punishment regiments' help weaken the military discipline and their example can quickly 'contaminate' the regiments made up of workers and no longer only those elements from the 'lumpen-proletariat.' Already numerous cases have been cited of soldiers of these regiments being shot at the front.)'

International Correspondence, February 25, 1940

Local 302 President Resigns

Under a sharp attack from the United Opposition in the Cafeteria Employees Union, Local 302, for his attempt to retain two offices, those of President of Local 302, and ex-Joint Executive Board, William Mesevich, President of the Local for the past 11 years, resigned this week at a packed membership meeting of the union. For two months, he had refused to carry out a decision of the last general membership, meeting instructing him to choose between the jobs, but with his group in the union. the "Culinary Trades Unity Club", folding up on all sides he was finally

Well prepared for the resignation, the Opposition, campaigning as the Orange Ticket, handed out that same night its first campaign leaflet for its presidential candidate, Bill Kinecutive manager of the New York oncheloe, veteran Progressive. The election for President will take place in three weeks, and a decisive victory for the Orange Ticket candidate is expected.

> National Unity? **Or Totalitarianism?**

Churchill Cabinet Ends British Civil Liberties

Taking full advantage of the fear thrown into Parliament by the German drive to the English Channel, the Churchill government rushed bills through that body which give the Cabinet totalitarian powers equal to those of Hitler.

The new powers wipe out all the guarantees of civil liberties and individual rights won in long and hard struggles against authoritarian rule for over a thousand years. Freedom of speech, press, and assembly, trial by jury, protection against. search and seizure, right of labor organization, right to collective bargaining and all other democratic rights for which the labor movement fought have been wiped out with a stroke of the pen.

The powers granted the Cabinet are absolute. They give the government, among other things, the right to: (1) control all persons and property; (2) direct any person to perform any work required; (3) prescribe conditions of work, salary, hours: (4) move industries to new sites, tear down old plants, require unprofitable business to continue operating; (5) impose an excess profits tax of 100 per cent. Any critic of the government can be sent to the front or summarily executed under the provisions of the new Treachery Act. All maximums on the hours of labor and minimums on wages have been removed. Bosses can order their workers to work 14, 16, or 18 hours a day if they say it is for war purposes. Trade unions that "interfere" can be disbanded. Attlee Does Job

Page 2

In order to make the totalitarian laws easier for labor to swallow,

Workers Party Cracks Ban on Free Speech

A fight carried on by the Workers Party, has re-established free speech in Columbus Circle, second only to Union Square as a forum in New York City.

When the representative of the Workers Party applied for a permit to hold a May Day meeting at Columbus Circle, the application was denied. The Police Department had revived an old ruling forbidding public meetings within a certain distance of public parks, and the Circle fell within the ban. The Socialist Party had already applied, the police said, and also been refused.

The New York local of the Workers Party immediately prepared to fight on the issue. It was offered and accepted the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union. But at the first sign of backbone, the police gave way and granted the permit. The party held a highly successful May Day meeting in the Circle (pictures in last issue). And the Circle is now opened up once more to free speech.

New International Is Out!

The May issue of NEW INTER-NATIONAL is off the press! It is an excellent issue devoted mainly to the war question. The main feature of this issue is a series of editorial articles devoted to the war in Europe and the United States, entitled Blitzkrieg and Revolution". The articles analyse the possible conse-

labor, and other measures affecting the workingclass, he answered in clear and specific terms in stating the absolute power of the government on these questions. However, when asked about the control of wealth and profits, Atlee became very vague and gave no definite indication of what measures the government had in mind. Two Jokers

The authority of the government to "impose an excess profits tax of 100 per cent", was played up in the capitalist press to impress the workers with the sacrifices the bankers and industrialists were going to make. However, the press remained silent on the two jokers in the deal. One, the government did not say it would tax all profits 100%. It only would tax excess profits. Just what the difference is between normal profits and excess profits is up. to the government to determine.

Two, the government remains a Big Business government now as before. Churchill and his cronies, including Atlee and Greenwood, will do nothing that really harms the interests of the British ruling class.

THE BEST PEOPLE

In the window of the swank Congress Hotel on Michigan Boulevard in Chicago is a large display of captured German machine guns, helmets, bayonets and regimental flags. Enough equipment to wipe out a division. Over it is a huge sign which goes: "Attention, All World War officers, keep in touch with your local army posts in case of national need." The best people are plugging for war and the younger set is getting measured

for uniforms.

cialist revolution.

highly interesting number.

cals. The important question waswhat would happen after the election? We didn't have long to wait. The two business agents, Aviles and Diaz, set a standard for model functioning, cleaning the non-union men out of the shops, improving conditions, and enforcing contracts. For

the first time members saw promises lived up to, militant policies carried out, and they signed cards in the

Live Wires Guardina "Abandoned" Property Kill Mass. Boy

WINTHROP, Mass. - A thirteen year old boy was burned to death by live wires on the abandoned

Narrow Guage Railroad. When railroad officials announced that they were abandoning the line, unemployed workers in the vicinity tried to salvage wood, wire, and other odds and ends to sell for food or to use in their homes. When it was discovered that their unused property was being tampered

with, the railroad bosses instructed the power company to turn on the power in the lines passing to the Lynn area. The fatal accident caused militant

protests from residents along the line, but the only answer they got was a warning to keep their children away from the tracks.



ment district. Twenty thousand members jammed Madison Square while tens of thousands of others, massed around the hall, listened through loud

tion will continue for ten days at Carnegie Hall, interspersed with a number of entertainments arranged by the New York locals which are hosts to the convention.

quences of the present war upon the lack Dubinsky's enthusiasm for world labor movement and the sothrowing America's young manhood to teh dogs of war is shown by a Other features of the May issue number of anti-war resolutions sent into the convention by various locals. are an analytical article by J. R. In the last issue of LABOR ACTION Johnson on the book Native Son, and a review of Russian economy by we reported the resolution submitted by the Knitgoods Workers. We will M. Lebrun. No one should miss this report on others in the next issue.

zine Fraternally yours,

factured."

Philadelphia, Pa.

J. H.

A WORD OF CONGRATULATIONS Comrades

Yours is the only paper in the United States with a future. You are destined to ride upon the great wave that is to come and sweep all of these little people who keep us from our future into the stagnant pool of oblivion. Workers' Governments and People's Armies, in all countries, will finally stop this war. It is now the only way out.

Best wishes. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

clubbed Wilson, argued against post-

that Hamilton was a decent citizen

having been a member of the state

legislature. The attorney for the

other defendant made similar re-

acter of his client. Both defense law-

yers made remarks about a "fifth

column" being interested in the Wil-

Despite all set backs and the ap-

parent efforts on the part of Ham-

ilton's friends to frame Wilson, the

son case.

Confiscate Leaflets

Red Scare Fails to Spike Work of Wilson Committee

Cambridge politicians. They are also (Continued from page 1) aware that some of the politicians ten days by a physician who examwill attempt to make political capiined him after he left the hospital. tal out of this case and use it as a A committee of unemployed workmeans of getting votes in the fall ers who are fighting the case deelections. manded that Mayor Lyons see the

committee to discuss the case. The Already the cops have been conmayor refused with the statement fiscating leaflets issued by the Wilthat "no communist or high-powered son Committee as they were being passed out by boys on the street. outfit is necessary in Cambridge to present the case of a needy family." The city council has refused to in-A hearing was called in the case vestigate the rotten Cambridge relief system. But the unemployed are before Judge Francis Weiner but a postponement was asked by the diskeeping up the fight. They have adopted a slogan "Help the Other trict attorney because he said that Wilson Families" and are proceed-Wilson is not physically able to appear and testify. The lawyers for ing to do regular work in helping Ralph Hamilton, the city official who other unemployed families with the relief cases. stood looking on while his friends

ponement claiming that Wilson was able to appear in court. He argued NEGROES AND AVIATION

"I would fly a plane if I had chance," said Bigger Thomas, t hero of Richard Wright's best selle Native Son.

marks about the high moral char-His friend answered, "If you wash black and if you had some mon and if they would let you go to th aviation school, you could fly."

For corroboration look at the pre ent preparations of the Army A Corps for war. They have establish nine schools for fliers and seven f airplane mechanics, and they wo unemployed workers organization is admit a Negro to any of them. going ahead with vigor and deterthe coming war for democracy, t mination. They are alert to every colored soldier will have the san possibility of treachery on the part role he had in the last-to do the of Hamilton's friends among the dirty work for the white officers.

forced to accede to the wishes of ama is the country most frequently used by American shipping interests the membership. in establishing "dummy" companies.

Bosses Aim Blow at Aged

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., May 21-The thing that floats" in order to pile up Illinois State Legislature when it reconvenes next week is planning to the safety of the seamen who go to do its bit to extend the "fifthcolumn" scare and at the same time Among the companies that have profit by it. Dennis Collins, state representative from De Kalb, will introduce a bill to "deny old-age assistance to any person engaged in net profit of \$1,130,652 for the first subversive activities in the State." Just who is going to define what constitutes fifth column activity has not yet been decided.

In their haste to cut the appropriations from the budget and prove themselves super-patriots at the same time, local politicians are now going after the aged.

The least sign of opposition to war or to the Democratic machine will be interpreted as barefaced fifthcolumn sabotage.

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From the report of a White House press conference on May 22 we take this significant item:

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"The President had been told of a statement by John L. Lewis that the CIO would organize the airplane industry and all others having to do with the national defense program. He replied with a smile that the undertaking was entirely legal, and said nothing more until asked what his attitude would be if, as the result of such organization, the national defense program was hindered by strikes.

"Then it was that the President said he thought the country was too well united to permit of strikes interfering with the defense program."

The report does not describe the President as smiling when he said that.

WITH THE THIRD CAMP GERMANY

"Resistance to the war and to the regime is particularly strong among the women, and the most outspoken opposition is heard on the markets and in the food stores. Enthusiasm for the war and for the regime exists only among the youth, including the working - class youth. Strong chauvinism and war spirit predominated at the meetings of the Hitler Youth." Independent News, Feb., 1940

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That some members of the ILGWU

(Continued from page 1)

speakers to the proceedings. Business sessions of the conven-

LABOR ACTION

Labor's Inquiring Reporter

The answers to the questions asked by our Inquiring Reporter are expressions of opinion by individual persons. This is NOT an attempt at a scientific sampling of public opinion.

Reporter: A. ROBERTS

QUESTION: Do You Think That Unemployed Organizations Will Exist During The War When America Enters; What Form Will They Take and What Role Will They Play?

PLACE: A Social Given by the Unemployed and Project Workers Union Local 3.

Sal Graccia N.Y.C.

I believe the government will allow unemployed organization. Anyway, the unemployed have a constitutional right to organize and should do it even if the Government doesn't allow it. The WPAers will be put on munitions projects. I don't think the unemployed can hinder war plans.

A.T. N.Y.C.

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It's a hard question to answer. Looks very bad. The poor have nothing to win but their life to lose. First thing they'll break all unemployed organizations. They're starting now. They're using the Fifth Column scare against the Workers Alliance and the Communists. Remember, if they will

leanings they will cut you off. How can an organization exist if they will take away to be killed all the strong young people? Joe Maida N.Y.C. They always will exist. The re-

lief won't be stopped for the simple reason that the old folks will have to be taken care of and the wives of those who go over there will have to be taken care of by the government. I'm in favor of a popular vote on war. If we are invaded, we'll vote for it other-

Jack O'Brien N.Y.C.

wise, no.

There's a strong movement in the United States for Fascism. The unemployed will have to fight like hell for existence. There's even in the bureaus a strong movement to discredit, disrupt and disorganize the unemployed organizations. This is part of the fascist movement. I doubt if the government will allow unemployed organizations to exist because the unemployed are the bulk of the potential army and if the organizations are allowed to exist they will teach the unemployed the facts about security, what they have to fight for and what war really is. This will make it almost impossible to herd them to slaughter. The relief investigators tell the clients. "Why do you want to belong to those outfits. They won't do you any good. I want you to join a good political organization such as

the Democratic or Republican find out that you have radical club." That's part of the drive to coerce and disrupt the unemployed. Maybe at the outbreak of war, under a patriotic wave, they will be crushed. But they will reform and reorganize even if illegal and underground. That's the only hope and I believe that's what is going

to happen. Arthur Nias N.Y.C.

The unemployed will exist because their need is greater than ever. I don't think the government will smash them. The government can be whipped by the unemployed organizations before America enters the war. The government today, is realizing the great need of the unemployed. The unemployed today are very essential to the government because the government knows, themselves, that the workers at large give their support by means of war. Should Hitler win, the lives and interests of the workers would be endangered. They would be willing to defend these interests. The action of the government against the unemployed, today, is only because of expense.

Do you like this column? Do you have any criticisms, suggestions? Do you have any good questions? Write to Labor's Inquiring Reporter care of Labor Action, 114 West 14 Street. 3rd floor, N.Y.C. All those sending in accepted questions will be mailed free several issues of Labor Action.

Churchill

By SUSAN LAWRENCE

..... In 1895, when Winston Churchill was 21 years old, he was awarded the Spanish Order of Military Merit for his outstanding aid in the suppression of a Cuban rebellion; in 1896, he was in India where he fought against native uprisings in the Himalayas; by 1900, he was fighting against the Boers.

By this time, the Tories recognized him as a valuable servant of the Empire, and it was under their auspices that he was seated in Parliament. He then began to make the kind of speeches that he has made throughout his career-"In spite of every lie uttered or printed, the truth comes to the top, and it is known alike by peoples and rulers that British influence is on the whole healthy and kindly, and makes for the general welfare and happiness of mankind."

Opportunist in his policies, he began to flirt with the Liberals on the basis of their Free Trade program, and he joined them in 1905.

"THE FOUL BABOONNERY **OF BOLSHEVISM**"

After the Russian Revolution, Churchill equipped from surplus Allies war stores the various White Armies, helped them with expert officers and tried to promote an anti-Bolshevik alliance among the border states. He got the Cabinet in 1919 to authorize 28 million pounds credit to the Whites and to contribute materials amounting to 100 million pounds.

"A monster seated on a throne of skulls"-this was Churchill's description of Lenin. He also spoke of "the foul baboonery of Bolshevism which has driven men from the civilization of the 20th century to a condition of barbarism worse than the Stone Age." The mild reformist Socialism of the British Labour Party was to Churchill "the most direct and formidable menace with which, now that German civilization has been crushed, British civilization is faced." When the Lloyd George coalition government collapsed in 1924, Chur-

chill began to feel his way back to the Conservatives. Just as he had supported the Liberals on the single plank of Free Trade, so he supported the Conservatives mainly on the basis of their Anti-Socialist program. Thus since his political baptism in 1899, he had made a complete circle: Conservative, Unionist Free-Trader, Liberal, Coalition Liberal, Liberal Free-Trader, Anti-Socialist, Constitutionalist, and Conservative.

CHURCHILL AND MUSSOLINI

In 1926, Churchill flew to Italy to visit Mussolini, where he was greeted as "the only British statesman who understands the spirit of Fascismo." So open was his admiration for Il Duce that for a long time after, when he rose in the House of Commons, there were shouts of "Mussolini." During the General strike in 1926, Churchill made outspoken attacks on the workers, and also took the job of editing a scab newspaper, called The British Gazette. It was the only paper printed during the strike except for the Trades Union paper. It harped on "the Russian plot behind the strike," "the vicious crimes of the Socialists" and so on.

truth is that Gandhi-ism and all it stands for will sooner or later have to be grappled with and crushed," he said in 1929. "We have no intention of casting away that most truly bright and precious jewel in the crown of the King. The loss of India, would mark and consummate the downfall of our Empire . . . Unless you are prepared to defend your rights and interests in India, you will be stripped of every vestige you possess and expelled with ignominy

from its shores.' A far-sighted imperialist, Churchill quickly recognized the Nazi threat to the British Empire. As early as 1934, he urged a war against Hitler. The appeasers labeled him "an alarmist". Two years ago, Hitler declared in a speech that if Churchill came to power in Britain, Germany "would consider it cause for instantaneous war."

Churchill could not suppress a sneaking admiration for the Fuhrer: "One may dislike Hitler's system and yet admit his patriotic achievement. If our country were defeated, I hope we should find a champion as indomitable to restore our courage and lead us back to our place among nations."

Now that England is losing the war, certain sections of the British population and certainly Churchill himself seem to think that the present Prime Minister is that champion. Unless the British working-class take over the government, the choice ahead is either Hitlerism or Churchillism.

Items From The Boss Press

Reynaud

Paul Reynaud, was premier of France, comes from a middle-class family whose great wealth is derived from a chain of department stores originated in Mexico by grandpapa Revnaud.

In 1918, he was in Siberia, acting as a liaison officer with Kolchak's White Russian Army; by 1937, he was considered the wizard of French finance.

But he didn't bolster up French economy by any magic formula. It was the old army game of taking money from the workers and giving it to armaments.

He was an outspoken opponent of the privileges won by the united efforts of the French workers, and called the 5-day week "a poisoned gift" because it curtailed production. In negotiating with Leon Blum for the abolition of the 40-hour week, he said. "You cannot pursue a policy of expensive social improvements and at the same time expect the country to get prepared for a life and death struggle with a power twice the size of your own in men

and resources." Before and after Munich, he was violently opposed to appeasement and urged for French preparedness with the insistence, if not the bril-

REYNAUD SMASHES 40-HOUR WEEK

To bolster up the toppling financial structure of 1938, a Reynaud decree replaced the 40-hour week, called bitterly by him "the week with two Sundays" with the 45-hour week. In addition, the workers got only 5% more than regular time for overtime, and they were given no opportunity to refuse to do extra work.

The April decrees further stated that no increase in wages was to accompany the rise in prices if the wages for the 45-hour week were sufficient to buy what the wages of the 40-hour week had bought before. Thus 2 to 3 billion dollars was saved to be turned over to munitions. Reynaud urged the French workers not to support the general strike because "the liberty of Europe depended on the production of our war materials and in order to develop them, I demand unanimity in

And now the working men and women of France are being called on to make even greater sacrifices for what M. Reynaud calls "unity" -a unity that means nothing less than the Hitlerization of France.

France."

Carl Friedrich, in the Atlantic Monthly (October 1939) says, "Altogether it is clear that M. Reynaud is not afraid of radical departure from 19th century individualism. It shows that the integrated totalitarian war machine in Germany is forcing France as well as England into adopting similar methods."

In the Wake of FDR's Message to Congress

Few editors show any sense of the

implications of the President's call

transition of the national economy

from a predominantly peacetime to

a predominantly wartime basis, with

all the consequences thereby implied

-increased public spending, in-

creased public debt, increased work-

ing hours, and perhaps increased

commodity prices" (Hartford Cour-

ant). "We must suspend all public

works, all roads and public building

not absolutely essential in them-

selves. We must scrap the WPA in

its present form . . . All Government

money spent for non-defense pro-

jects is in effect taken from defense

projects" (N.Y. Times).

liance of Churchill.

No less startling in its speed than Hitler's Blitzkrieg ("Lightning-War") Free Press). across the Low Countries has been the echoing Donnerkrieg ("Thunder-War") of United States' warmongers. to war. Only occasionally do we read Keynoted in a remarkable speech by that "the message . . . marks the America's No. 1 warmonger, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the boss press of the entire country went to town.

Twelve million men are unemployed. One-third of the nation is ill housed, ill clothed, ill fed. Migrant workers are starving. The youth of the land grow old in the hopeless search for jobs. The plight of fifteen million Negroes gives Hitler pointers on how to treat minorities.

But for FDR what this country needs most is 50,000 new planes, big ones, shiny ones. Four times that day after his speech they played a record of it over the big wavelengths-big ones, shiny ones. The very next day in New York they had a newsreel of it-big ones, shiny ones. And during the next week the capitalist press answered with one voice-big ones, shiny ones.

"Politics Are Out"

politics are out."

The President's message was

In fact, no longer "can it be said to demand a real investigation before voting additional sums" (Detroit realistically that the United States

is . . . neutral" (Washington Post). So why not recognize this de facto state of war? "It is quite probable that the last costly solution . . . would be to declare war on Germany at once" (N.Y. Herald-Tribune). Here is the true meaning of the President's speech at last, but it was given in only two papers-the conservative Republican Herald-Tribune and that sickening organ of the Social Democratic Federation, the brave New Leader.

The national unity the President has been clamoring for has been achieved-at least among one class. We will believe that the mass of American workers and farmers are behind the war drive only when FDR starts campaigning for the Ludlow was referendum.

Workers Party Statement On Burnham Resignation

Sparks in the News

Now that the Roosevelt Administration is in full swing on its great union-busting drive under cover of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act, there is something which should be called to the attention of Attorney-General Jackson. It is that the whole thing is illegal. We refer him to section 6 of the Clayton Act, passed in 1914 by Congress, and to be found on page 730 of U.S. Statutes at Large XXXVIII. It runs as follows:

"Sec. 6. That the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce. Nothing contained in the anti-trust laws shall be construed to forbid the existence and operation of labor, agricultural or horticultural organizations, instituted for the purposes of mutual help, and not having capital stock or conducted for profit, or to forbid or restrain individual members of such organizations from lawfully carrying out the legitimate objects thereof; nor shall such organizations, or the members thereof, be held or construed to be illegal combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade, under the anti-trust laws."

Lest Mr. Jackson miss the nub, we repeat it: "NOR-SHALL SUCH ORGANIZATIONS, OR THE MEMBERS THEREOF, BE HELD OR CONSTRUED TO BE IL-LEGAL COMBINATIONS OR CONSPIRACIES IN RE-STRAINT OF TRADE, UNDER THE ANTI-TRUST LAWS". That seems clear enough. We expect to hear any day now that Mr. Jackson has called off the antitrust suits now pending against unions all over the country!

If he doesn't, what will become of American law and order when the Attorney-General himself violates

.

To celebrate the safe return of Mr. Bache to Wall Street, we reprint a pertinent editorial item that appeared in the New Yorker several weeks ago: It's nice now and then to hear a man speak his mind,

> and we are therefore grateful to Mr. Jules Bache, the banker and director of the Bache Collection. According to a United Press dispatch, Mr. Bache, who is seventyeight and sonless, in a recent address at the annual meeting of a Canadian mining company of which he is president, denounced "professional isolationists" in this country for being "simply after the votes of parents who do not want their sons to go to war," and stated that we should back the Allies "if for no other reason than that of good business." This is a forthright remark, and should be widely broadcast. Mothers reluctant to take a chance on having their sons killed or maimed for some remote ideological or spiritual reason will surely change their tune when they realize that the boys are really fighting for the Ann Arbor Railroad Company, the American Indemnity Company, the Cuba Distilling Company, the Empire Trust Company, the New Amsterdam Casualty Company, the New River Collieries Company, the U.S. Industrial Alcohol Company, the Tennessee Corporation, the Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company, the Chrysler Corporation,

> the Dome Mines Company, the Motor Products Corpora-

tion, Julius Kayser & Co., the Tennessee Copper &

Chemical Corporation, and the Interborough Rapid

Transit Company, of all of which Mr. Bache is a director

or trustee. If this doesn't bring the obstructionist par-

ents of America to their senses, and their boys to at-

tention, they might bear in mind that in the absence of

Page 3 FUEHRERS OF THE GREAT "DEMOCRACIES"

1771

Jules S. Bache, elderly head of the big Wall Street firm bearing his name, has just returned from South America bearing glad tidings of "a considerable demand" for American capital down there. "The returns," he told reporters happily, "seem to be ample."

"good business" it may prove difficult for Mr. Bache to keep up his dues in the New York, Lotos, Bankers, Century Country, Pilgrims, Economic, City Midday, Hudson River Country, Oakland Golf, Sands Point, Bath and Tennis, and Seminole Golf Clubs in this state and Florida. It will be an ugly day for the peacemongers when Mr. Bache gets posted at Sands Point.

George Scalise--Racketeer

By JAMES SCARDEVILLE

On April 22, 1940, George Scalise, former president of the Building Service Employees International Union, was arrested and subsequently indicted for extorting \$100,000 from New York hotel and building operators.

His forthcoming trial will undoubtedly see much evidence to back the already strong circumstantial evidence against him. His defense is not at all strengthened by the fact that when arrested on a Sunday, Scalise was able to raise \$30,000 in cash. There is only one class of citizen who keeps such a sum of cash, on hand.

Scalise's arrest after four months of investigation by the New York District Attorney's office was the result of exposures published in the N.Y. World Telegram by Westbrook Pegler. Although Pegler did not accuse Scalise of the crime for which he was indicted, he did accuse him of practically everything else.

PEGLERIZED

Beginning in January, Pegler devoted a dozen or more columns to Scalise in particular and to racketeering in the American Federation of Labor in general. Several columns, in the form of open letters to William Green, characterized the entire AFL as being one vast racket. (Mr. Pegler's aims will be discussed later) Following his arrest Scalise, submitted his resignation for the second time to the union executive board. His first offer to resign submitted in January as a result of the articles by Pegler was rejected with a resolution which white-washed Scalise. However, Scalise discovered that the executive board had suspended him before his second resignation was considered.

On May 6, 1940, the convention of the Building Service Union lifted the suspension of Scalise long enough to accept his resignation. So ended the trade union career of a vicious criminal.

Scalise's life of crime started 27 years ago when together with another young thug, he served 41/2 years in Atlanta for forcing a young girl into prostitution. The details of this crime were so revolting as to cause the rejection of his recent application for presidential pardon. Upon his release he apparently worked

for a few years. But he soon decided that his talents deserved greater rewards. Accordingly he hired out as bodyguard to the late Frankie Yale, murdered Brooklyn mob chief. Thereafter he went to Chicago, where as a member of Capone's mob, he organized a laundry driver's "union" which was strictly a racket. In 1932 he was hired by the late Jerry Horan who was then president of the Building Service Union. He was appointed Eastern representative of the union in 1934, and Fifth Vice-President in 1935. Finally, in 1937, on the death of Jerry Horan, he became president on the vote of the executive board of the union. It will be seen that Scalise be-

came president of the BSEIU without a vote by the membership. The conditions which made this possible go back to 1920. In that year the Building Trade and the Building Service unions began to hire gangsters in order to protect themselves from other gangsters hired by the bosses as strikebreakers.

For a time this system seemed to work to the advantage of the unions. By the use of gang terror the unions succeeded in securing contracts which called for higher wages and better conditions. Some of these gains still remain.

There was a price for these gains and the gangsters soon presented the bill. The price was control of the unions. The method of collection was horrible. Honest trade-unionists, both rank and file and officers, were slugged and murdered. In the Building Service Employees International Union it was Jerry Horan, a Capone mobster, who instituted the terror. Horan abolished even the semblance of trade-union democracy maintained by the union bureaucrats who had preceded him. Membership meetings were abolished. Terror was visited upon rank and filers who were charged with no more than being "wise guys" and of "shooting off

their mouth". By 1932, the year Scalise entered the BSEIU, gang-rule was already firmly in the saddle. Although membership meetings were held, they were more like plebiscites than trade-union meetings. As in a plebiscite all opposition was "pacified" beforehand. And just to make sure, armed gangsters patrolled the aisles of the meeting-hall with their guns prominently displayed.

It wasn't until 1937, the year Scalise became president, that he began really to make a "good thing" out of the union. The job carried with it a salary of \$20,000 a year and an unlimited expense account. By 1940 the international union had an income of about \$400,000 a year! It is certain that the major part of this sum went into Scalise's pockets.

The money so obtained was spent on \$20 a day hotel rooms, the most expensive clothes, airplane trips to Havana (in company with "Little Augie" Pisano, the notorious strikebreaker and gangster) and last, but not least, a palatial country home, which he bought and remodeled at a cost of \$55,000.

CHARGE AND COUNTER-CHARGE We come now to the dog-fight in

which are involved, Westbrook Pegler, William Green and George Scalise.

A curious thing about this affair is that all of the charges and countercharges are more or less true. Pegler says Scalise is a gangster. Scalise says Pegler is a labor-baiter. Pegler says Green works with gangsters. Green says Pegler is a tool of the bosses.

They are all guilty as charged. Scalise is certainly a gangster. Green has certainly played ball with and

Churchill has always violently opposed any concessions to India. "The

covered up gangsters. And Pegler serves, and will no doubt continue to serve, the bosses.

It may or may not be true, as charged by William Green, that Pegler is paid by certain interests to smear the unions, but he could not do a better job if he were paid for that purpose.

Pegler charges that the entire BSEIU is a racket. This is false. Mr. Pegler is advised to go over the files of any New York newspaper for March, 1936 and read about the great building service strike in New York City. (Pegler was in Europe at the time).

He will read about building maintenance men, union members, who walked out before their building was officially struck: about non-union men walking out without being contacted at all by union organizers; about strikers jamming into meetinghalls 6,000 strong.

There were gangsters involved in the strike, to be sure-but they were supplied by Pearl Bergoff to break the strike. Conservative estimates place the amount of valuables stolen from apartments by strike-breaking gangsters at well over \$1,000,000. Mr. Pegler claims that the rank and file of the American Federation of Labor unions which are under gangster control, have his entire sympathy. Yet he proposes to deliver them from gang-rule by having the government take over the unions

as in Nazi Germany. The problem of gangsterism in the unions is a serious one. Its solution does not lie in any of the remedies proposed by Mr. Pegler. It, was not necessary for the unions to hire gangsters in the first place. Workers, organized into union defense guards, would have served the purpose. These same Workers' Defense guards, working with a rank and file opposition, can also rid the unions of gangster control.

sound and admirable," says the Washington Star. Not only that, but "clear-cut, decisive and well-reasoned" (Atlantic Constitution). "The soundness of the national defense program" (Chattanooga Times) places it "above partisanship" (Chicago Daily News); it "is not political" but "essential" (Dallas News). "In times like these," the Kansas City Star agrees, "quibbling and

"The smug and shallow complacency about American invulnerability" (St. Paul Pioneer Press) has at last been shaken. The "commendable energy, dispatch, and foresight" of Roosevelt (Philadelphia Inquirer) has the public's "general approval" (Chicago Tribune), its "quick approval" (Rochester Democrat and Chronicle), its "overwhelming . . . approval" (Denver Post). Truly, "President Roosevelt has the nation solidly behind him" (St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

"Guns Do The Talking"

This "starkly realistic program" (Louisville Courier-Journal) "should be provided for by Congress immediately" (New Orleans Times-Picayune). After all, "our future security hinges on 'an Allied victory" (Boise Idaho Statesman).

Definitely, "all are agreed that we must prepare" (N.Y. Post), that we must end the "folly of unpreparedness which now has England desperate and fearful" (N.Y. Journal and American) - which can mean only that we "need a much bigger and a much better army than we now have" (N.Y. Daily News), "The recommendations are for a minimum, not a maximum, of essential requirements" (Kansas City Star). There has been too much "talk . . ., talk . ., talk . . . Men, guns, ships, planes-these now do the talking" (N.Y. Sun). And now that the era of action has begun, we sense "an immediate instinctive, unmistakable reaction of relief, and even gratitude" among the people (Boston Herald).

No Back-Talks

Is there then no dissenting voice in this chorus of blood? No. there is none. The only hint of criticism comes in the form of more or less polite inquiries as to what happened to the nine billion dollars spent or spending. "Yet the experts now tell us that our defenses are in a dangerously depleted conidtion" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette). "On the record of past performances, Congress will do well

Following consideration of a statement by James Burnham announcing his break with the socialist movement and his desire to sever all relations with the Workers Party, the National Political Committee of the Party, at its last meeting, accepted the resignation, effective immediately.

The Burnham statement makes it clear that the author has lost all confidence in the struggle against the war and for socialism. In his rejection of Marxism, and the Workers Party, a Marxist organization, he . offers no alternative program for the struggle against capitalism and the war.

"Socialism would be a good thing if it can be achieved" but the next probable stage, he declares, is a new system of exploitation, "managerial society". What should be done today? What should the mass of working people do with regard to Roosevelt's drive to drag the U.S. into the war? with regard to unemployment? fascism? and this newly discovered "managerial society"? Burnham gives no answer save his bersonal return to the ivory tower. And therefore no avowals on his part, as contained in his statement,

of agreement with the Workers Party position of opposition to both warring camps and support to the "third camp" of working class and

Akron Cops Slug Rubber Pickets

AKRON, Ohio-Tension mounted in the six week strike involving nearly 900 workers at the General Tire & Rubber Co. here, following a week of unexampled police brutality against pickets.

The ruthless slugging of at least one picket every day last week before the eyes of the whole picket line raised workers' tempers to a boiling point.

Besides, the use of scabs-for the first time in recent Akron industrial history-to maintain a skeleton working force in the plant aggravated the situation.

Although union sympathizers kept a constant series of activities going against the scabs, Akron labor has not yet been mobilized in a great show of strength that would force closing down of the plant;

colonial revolutions in the belligerent countries, can conceal the fact that he has deserted the struggle for this program-the struggle for socialism.

Today the difficulties of this struggle have increased a thousand-fold. Confidence in the awakening and the action of the forces of the "third camp"-the masses of the peoplecourage, self-sacrifice, devotion to this great cause, are now more essential than ever. Burnahm lacks these necessary qualities and therefore chooses to be an observer and "critic" divorced from the contending camps. But this position can be maintained for only the briefest period of time, at best.

Burnham's attacks on Marxism are only a rehash of old time-worn arguments which are not a whit more valid when put forward by him, than when they were presented by Max Eastman and others. The reactionary nature of these criticisms was already exposed in the essay, "Intellectuals in Retreat", which Burnham wrote in collaboration with Max Shachtman against such people and their views. (See the New Interantional, January 1939).

For its part, the Workers Party has complete confidence in the program of Marxism, in the victory of the working class struggle against the war and for socialism.

Inexperienced and weak-kneed officials of the United Rubber Workers of America, ignoring all the brilliant lessons of past Akron strikes, flounder about, providing a very inadequate leadership to the militant strikers.

The strike, which began over accumulated grievances and the refusal of management even to discuss them, is a vital test of strength between the CIO and rubber barons. Since the company was well stocked with a supply of tires, and a small force is keeping the plant in semi-operation it has been in no hurry to meet with the union committee.

However, despite the various setbacks and lack of militant leadership, union ranks remain strong and will bring partial victory for the workers.

Editorials

Look to Wall Street The Trades Unions For "Fifth Column" **Against U.S. Labor!**

(Continued from page 1)

Who is pressing to cut down free speech and civil liberties?

Who is behind the campaign to repeal the Walsh-Healey Act, the Wagner Act and all other laws which protect labor's rights?

Who wants to raise the billions now being appropriated for national defense by sales taxes, by wage cuts and relief cuts?

Is it the "reds"? Is it the militant organized workers? Or is it the Sixty Families?

Krupp, Thyssen and other German bankers and industrialists financed Hitler's rise to power in order to prepare Germany, by totalitarian means, for the present struggle for world mastery with their imperialist rival, the British Empire.

U.S. Steel, General Motors, DuPont, National City Bank, Anaconda Copper, Ford, Bethlehem Steel, J. P. Morgan & Co., Guaranty Trust, and the two or three hundred other great corporations and banks which rule America today-these are even now preparing to crush the American workingclass and turn this country into a totalitarian war camp to fight in the future against the rival imperialist gangsters of Nazi Germany.

Roosevelt's radio speech of last Monday is a big step forward in this campaign.

Workers of America! This is not the way to stop Hitler! The Fifth Column against democracy has its headquarters in Wall Street. The first task in the struggle to preserve and extend American democracy is to settle acccounts with this, the real Fifth Column. Then we can stop Hitler without going totalitarian ourselves.

THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME!

The Murder Plot **Against Trotsky**

The armed attack on Leon Trotsky and his family, and the kidnapping and probable murder of his secretary-guard, has all the earmarks of the dastardly work of Stalin's GPU.

Some alarming facts about the Amer-

ican trade union movement have been coming to light recently.

The National Labor Relations Board has just reported that for the guarter ending March 31, employee elections conducted by it showed a new all-time high record in votes cast against all unions (33%) and also in votes cast for "independent" unions. (Many of these "independents" are disguised company unions.)

A recent Fortune magazine survey showed that 59% of those answering thought the Government should regulate unions. More than that, 67% of the factory workers polled were in favor of such Governmental regulation-as against only 62% of the business executives! While these figures must be taken with a grain of salt, they are nevertheless startling.

When one out of every three workers votes against any union at all, and when two out of every three workers is in favor of Government regulation of unionssomething is rotten somewhere.

The Scalise scandal, described in an article elsewhere in this issue, is one example of what's wrong. There are plenty of other things wrong-the AFL-CIO split in the movement, the bureaucratic dry rot we analyzed last week in the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, the open preparations of the top labor officialdom to enter the Roosevelt war camp.

Unless the rank-and-file militants in the unions get together and do a good job of housecleaning, the great mass of workers will continue along the road they are now on. That is, either complete rejection of all union organization, or else calling in the Government to do the housecleaning job the unions themeslves aren't doing. The first great step towards a totalitarian America will be Government "regulation" of the trade unions.

Labor and War

In a recent blast against the Roosevelt administration, Lewis boomed that "Labor wants no part of war." Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the speaker. For the indications are many that a few crumbs tossed in the direction of the CIO would bring Lewis over to full support of Roosevelt's war drive.

Let us examine a few facts. Army

LABOR ACTION

East Indies--A Tender Morsel For the Imperialist Appetite

By B. J. WIDICK

What tragic irony that it took a Nazi blitzkrieg on Holland to focus world attention on a problem that is 400 years old: the fate of the Dutch East Indies. Once it was Portugal and Holland fighting over the fabulous riches of these islands while the Indonesians struggled for freedom from foreign domination. Today, England, France, America and Japan maneuver for control while 61,000,000 suppressed people want independence.

Situated between the continents of Asia and Australia, the group of islands known as the East Indies is almost as large as the United States. Here is some of the world's most fertile land, and huge rubber and tin resources. For two centuries great fortunes were made through the notorious Dutch East Indies Co. When the Dutch government took away from the company its absolute right over the colonies a record was kept of the take. Under the regime of Baron van den Bosen, a governorgeneral, the sum of 166,000,000 pounds sterling (\$830,000,000) was paid from 1830 to 1839 in forced tribute by the natives to the government.

THOSE WHO TOIL -AND THOSE WHO PROFIT

All things in the Dutch East Indies are divided into two categories: European and native. There are European courts of law for Europeans (i.e. whites) and native "justice" for the natives. Agriculture of the 5,000,-000 fertile acres of land is sliced in half. To work the plantations for profit is a right reserved primarily to Europeans with a small scattering of native aristocrats carefully cultivated by the government.

To till the soil for food. This is granted the natives. Of course, all the best lands are owned by the Dutch government which leases them to capitalists on a 75 year basis. The Dupont dynasty, for example, owns 132,000 acres of rubber plantations valued at \$18,000,000 and bringing a profit of \$40,000,000 in the last decade. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. has holdings as large. Export business is a monopoly of the "foreigners," while retail trade is largely in the hands of Indonesians. Those who profit and those who toil is another way of dividing society in the East Indies.

RUBBER - AND BLOOD

A new chapter in the dark history of the Dutch East Indies began when transplanting of the Hevea Brasileanis tree proved successful early in the 20th century. Rubber, the indispensable material of a machine age, found a new fatherland. Under the ideal climate and the excellent soil

AUSTRALIA

"Melbourne: The New South Wales coal miners executive decided today to continue the union's strike and authorized the Australasian Council of Trade Unions to press efforts for a settlement . . . Having regard for the grave new turn in the European war, Prime Minister R. G. Menzies said he hoped the strikers would resume their part in a maximum national effort." - N.Y. Times, May 11.

Nevertheless, employers fought over-ruled the Volksraad and decreed against establishing hospitals. (It costs money.)

Chinese coolies imported by the thousands died by the thousands. So did the laborers shipped in from India. The terrible story is well told by Howard Wolf in his book, Rubber-A Story of Glory and Greed. Rubber brought fabulous wealth to the Dutch rulers. It brought more misery to the natives. So, imported labor was used to prevent widespread discontent. Kanganies, or "recruiters of young pigs," as the Chinese called them, shipped hundreds of thousands of Chinese or Tamils from Southeast India to work on the rubber plantations. The plantation owner paid from \$20 to \$34 a head. The indentured coolie was supposed to pay back \$10 of this as transportation money. His pay, however, was 21/2 cents a day and food. Trapped by the impossible demand for repayment, the rubber plantation workbecame a virtual slave. er

THE SPEED-UP COMES

In recent years, indentured labor or slavery has been cut down somewhat. But a new form of exploitation has arisen. Before 1927 yield per employee on a plantation was never over 1,000 pounds. Introducing speed-up methods-the rubber industry is notorious for this-production was increased to over 2,300 pounds per man in 1933. Combined with wage cuts and terrible living conditions this situation brought about a strike affecting nearly 500,-000 plantation workers two years ago

Rubber also brought the rise of a new class in the Dutch East Indies. the native producer. Although confined to small holdings, the natives could produce almost twice the present supply of crude rubber obtained from the islands. This development hurt the profit of Dutch plantation owners. So a scheme was worked out by British and Dutch interests to restrict the growth of rubber. Part of it called for cutting down the production of native holders. A heavy export tax on native producers only was proposed by the Dutch governorgeneral in 1934. The Volksraad, or People's Council in the East Indies, objected furiously. It meant that thousands of native producers would be driven out of work, facing only starvation. The whole meaning of Dutch "home rule" government for the colonies became clear at that moment when the governor-general

Two Letters-

While he headed the French government. Daladier received dramatically contrasting letters, from two well-known French writers. One came from Romain Rolland, internationally famous novelist, outspoken opponent of the first world war, later an eminent Stalinist fellow-traveler, and now-a French patriot. This letter was widely printed in the world press. The second, which we recently received by mail and which has not yet appeared in print, came from Henry Jeanson, widely known abroad for his scenarios and his movie criticisms. Our informant adds that a military tribunal has sentenced Jeanson to five years imprisonment.

the law into effect.

FREEDOM FOR THE ISLANDS!

It is small wonder that a prominent crude rubber brokerage firm in Akron, Ohio recently declared when asked about the fate of the Dutch East Indies once Hitler took Holland-that rubber circles feared the Dutch East Indies would declare their freedom. This is the main reason why French marines landed at strategic port of the Dutch East Indies, and a flotilla of British destroyers anchored nearby.

Of course Britain, France and America want to keep this rich colonial plum away from Japan. Rubber and tin are vital war materials. And Japan, too, would like to grab this area which would bolster a weakening economy. The diplomats of these four imperialist nations are engaged in bickering and bartering for a share in the loot. The American fleet stands at battle station near Hawaii to remind Japan and the other nations that Roosevelt is going to have his say in the matter. However, all four are watching something else very closely, a move of the native people for freedom from domination. On this, the Big Four are agreed: No freedom for the Indies. It would mean freedom for the British East Indies and a sharpening struggle in Indo-China, and India. It would be a victory for the Third Camp, the camp of the oppressed peoples and the workers throughout the world. It would be a heavy blow to both camps of imperialist war makers. That is why we raise the slogan of "Freedom for the Dutch East Indies!" It is their right to have self-rule, to join other colonial people in a struggle for world emancipation from war and slavery.

ANOTHER SACRIFICE TO THE WAR-MONGERS

CHICAGO, May 26-The doctors said she was affected by a fit of depression, from worrying about this country going to war. Well, who wouldn't be? But Mrs. Catherine Kelly lost control of herself. She didn't want her five-year old son, John, to grow up to be a soldier, so yesterday she killed him, with a baseball bat.

"Involutional depression" was the doctors' verdict. War fright is simpler.

JEANSON TO DALADIER

in 1789, that meant something. What

is left of your 'Republic'? The word.

The word which disguises the real

object, the word which is only a

You intone them, those shopworn

phrases-'democracy', 'freedom', 'the

Republic'-without even taking the

trouble to give them a contempor-

ary ring. And you expect us to be-

"To defend liberties by war,' writes

Go your own way, Daladier. I

will not fight for those corpses!

wornout sob-sister.

lieve in these phantoms?

Giono, 'is to abolish them.'

When they spoke of the Republic

Indictment of **Teamsters Is Blow** at Organized Labor

The government at Washington got in another blow at the organized labor movement last week when a Federal jury in New York brought in a verdict of guilty against 26 members of Local 807. International Brotherhood of Teamsters. These workers were convicted under the Sherman anti-trust act and the anti-racketeering act. The jury took nearly 30 hours to reach a verdict.

The 26 teamsters and the local were charged with interfering with interstate commerce and racketeering. This was the first conviction under the anti-trust law and the first indictment and conviction of a union under the anti-racketeering act. The previous attempt of the Roosevelt administration to use the Sherman anti-trust act against a labor union failed at the teamsters trial earlier in the month in Washington. The court in that case directed a verdict of not guilty. without expressing an opinion on the validity of anti-trust liability of labor unions.

The federal prosecutor in New York, John T. Cahill, claimed that members of Local 807 and the local were interfering with interstate commerce and charging out-of-town companies for the privilége of doing business in New York. The government also claimed that the teamsters were engaged in racketeering. Cahill also injected the current patriotic note and attempted to make it appear that the local and its members were internal enemies of the United States.

It was demonstrated that the whole case arose out of legitimate efforts on the part of the teamsters to keep up wage standards in New York. These standards were threatened by overthe-road companies that were not organized and which paid lower wages than the New York scale. Local 807 insisted on having one of its members work at unloading all over-the-road trucks in New York City. The men were to be paid \$8.41 to \$9.42 a day for this work. These wages were to be paid by the companies owning the trucks.

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If the union permits these convictions to stand they will become a club in the hands of the government against all unions that put up a fight to win higher wages and better working conditions. Any successful and necessary union procedure that has proven beneficial to the union can be labelled "racketeering" by any government prosecutor. In all cases where interstate commerce is involved, employers can go to court, claim interference and have the workers rushed off to jail. The conviction of the teamsters has already demonstrated this.

Senate Reactionaries Tack Anti-Labor Amendments Onto La Follette Liberties Bill

The La Follette Civil Liberties Bill was saddled with amendments that threaten to wipe out some of labor's most fundamental rights and then carried through the Senate on the crest of the reactionary wave unloosed by the national defense hysteria.

The most important of the anti-labor amendments is one that forbids the employment of any Nazi or Communist in any industry engaged in interstate commerce. This provision makes it applicable to all but small local industries. Reports do not indicate that any definition of a "Communist" or a "Nazi" is contained in the bill. This makes it possible for an employer to discharge any worker whom he accuses of being a "Communist" or "Nazi". Workers who complain about wage cuts or speed ups can be easily disposed of by this method. The effectiveness of the Wagner Labor Relations Law is all but destroyed if an employer can fire union men on the charge of "Communism".

For the last twelve years the hirelings of the Kremlin have hounded and sought to murder the great revolutionary socialist leader and his close co-workers. For his relentless struggle against the Stalinist destroyers of the Russian Revolution he was exiled to Siberia; then deported to Turkey; then to France, Norway, and finally Mexico. Two of his secretaries were murdered by Stalin's gangsters. His two sons and two daughters were directly killed by them or driven to their death by constant persecution.

In Mexico, the Communist Party has been carrying on a vicious drive for the deportation of Trotsky. In the past months GPU agents have been sent into Mexico for "special" work. The recent plot to murder Trotsky, his wife and his young grandson came on the heels of these campaigns.

The Stalinist drive has been joined by two other reactionary Mexican organizations, the National Association and the National Youth Confederation, who the other day called for the expulsion of Trotsky from the country.

We are happy to report that President Cardenas has assured the Workers Party that Trotsky will be able to stay as long as he desires, and will be given the necessary protection from attack.

However, it is clear that the GPU will make further attempts at the lives of Trotsky and his family; and in view of the impending presidential elections, their security in that country is in danger. If the gentlemen in Washington, who make fine-sounding speeches about democracy, would offer the right of asylum to Trotsky, the United States would be a safer place of haven for him.

The Workers Party has taken, and plans to undertake, actions to help assure the safety of the great leader of the Russian Revolution. It is necessary that our readers directly, and through labor organizations, condemn the murderous plot against Trotsky, commend the Cardenas government for granting Trotsky the democratic right of asylum, and urge that it increase protective measures for his security.

chieftains have loosed a blitzkrieg against unions standards, and union organization. To please shipyard builders, and to further their own war designs, army spokesmen have, for example, attacked the Walsh-Healy Act which sets wage and hour minimums for industries working on government contracts. So too, the industrialists (in steel, auto, rubber, etc.) have united in an effort to destroy the gains made by the CIO and other labor unions under the slogan of "Production for Defense, All Must Sacrifice." That is to say, while the industrialists collect the profits of a war boom, labor is to sacrifice its union wages, its union hours-and later,

its life. Now, Lewis knows this. So do Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray, CIO vicepresidents, who control the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Steel Workers Organizing Committee unions respectively. By a serious fight against Roosevelt's war plans, these union leaders would not only save labor's gains, but also spike the entire war drive.

Instead, they ask a very small price for turning the workers over to the war machine. Lewis and the other labor bureaucrats will be satisfied if they are granted a tiny voice on the War Board that Roosevelt proposes to create to replace the Morgan-dominated War Industries Board which was disbanded shortly after its organization last year under AFL and CIO criticism. A small voice on a big committee to run the United States in wartime-what a cheap price for selling out America's workers!

Lewis will now and then storm against employer chiselling, and so forth. But 'the fact remains that the labor bureaucracy will probably be part and parcel of the war machine. Proof of this was furnished by a significant incident at the SWOC convention, recently concluded. An antiwar resolution was passed, whereupon a delegate rose to inquire how this affected. the delegates from Canada, which is already at war, and which has just passed a law outlawing strikes as acts of treason.

"They will support the government," Murray replied.

of the East Indies, rubber trees bloomed in the millions. Over 98% of the world's rubber supply comes from the Far East. Of this, about 640,000 tons, or roughly 37% is exported from the Dutch East Indies. New millionaires in Holland rose by the hundreds from the profits of this venture.

Profits in crude rubber come from large scale production, from huge plantations. This means clearing the jungle. It brings malaria. And death. In one province, the death rate rose from 85 per thousand people in 1909 to 195 per 1000 in 1911, while the jungles were being chopped down. Elsewhere the story was the same.

L. A. Banquet **Mixes Business** With Pleasure

LOS ANGELES, May 19-Business and pleasure were mixed in big, bountiful quantities here last night at a banquet for members and friends of the Workers Party.

Some sixty-five people took part in the evening's program which included festive dining, drinking and singing, as well as serious talks on the third camp-the camp of workers all over the world-against the war.

Enthusiasm showed itself all during the evening, for business as well as for pleasure. The urgent appeal for funds received a heart-warming reply. In cash and pledges just over a hundred dollars was raised. This includes seventy-five dollars, Los Angeles' total quota, for launching LABOR ACTION. The remainder will be used to initiate a "Blitzkrieg Anti-war Campaign" in this area. After the banquet everyone adjourned to the Party Headquarters to round out the evening with music and dancing.

ROLLAND TO DALADIER

In these decisive days, when the French Republic is rising to bar Nazi tyranny from overrunning Europe, please allow a veteran fighter for peace to express his devotion to the cause.

In a few days it will be the anniversary of the Battle of Valmy. At that time, Goethe said of the French frontier: 'Here begins a country of liberty'. Liberty is the most precious treasure of humanity. May humanity as a whole help us to save it. Permit me, my Premier, to again express my loyalty to those democratic liberties of France now in

Stalin's Agents in New Murder Attempt on Leon Trotsky

(Continued from page 1)

try, the Workers Party sent a telegram to President Cardenas of Mexico, denouncing the crime and requesting that he continue to grant Trotsky political asylum. The President replied, "Government has ordered measures for the necessary protection of Citizen Trotsky. He can stay in the country as long as he desires."

The following telegram was also sent by the Workers Party to Trotsky himself:

"ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE, WORKERS PARTY, AND TWO HUNDRED NEW YORK MEMBERS ASSEMBLED IN MEET-ING, WE EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH YOU AND GREAT RELIEF AT ESCAPE OF NATALIA. YOUR-SELF FROM DASTARDLY PLOT AND ATTACK OF GPU. NATION-

I am interested -

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LA FOLLETTE VOTE "AYE"

The La Follette bill was the outgrowth of a three year investigation conducted by a special Senate Committee on Civil Liberties headed by La Follette. After hearings on violations of civil liberties in various parts of the country, La Follette, together with Senator Thomas, introduced their bill to prohibit "oppressive prac-tices" by employers against trade unions.

The bill sought to outlaw the use of labor spies, strike breakers, and the possession of fire arms by private industrialists.

The reactionaries in the Senate carried out a long filibustering campaign against the bill by making innumerable amendments and speaking for hours on each, and then moving to send the bill back to committee. One of the arguments used by Senator Taft, Republican presidential candidate, in opposing the bill's provisions against privately-owned arms was that this would leave the industry without defense against parachute troops!

When the reactionary sentiment in the country became strong enough, the anti-labor champions tagged on their reactionary amendments and carried the bill. La Follette first opposed the amendments but then voted for the bill as a whole. His name therefore becomes attached to one of the most anti-labor wills to pass the Senate.

The bill now goes to the House for final approval. Unless the AFL and CIO organize a strong opposition, this reactionary bill will become law.

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NAS GOVERNMENT DENOUNCING GPU PLOT AND CALLING FOR GREATER VIGILANCE IN YOUR DEFENCE. OUR PARTY ENDEAV-ORING TO AROUSE FULLEST SUPPORT FOR YOU. "REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS.

"MAX SHACHTMAN. National Secretary'

AL COMMITTEE WIRED CARDE-

HENDERSONISMS

"If Hitler had pursued a fair and honest and constructive policy thereafter (Munich) in Central and Eastern Europe, Great Britain was prepared to be disinterested and helpful."

> -from FAILURE OF A MIS-SION, by Sir Neville Henderson, late British Ambassador at Berlin.