Workers! This Is Not Our War! It Is a War for Boss Profits! Join Hands in Independent Labor Action Against the War!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 23, 1940

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY, SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

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Labor's Candidate

FDR and Willkie

Why France Fell ...

CONSCRIPTION IS A HERALD OF WAR! **By MAX SHACHTMAN** The Murder of Leon Trotsky

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Did Jacques Mornard, alias Frank Jackson, murder Leon Trotsky on his own hook, as a purely personal act; as he affirms, or was he acting as an agent under instructions of the GPU, which he denies

Last week, we showed that Jackson's explanation of his crime as a personal act, could only be considered false and preposterous. We showed that since he was not a suspect but a selfconfessed assassin, caught red-handed in the criminal

act, he could not have any reason for giving the authorities a lying and contradictory account of his life, of his comings and goings, save that of covering up somebody else-either his accomplices or his masters in the crime.

This week, we shall indicate why an intelligent person, examining the singular kind of lies Jackson tells, the particular text of his falsehoods, must come to the only possible conclusion:

Because of some still undisclosed hold that it has upon him, Jackson is covering up the real author of the assassination, the Stalinist GPU.

Of A Kind With the Moscow "Confessions"

FIRST: The letter written by Jackson to be found on his person in the event that he was apprehended after the premeditated crime had been committed. Goldman, Trotsky's attorney, is perfectly right in saying that the GPU made its greatest blunder in dictating this letter. The blunder is simply this: To read the letter, calculated to throw the reader off the tracks of the GPU, is enough to show unmistakably who are its real authors. An analysis of the letter has already been made in the columns of Labor Ac-

This is the second and concluding article in a series of two by Max Shachtman, American editor of Leon Trotsky's selected works, who went to Mexico on the news of Trotsky's death as a representative of the Workers Party to pay the Party's respects to the martyred revolutionist. While there, he interviewed Sylvia Ageloff, and was present at several of the interrogations of Frank Jackson, confessed slaver. LABOR ACTION will continue, in each of its issues, to make known the latest facts of the trial.

tion. It is enough here to recall to the reader its principal characteristics.

It is written in the distinctive police-style of the "confessions" dictated to the defendants in the Moscow Trials. It harps again on the old discredited theme of Trotsky's "plans" to send envoys to the Soviet Union for the purpose of committing acts of sabotage and assassination. It reiterates the repugnantly familiar business about the signator's "disillusionment" with Trot-

sky. Put it alongside the Moscow "confessions" and the similarity, in some places the identity of whole passages is startling. In point of fact, of course, there is nothing startling about it. The GPU does not have many variations in the style in which it is accustomed to write.

The Belgian Consul Disputes Jackson's Claims

SECOND: Jackson, in his relations with Sylvia and with other members of the Fourth International on both continents, and in his statements to the Mexican authorities, gave himself a very elaborate and detailed identity. If nobody took the trouble to look more closely into his story-and before the assassination there seemed to be no particular reason why anyone should do so, especially in view of the fact that he laid claim to no more responsible relationship towards the movement than that of a casual sympathizer-it sounded fairly plausible. His conduct ordinarily coincided with the life-story he gave.

But-Walther Loridan, secretary and interim charge d'affaires of the Belgian legation in Mexico City, and his colleaue, M. Vgrthaliti, sent a memorandum to (Continued on page 4)

Leviton Workers Say They've Had Enough

Go Out In Solid Strike Against Inhuman Plant Conditions

By Presidential decree, the great national lottery will be inaugurated on October 16. The stakes are high-the winners will get a uniform, a gun, and a year's training in imperialist murder. On October 16 every man between the age of 21 and 35 will be compelled by Congressional action and Presidential signature to register name, age and address with a Local Draft Board. In Washington, a national lottery will be held to determine which of you are to get "selective service" first-service that has been selected for you by people who have no class right to act for you.

You may not want to serve. You may have your own ideas about this war, that it isn't a war for democracy, but - like the last World War - a war for profits. You may feel that you are just healthy enough to want to spend your time living, not grooming yourself for death. It won't help you much.

They'll hear your case if you don't want to serve. But unless you're a member of a religious

-THE WORLD AT WAR -In an Imperialist World - -Sacrifice Is Meant Only for the Poor, Both in War and Peace

By MAX STERLING

Although the Nazi invasion of the British Isles is still to be attempted, the people of London are continuing to experience the nightmare of unceasing Nazi bombardment.

The German air force claims that within the past two weeks they unloaded about 5,000,000 pounds of oombs on London. The special victims of the Nazi attacks have been the impoverished workers of the East End. The air attacks have left them without even their vermin ridden hovels to return to. These miserable inhabitants of London's infamous slums, whom Jack London called the people of the abyss, are

These Birds Are Free to Serve

Senator Barkley, Majority leader of the Senate, declared during a reconsideration of the Burke-Wadsworth Military service bill, "I want to see men selected without regard to their economic status or class and solely on the basis of their qualifications and freedom from other obligations."

Solely on the basis of their freedom from "other obligations," we suggest to the Conscription authorities that they draft Mr. Tommy Manvill, millionaire playboy; Mr. Vincent

300.000 workers were added to the ranks of the unemployed. Of 60,000 that were previously employed in the automobile industry only 5% were re-employed. So bad is the situation that Andre Grisoni. President of the Seine Department Mayors Union, revealed that there is great unrest among the workers, and stated that it would be disastrous if Germany released the French war prisoners as they would only add to the multitudes already unemployed. For these reasons, the French bour-

geoisie is looking with increasing favor upon the political ambitions of Jacques Doriot the fascist leader of the French Popular Party who, as the former Communist Mayor of Saint Denis, enjoys considerable popularity and is regarded as the strong man capable of coping with any serious outbreaks among the workers.

COMPLETING A CYCLE

The bankrupt French bourgeoisie has added to its list of scapegoats Leon Blum who now joins such celebrities as Reynaud, Daladier, Mandel and Gamelin who are being held for trial for their share in bringing France to ruin. Leon Blum is now drinking his full from the bitter cup of ingratitude. In reality French capitalism owes him a great deal. for he more than any one else saved that rotten social syste in the days Astor, socialite and yachtsman; the when the French working class was Messrs. Vanderbilt, father and son, on the high road to revolution and yachtsman and turfman respectivewere diverted by him into the morass ly; and every other son-of-a-parasite. of the bourgeois Popular Front. To complete the cycle of reaction the cowardly Vichy government is handing over hundreds of the best anti-fascist fighters who were interned in France to the Spanish fascist executioners. Thus they bring to a close the policy of opposition to the Spanish Revolution initiated by Leon Blum who, in the critical hour of need of the Spanish workers in their fight against Franco, turned his

group they accept as authentic, and very likely even if you are, you will be hounded, made to understand that you're an "unpatriotic" slacker.

One way or another they'll get you into the army-or just get you. They'll train you and give you \$30 a month to send home while they're training you. They'll teach you to obey the discipline of army and navy command. They'll train you in the various branches of modern warfare. And when you are ready, primed with all the knowledge you need to have, they'll label you fit for the actual service they have in mind-the real, unadulterated hell that warfare is.

By that time they will consider a declaration of war expedient. The first batch of corpses-to-be ready; a second and a third batch getting its training.

And then it won't make any difference how strong you are, how many houses you could build in a sane society, how many crops you could sow. You will be sent to the front-and come back from it only slightly crippled, if you are lucky.

What will you gain for the sacrifice of your life or limbs? What benefit will accrue to you for the time you live in muck and danger, the time you are wrenched from your family, the time you are wasting your strength? Nothing! Exactly nothing!

There will be those who will gain. But they won't be bricklayers, miners or steel workers. Those who will gain will be the bankers, the industrialists, the profiteers of all shapes and sizes. SO THAT THEY MAY LIVE IN GREATER LUXURY, YOU WILL DIE. So that their sons and daughters may idle away their hours on bigger and handsomer yachts, you will face bomb and bullet.

You are indeed blind if you think conscription has any other purpose but war. You are blinder still if you think that war will be fought for any other reason than profit.

You can be sure they won't call it a war for profit. When the day of war declaration comes, they'll dress it up in the best propagandistic finery. Honey won't match their words in sweetness of intention. They'll make their appeal in the name of all those things for which we would truly give our lives-real democracy,

By SUSAN GREEN

BROOKLYN, Sept. 16-Except for the forelorn tapping of a typewriter in the office, no sound issued from the buildings of the Leviton Manufacturing Co. on Greenpoint Avenue this afternoon. Production of electrical appliances, which is its business, has been completely stopped by the strike of its-1,700 workers. They have been out for three weeks. Local 3. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, is organizing them and conducting the strike.

It's hardly believable that human beings have endured the conditions day. existing at Leviton's, and not gone out on strike before. Weekly wages of \$8, \$9, and \$10 are common. The aristocrats of labor earn \$17, \$20 and

There was quite a tiff this last

week-end between the scoundrels of

the right and the scoundrels of the

"left" at the State Committee meet-

ing of the American Labor Party in

The right-wing, that's the Social-

Democratic Federation and labor

leaders like Antonini of the ILGWU,

is all hot and bothered about defend-

ing democracy by going to war. But

in their own little bailiwick of the

ALP, these "democrats" were not

averse to using the most undemocra-

tic violence against the Stalinists

(for some reason called the "left-

wing"). Several people were clubbed

and a very undemocratic time was

The State Committee meeting was

called to nominate candidates for

president and vice-president. The

Stalinist wing had gotten an injunc-

tion out against the right-wing State

Committee to bar its holding the

meeting on the ground of undemo-

Utica.

had by all.

\$22 at Leviton's. The great majority make \$13 or \$14.

Accidents Common

Industrial accidents are an everyday occurrence. The machines have guards, but the guards are down only when the inspectors come around. Otherwise the workers operate the machines without any protection because the guards slow up the work. Women have suffered the loss of finger tips, half fingers, whole fingers. I was informed that at times there are as many as ten accidents in one

Fists Fly at ALP State Committee Meeting

tee went ahead with its meeting a

week later, although the Stalinists

have now brought a contempt of

There's Always Foul Weather When Scoundrels Get Together

Often a machine operates imperfectly and endangers the operator still more, but a foreman will seldom call a mechanic until it is too late

to save a finger. The workers themselves hesitate to report defective machines because while a machine is being repaired they lose that much time, and the pay envelope is that much lighter.

The last time Leviton workers struck was seven years ago. They say the strike was something of a fizzle. They were not organized, had no union backing, and only one department went out. Nevertheless they won a slight rise in wages and a nurse. Before then, I was informed by a woman who worked in the plant for fourteen years, a piece worker had also served as nurse. Now the workers feel strong. The plant is completely shut down. They (Continued on page 2)

in New York, the largest section, if

no where else. The credentials com-

compelled to roam in the subways like droves of beasts, their only subsistence being a bit of bread and jam. Protests to the government have

revealed that while thousands of the poor are utterly homeless, the houses of the rich in the West End stand empty, their owners having had the means to remove to the safety of the country. The property rights of the

rich are ever sacred and sacrifice is a word meant only for the poor. IN FRANCE For the French workers, the "peace" of imperialism is no less burdensome than the war. The people stand in endless lines before grocery stores hoping to buy a little of the fast disappearing food supplies. In the occupied area, the Germans have requisitioned up to 60% mittee to invalidate credentials of some of the crops. Nazi officials of the Agricultural Section of the German Military Administration predict a winter of hunger that will have

> to be met with the strictest rationing of food. The Germans are loading the French workers with the cost of the German Army of Occupation which will amount to the staggering sum of 144,000,000,000 francs per year or twice the entire budget for the year 1939. Besides this, the French will be compelled to pay for the upkeep of the two million French prisoners held by the Germans. The Nazis are manipulating the rate of exchange so that twenty francs can be purchased for a mark instead of the real price of twelve francs to the mark. In this way, the German conquerers

will be able to loot an additional 40% of the values in France.

Unemployment continues to rise to serious proportions. In Paris

back on them. IN INDO-CHINA

> The Vichy government has yielded to Nazi pressure to grant a base to the Japanese in Indo China from which they will prepare a major campaign against the Chinese forces. In return Chinese troops have blown up the International Bridge at Lao Kay on the northern frontier between Indo China and the Chinese province of Yunnan and are preparing their own preventative invasion of Indo China. It is certain that in the near future the French colony of Indo China will become one of the great battlegrounds in the far eastern struggle.

The Chinese masses have shown that they are capable of the greatest sacrifices and privations but they face not only the mighty invader from without but also the no less treacherous enemy from within. The impoverished Chinese are faced with a hunger created by landlords and militarists like those in Szeschwan who have hoarded a bumper crop of rice causing its price to double within the last two months. This was revealed when even Chiang Kai Shek had to come out in denunciation of this profiteering.

AMERICA ACTS

American imperialism is watching the Japanese moves in the far east (Continued on page 2)

anti-fascism.

They will speak as though they are one with us, part of the working class. That's the custom nowadays. So, for example, Willkie speaks like a barefoot boy with a worker's interest closest to his heart. So too, for example, Roosevelt speaks to the teamsters' convention, as "one-union man to another." Roosevelt, making a political speech, is trying to get votes from union men. Yet this same Roosevelt, "union man", barred strikes on WPA. This very same Roosevelt, acting through his Attorney General, threw men into jail-men who were members of the WPA auxiliary of teamsters' Local 544 in Minneapolis—THREW THEM INTO JAIL BECAUSE THEY ASSERTED THEIR ELEMENTARY UNION RIGHT TO STRIKE.

So it is with the war. Roosevelt the "union man" is the same as Roosevelt the "democrat". His interest in unionism and democracy is of equal caliber. It serves the bosses interests to put on show. Roosevelt favors unions that are polite, do not fight, take what is given to them. Roosevelt champions a "democracy" that operates one-sidedly-plenty of it for the boss, as little as possible for the worker.

Deception comes cheap—and in ample quantity. With it, the bosses seek to spin a wool covering for workers' eyes. But the workers can stop the hand of the spinner!

Every worker must broadcast the truth about conscription. Though enacted into law, its purpose remains the same-to train the manpower needed to wage capitalist war. We, therefore, object to conscription, BECAUSE WE WANT NO PART OF THE WAR.

That is the main fight now fellow-workers: TO MAKE THE BOSSES UNMISTAKEABLY UNDERSTAND THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE A WAR FOR PROFITS. If they want to wage a war for democracy and against fascism, tell them we'll be for it, and they won't have to conscript us either—on one condition! They must first call upon the workers of the world to rise against the tyrants and exploiters: the capitalists .

Let them issue such an appeal and we will circulate it among our brothers in every corner of the globe, in Germany and in England too. BUT WE WILL CIRCULATE IT HERE AS WELL. THE MAN WHO LIVES OFF OUR SWEAT IS RIGHT HERE IN THIS COUNTRY. HE IS THE MR. BOSS OF EVERY FACTORY IN THE LAND.

DOWN WITH THE LOTTERY IN LIVES! DOWN WITH BOSS WAR!

court order against Antonini, Rose, brought by Stalinist members of the Oliver and their lawyer, for violating State Committee on any and all the injunction. grounds-without allowing the Stalinists any recourse to details like for-Manipulate Membership mal hearings on each case. What with one thing and another Calls the Cops the Stalinists howled themselves sick

against the suppression of their dem-The high-light of the meeting came ocratic rights. And there was no shortly after the session opened. The doubt about democracy being viol-Antonini gang wanted a voice vote. ated-although, in the normal course The Stalinists wanted a roll-call vote. of events, the Stalinists, who have One of their supporters, Eugene P. raised bureaucracy to a fine art are Connally, representing the Progresthe last one things to kick. Still, demsive Committee to Rebuild the ALP ocracy is democracy, and unlike its into a more exclusive Stalinist outpart-time defenders like Antonini, fit, had, for example, 75 proxy votes. Rose and Roosevelt, we think it (That's permissable.) In a voice vote, should be observed in labor politics. his 75 votes could only sound like at all times.

Right off the bat, the right-or-Rose wing barred the Stalinists from seats on the credentials and other committees, although there is no doubt but cratic manipulations. The Commit- what the Stalinists have a majority

one vote. Hence the demand of the Stalinists. Antonini tried to shut Connally up. Connally stood on his demand for a roll call. Whereupon, Antonini,

(Continued on page 3)

Life and Work of Leon Trotsky Mass Meeting Friday, September 20, 8 P. M. Max Shachtman Speaker
Manhattan Plaza, 66 EAST 4th STREET

Page 2

With the Labor Unions **On the Picket Line** By David Coolidge

THIS WILL MAKE THE BOSSES COWER!

Organized white street car and bus peace and good will among the workemployes of the Birmingham (Ala.) Electric Company called a walk-out recently in support of 108 Negro mechanics and helpers employed by the same company. The white workers struck in order to get a higher wage scale for the Negro mechanics and helpers. The cars and buses were tied up for 48 hours. It was the first tie-up on the system for twenty-six years. It was the first strike on record in that area called by white workers in support of the demands of Negro workers.

This action of the white workers of Birmingham must have spread consternation among the employers of Birmingham. The same consternation will exist everywhere when the action becomes known to employers North and South. Because, this is just the kind of thing that employers have been organizing and fighting against in their employers associations, chambers of commerce and boards of trade. Their slogan is; "no peace but constant warfare between Negro and white workers." For

SOMETHING FOR THE MACHINISTS TO DO

The International Association of Machinists (AFL) is holding its convention in Cleveland. This organization of 200,000 skilled workers have an opportunity in this convention to render a mighty service to the working class and to increase the solidarity of Negro and white labor. The IAM can remove the provision in their constitution or ritual which bars Negro machinists from membership in the union.

At the last convention of the IAM in Milwaukee, in 1936, an effort was made to wipe out this disgraceful, scandalous and anti-working class Jim-Crowism. The motion was defeated overwhemlingly. By this act IAM members served notice on Negro machinists that there union is a white man's union just as to them

ers of all races, creeds, sexes and

nationalities is the beginning of the

The ruling class knows this all too

well. The workers have been slow

learning this lesson. The destruction

of every barrier; racial, religious, na-

tional or otherwise that divides the

workers is the first step in strength-

ening the unions: in making them

mass and millitant organizations that

can force higher wages and shorter

hours from the bosses. Wiping out

all the differences that have been

planted in the ranks of the workers

by the employers and their stooge

politicians, will demonstrate the sol-

This solidarity will inevitably ex-

press itself in the economic struggles

of the unions. More important these

economic struggles will intensify the

class struggle, aid in heightening the

political thinking of the workers and

impel them to decisive political ac-

tion against the bosses. The action

of the white street car workers in

Birmingham is a concrete and funda-

mental step toward this end.

idarity of the working class.

end of the rule of the bosses.

"BUSINESS UNIONISM" WITH A VENGEANCE

One of the first actions of the Teamsters at their international convention in Washington was to vote increases in the salaries of the leading officers. President Tobin and the Secretary-Treasurer got their salaries increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. Tobin was given an assistant at \$20,000 yearly.

This is an amazing performance for a workers organization. It is even more amazing that Tobin would accept an increase in the amount of money he takes from the workers in his union. This means that the president and secretary-treasurer of the union wil take from the pockets of union truck drivers \$576 a week; \$82 a day! Tobin's assistant will take \$384 a week! These salaries, comes not from a wealthy corporation but from the pay envelopes of ordinary workers. This \$82 a day comes from truck drivers, some of whom draw no more than this for two weeks work for the boss. The top scale for union truck drivers is not more than \$55 a week The reason given for the steep increase in pay, or any increase at all is that the union is the biggest in the U.S., and of course Tobin was the chief factor in the growth of the union. This is "business unionism" with a vengeance. It's the same conception that corporation boards of directors have when they vote a big boost in pay for the president. "Our company is the biggest in the country and our president Joe Doe is the one man to whom the credit is due." But the union is not a corporation, it is not a business. It is not an institution run for private profit that rewards its officers financially in proportion as the income increases. The union is an organization of the working class come together to contend with the boss for higher wages, shorter hours and better working condi-

tions. Officers are members of the union and have no rights and privileges not enjoyed by other members of the union. They do not, or should not, have a similar relationship to the union rank and file that the corporation president bears to the workers in his factories.

Furthermore these fabulous union salaries and the reasons given for granting them encourage an extremely dangerous tendency in the labor movement. This sort of thing. gives an impetus to racketeering. Racketeers such as Scalise and others take the position that if the union can be milked so easily by its officers the proper thing for the racketeer is to get into a union, or organize one and start milking. Scalise too, had his rewards for building up the union but he took his directly. He got a rake off on all dues paid by new members. Furthermore, Scalise also had a big salary taken from the pockets of the workers in his union. Also this "get mine" policy penetrates the lower ranks of the union and at LABOR ACTION

Two News Items

Old news item: Whenever a traffic accident occurs in Houston between a Negro and a white man, the crash squad officers regularly take the Negro to jail and charge him with assault by auto. Unable to make bond, he there remains for two to three weeks for trial. It's practically impossible to be acquitted of such a charge as the slightest evidence of negligence is sufficient-as an old or cheap car with worn brakes. (Usually the white man is given a ticket to appear in city court if the accident is obviously his fault; whereas the Negro must appear before the County court where severer sentences are meted out).

New news item: Negroes made up the majority of workers who paraded in Houston on Labor Day. Houstonians and white Texans, fearfully remembering the Negro "Black Insurrection" of World War days here when a Negro revolt swept Houston, resulting in hundreds of casualties, are holding periodic meetings under the auspices of the American Legion, etc., praising the Negro's "patriotism" only long enough to forget it the next morning when the Negro is thrown back into the dirtiest and toughest work in this vicinity, the lowest pay and longest hours. (Prediction: If the U.S. enters the War, there will be a Negro insurrection in this vicinity which may wreak vengeance on white workers as well as white bosses).

World at War-

(Continued from page 1)

like a hawk. The Japanese demand for a base in Indo-China has been met by Roosevelt's proclamation ordering licenses for exports of materials to make airplane engines and airplane fuels. Since these materials are vital to Japan and the President has it in his power to refuse to license such exports to Japan, the proclamation has had the effect of throwing the Japanese into a panic and to such an extent that the part of the press has been calling for a rapprochement with Russia.

As the American war industries and draft of man power goes into high gear, the American bourgeoisie strikes out boldly to play the dominant imperialist role in all sectors of the world. The British may be doing the fighting in Europe and in the middle east but in back of England, for its own imperialist reasons, stands the United States, supplying her to an ever increasing extent with the sinews of war. The British hopes are reflected in such an announcement as was made by Wm. S. Knudsen that by April 1, 1942 the United State will have shipped 14,000 planes to England. By that time too the United States expects to have 20,000 planes for its own use. The question one asks is this: Is this the date that the American bourgeoisie has set it-

Stand Up Fast – Or Else "FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT"

The foreword leads you to expect a realistic piece

The Value of Roosevelt's Speech

By PAUL TEMPLE

"Boy O boy O boy," chortled Johnny, as he cornered Bill after work; "Did you get a load of Roosevelt's speech last night to the Teamsters Union? That was a fighting speech, I'll tell YOU! Gave it to 'em straight from the shoulder."

"Yep," said Bill, unfolding a newspaper, "he was loving labor all over the place, for the evening. Sounded like he was all for the poor workingman, didn't he?"

JOHNNY: Sounded like? Why, he's done a hell of a lot more for us workers than a dozen labor leaders I know of! And what I liked about it was that he said we've got to keep on making progress along those lines, no let-up.

BILL: What did he say he's done for the workers? JOHNNY: Well, there's the right to organize and bargain collectively, he talked a lot about that. . . .

They Aren't GIVING Us Anything

BILL: Roosevelt gave it to us, huh? Listen, you wouldn't call the U.S. Steel Corporation a friend of labor, would you-but even that bunch of labor-haters GAVE their workers the right to bargain collectively, too. They signed a contract with the CIO that said so.

JOHNNY: You know that is not the same thing! I'm surprised at you, Bill. They were just gosh-awful afraid of the big sit-down strikes in steel, and decided it was wiser to give in on that point, before bigger things were forced out of them.

BILL: Of course, Johnny. That's just the point. You can see that clearly when it's the case of U.S. Steel. All I say is that IT WAS THE SAME REASON WHY ROOSEVELT "GAVE" US COLLECTIVE BARGAIN-ING. Remember, it was 1933 when the NRA was supposed to insure the right to organize, and that was when the whole economic system was cracking below the waterline and a lot of big shots were afraid the revolution was going to beat prosperity around the corner. So they "gave" us collective bargaining, to settle our stomachs, while the doctors repaired capitalism.

JOHNNY: Still, you can't deny that if it wasn't for Roosevelt, we mightn't have got it even then. . .

We Get What We Take

BILL: Say, you remind me of the guy who was held up at the point of a gun by a ragged bum, and separated from fifty dollars, so at the end of the year he put it down in his income tax report as a contribution to. charity. The trade union movement got the right to organize when they pointed a gun at their bosses-I mean when they showed they were going to fight hard and strike. They got it that way BEFORE Roosevelt; and AFTER Roosevelt's NRA, they STILL had to get it that way. Where the workers were organized, they used their strength to increase their membership: where they weren't organized the bosses didn't pay any attention to the alphabets and THE ROOSEVELT GOVERNMENT DIDN'T DO A THING TO ENFORCE LABOR'S RIGHTS.

JOHNNY: Now, that you mention it, I remember the Weir case and the auto strike . . . and wasn't it Roosevelt who said that the strikes by the WPA workers were illegal?

BILL: He did. You ought to remember another thing Roosevelt said in his speech to the Teamsters: about the politicians who love the laboring man in November and forget about him in January. That was a piece of self-criticism.

Quit Looking for Capitalist Messiahs

Land of Opportunity

and get rich. Everybody else does too.

"BOOM TOWN"

to Claudette's arms.

land of opportunity stuff".

written for the working class.

JOHNNY: I've got to admit you've got a point somewhere in what you've been saying. Labor's got to lift itself by its own bootstraps and not depend on anybody else.

BILL: That's the idea. The sonner we quit looking for messiahs among the capitalist politicians, the quicker we'll get somewhere. As soon as we hitch the labor movement behind some politician's carpet-bag, we're going to find ourselves IN the bag before long.

This here Clark Gable is an oil prospector, a wild-

Clark goes and marries Spencer's girl. Well, says

catter, in Texas around 1918, and he partners up with

Spencer Tracy. After one or two tries they strike oil

Spencer, if that's the way she wants it, it's all right

with him. But when Clark does some wildcatting with

Hedy LaMarr, Spencer thinks it's time to protect his

beloved Claudette Colbert. There are a lot of shady oil

deals by Spencer to bankrupt Clark and send him back

Well, anyway, Clark gets himself mixed up with the

Sherman anti-trust law. There's a trial, and boy scout

Tracy comes to the rescue with a homespun speech on

"Americanism". He says that a man like Clark is really

helping "these here United States", and by gad, if such

a man is not entitled to his million dollars earned by

brain and hand, then it is time "to rewrite this here

Thus the anarchy, waste, greed and corruption that

were midwife to the oil industry aborning, receive a

complete whitewash with the brush of "Americanism".

And not even a whisper issues from the screen on how

"this land of opportunity stuff" has long ago been re-

by Susan Green

Sure Cure for "Reds"

new kind of conscription. I would draft a few thousand beautiful rich girls to vamp the male "Reds" of this country, and enough handsome rich gentlemen to divert the female contingent from politics. That, as was proved by "Ninotchka" once before and is now equally well sustained by "He Stayed For Breakfast", is what ails the "Reds". Bountiful living and the blandishments of a wealthy admirer will make a supporter of Roosevelt out of any "Red". What are you waiting for, Mr.

in political philosophy. For instance, Loretta Young, the beautiful vampire in this leaden story, absolutely vanquishes Melvyn Douglas and undermines his entire faith in communism, when she argues: "You are always talking about the poor and the rich. There are only two kinds of people-male and female". Obviously such

In case you don't know it, unions are for the sole purpose of employing barbers as plumbers so that they can pull that old one of piping the water into the kitchen gas range-while the greatest crime that a banker commits is to curl his pinky when he drinks

Migratory Workers Again "GOLD RUSH MAISIE"

The trouble with producing a good picture is that modelled after it. "The Grapes of many bad ones are

at one time. This means long waiting.

another gird to call those who are necessarily detained.

> It was explained to me that there would continue to work for nothing, so that the boss could fulfill his rush orders.

Mar and the Taman

the U.S. is a "white man's country."

they didn't want trouble, they want harmony, but they wouldn't stand for scabs. The women complain bitterly about the unsanitary conditions in the

plant. There aren't enough toilets and those that are there, are out of order half of the time. On a floor where 200 to 220 girls are at work there are six toilets, and on the average only four of them are useable

Strike Against

Conditions in

Leviton Plant

(Continued from page 1)

seem to have faith in Local 3 and in

their strike committee. Those en-

titled to strike benefit have been re-

ceiving \$7 a week. They run a 24-

hour service cafeteria where coffee

and sandwiches are obtainable. This

is quite different from seven years

In the evenings, the picket line is

swelled by union electrical workers

from all over the city. I understand

that at night the strikers carry an il-

luminated sign, reading: "Lincoln

Freed the Slaves. Leviton Never

This afternoon, lines of pickets pa-

trolled the buildings covering almost

two square blocks. There was a lib-

eral sprinkling of cops around the

plant, and I counted two police in-

Across the street from the plant a

group of women, bright strike but-

tons on their coats, scanned the win-

dows to see if there was any activity

within. They had been told that

one of the bosses brought in a few

A thin little elderly woman who

has been slaving at Leviton ma-

chines for twelve years, pointed to

the windows and said: "See those

windows. There won't be a one left

Another woman explained that

scabs in a tax this morning.

No Scabs Allowed!

if they bring in scabs."

Heard of Lincoln."

spectors.

It is nothing at all, I was told, for the superintendent to go right into the women's toilet room to get the girls back to their machines when they are gone any length of time. Foremen, who are more decent, send

"We are faithful workers", declared a woman who had been on the job for thirteen years. "Those

factories we really built. At least they can give us decent toilets." is a maximum daily wage above which no one can go. This is the munificent sum of \$3.80. After they had earned their maximum, they

Very few workers earn the maximum. Those who get up to the top, try to stay around \$3.60 a day, because once they make the \$3.80, they

To See or Not To See

"HE STAYED FOR BREAKFAST" If I were Mr. Roosevelt, I would put over a brand

profundity is the outcome of deep study.

his coffee, or maybe to make love to his secretary.

President? The conscripts would have to receive some training

granting of great power to union officials tends to knock the unions off the main track and to develop a trade union bureaucracy. A gap develops between the officers and the rank and file. The bureaucracy tends to fall away from its working class past. The officers don't think like working men any more. They are successful American business men. They have made good. They don't live like the workers any more. They live in swank hotels, direct the union from luxuriant offices and act pretty much like a high paid corporation executive. The racketeer union leaders also live in this same manner. Scalise too had his palatial home in a fashionable New York suburb.

and the bosses of the ruling class, is

of the rank and file. This is the kind

of leadership the unions must have:

men and women who are committed

boss on the picket line. This type

of leader will refuse to take \$30,000

a year from the workers. He will

put himself in the worker's place

and refuse to pay himself more than

the worker in his union gets. This

kind of leader will refuse to take

more wages than he can get from

the boss for the workers in his union.

HARLEM

HOUSEWARMING

Saturday, September 21st

at 8:30 P.M.

at 33 West 125 Street

Dancing

Entertainment - Refreshments

WP & YPSL

Joint Auspices: HARLEM BRANCH

the class organization of society.

A VITAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TOBIN AND SCALISE

Now when we mention Scalise in connection with Tobin it should be obvious that we are not calling Tobin a racketeer. Not to make a fundamental and important distinction between Tobin and Scalise is to be a nit-wit or a scoundrel. Not to be able to make a fundamental distinction between labor leaders such as Tobin, Green, Lewis, Murray and others and are not genuinely union men.

THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP WORKERS NEED

The employers of the workers are members of another class, an enemy class that conducts continual class warfare against the workers as a to irreconcilable warfare against the class. And despite their seeming friendliness at times, their surface collaboration, the bosses include Tobin. Green. Lewis and other labor leaders in the working class and look upon them as enemies. They seek to win them over and often succeed, but they know that these men are the representatives of the organized working class. The bosses are also aware that the trade union bureaucracy is subject to pressure from the union ranks. The bureaucracy cannot always do as it pleases. Furthermore the bosses know the source of the workers' dissatisfaction and unrest. They know that it springs from his work, his living conditions, his place in society.

The workers must increase this pressure on the union leadership to bring the leaders increasingly into tune with the needs and aspirations

times results in workers landing in can expect that the rate will be cut jail.

again. The whole policy of "business unionism," huge salaries and the Where Charity Begins

The Leviton Manufacturing Co. is one of those family corporations. Isidor Leviton is the president and treasurer, his son Bernard is vicepresident, and Jack Amsterdam, his son-in-law, is secretary. It is a \$2,000.-000 concern and one of the largest in the field, selling to Woolworth, Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck sockets, switches, wiring, etc. Some workers told me that the company has bought up more property recently and plans to expand.

Mr. Leviton Sr. is supposed to be quite a philanthropist, handing out big donations to charity with smug self-admiration. The workers don't admire him. I was told that he has given jobs to some two hundred refugees, but at the expense of two hundred other workers. They don't consider that charity either .

to fail completely to comprehend the A group of automatic pressmen, meaning of the labor movement and semi-skilled workers as they call themselves, said it is impossible to Scalise and his kind are racketeers, get along on what they were makreal "labor fakers." They "build" ing. They were convinced that they unions solely for personal gain and needed to be organized, that in no other questionable results that flow other way could they get a decent from their union activities. They living. have not grown up with the unions

Protected by Law

They told me that fifteen trucks of finished material had been moved out of the plant during the three weeks of strike. Normally at least fifteen truckloads leave the plant each day. They said that when a truck is moved out since the strike began, it is protected by a line of motorcycle cops, and the streets and nearby roofs are thick with bluecoats. They said there were more cops than strikers.

One of them declared: "Mr. Leviton breaks all the laws and he gets the protection of the law." He assured me that if it were not for this overpowering police force, no trucks would move out of the plant.

Women in the cafeteria, anxious to present their reasons for striking, told me that many are the times when workers go back to work on the same machine that caught them, immediately after being bandaged up in the hospital, with a finger pierced or the tip of a finger gone. They can't

afford losing time being sick. Once a girl got caught and it took whole hour to extricate her hand

for complete entrance into the world imperialist slaughter, is this the date that the American colosus has chosen to dictate its imperialist peace to the world?

from the machine. The girl lost a finger. She was supposed to get her job back. But a year has passed and every time she comes to the employment office she is told there is nothing for her, although new workers are being taken on all the time.

Very Efficient

The efficiency experts at the plant follow a crude and cruel system. A new worker is put on piece work at a lower rate. She has to speed like all hell to make a wage worth carrying home. This reflects upon the older workers who are paid more. Sooner or later they are fired. Several women kept repeating: "We are striking because we want security."

A big blonde woman explained how she works a dangerous machine all by herself, putting material into the pockets of a revolving die turning at the rate of 85 to 90 revolutions a minute. She said even the most experienced sooner or later gets caught. As little as one cent is paid for filling 100 pockets.

Eight weeks ago this woman injured her leg by slipping on the oil drenched floor. The company took five weeks before it put in her claim for compensation, and to date she said she has not received a penny. About two years ago some of the

women staged a sitdown strike when one of the more human foremen was laid off. He got his job back. But two of the women, avowedly leaders of the affair, lost theirs. These women, though technically not employees of Leviton, have joined the strikers. They told me that this same foreman is now scabbing inside of the plant.

Mr. Leviton refuses to have anything to do with the union. He tries to make it appear that he doesn't know whether to deal with the CIO or the AFL. From what I could learn today, this is transparent hocuspocus. Only Local 3 of the Electrical Workers, AFL, is involved. The matter is now before the Labor Relations Board.

The strikers are very positive about what they will not put up with any longer

about reporting the news from war-torn Europe. What you get is a thriller-diller from the land of makebelieve, along the lines of pulp detective stories.

A mere police reporter is suddenly promoted to the rank of foreign correspondent and lands on all fours in the midst of an international plot. A gang of Nazi spies kidnap the leader of a peace organization who, for some inexplicable reason, carries in his head the terms of an important international treaty, no less. The amateur-detective-reporter smells out all the clues, dashes in and out of the jaws of death, and arrives in the nick of time to save the inhumanly tortured pacifist (done expertly by the German actor Albert Basserman).

All this time the foreign correspondent sends no story to his paper. When he finally has his great scoop, he doesn't wire it, but boards a plane for America. Naturally the plane is torpedoed by the Germans. He and his girl are almost drowned, but aren't. They wind up in a London broadcasting station, sending to America a hurry-up-and-get-your-guns speech, while German bombs burst all around them and the Star Spangled Banner booms forth.

I was so overcome by it all that I was a bit slow on the pick-up. Whereupon a patriotic neighbor shoved me. "You stand when this song is being played," she hissed.

Wrath" has started an epidemic of lousy pictures about migratory workers. The hope that one box office success will lead to another, is not alone responsible. The unvarnished truth of Steinbeck's story left such a bad taste in the democratic mouth of America that Hollywood is now administering sweet-tasting gargle. Migratory workers must by hook or by crook be maneuvered into "prosperity".

In "Gold Rush Maisie" a bunch of migratory workers go prospecting for gold when they can't find work. The gold they strike is of such poor quality that it isn't worth the labor. So that they may not be destitute, a confirmed misanthrope makes a quick change of character, becomes suddenly philanthropic, and starts a cooperative venture for the benefit of the jobless workers. Hollywood doesn't know that Santa Claus is dead.

Primarily this cheesy production is a vehicle for Ann Sothern as Maisie. Maisie with her low-cut dress and valise, on the trail of that elusive singing job, is a likeable character. She knows the facts of life, and when they come into her bedroom, she outwits them. She's a two-fisted, wisecracking gal with clean skirts and a heart of gold. Maisie is all right and so is Ann Sothern. It's not their fault that M-G-M hitches them to a bunch of migratory workers whom they have to pull into a happy ending.

What's in the Conscription Bill?

On Saturday, Sept. 14, 1940 by a vote of 40 against 25 in the Senate and 232 against 124 in the House, the ment in a "deferred category" de-"Selective Training and Service Act of 1940" (the Burke-Wadsworth Bill) was passed. President Roosevelt, delayed by the intervening Sunday, hastened to sign it on Monday, Sept. 16-and proclaimed October 16 as 'registration day'. It is estimated that 16.500,000 men are involved.

The 'draft law' compels the registration of all men, between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six (as of Oct. 16). Exclusive of the Regular Army, Navy, Coast Guard, National Guard, etc., nine hundred thousand men will be conscripted. Quotas per state will be determined on the basis of the number of potential "recruits" in the state's area. Service is "limited" to the Western Hemisphere and the USA's colonial possessions and for a period of one year unless-and it seems likely-a "national emergency" arises. There will be no discrimination because of race and color. Everybody will have a chance at . being trained to die.

Draft dodgers or anyone "who Exemptions are provided for theologians, clergymen, politicians in knowingly counsels, aids, or abets another to evade registration" will office, college students, and con-

scientious objectors "by reason of be tried in Federal district courts. religious training and belief." Placepends upon physical condition, number of dependents, and the individuals importance to the "national health, safety, or interest." A Selective Service System Board is set up to work out the details. The decisions of the Local Draft Boards may be appealed. A whole raft of lawyers and such are evidently going to get

jobs as members of the Local or Ap-

At the completion of his term, each

soldier will be given a certificate of

discharge. The "Selective Training

and Service Act of 1940" does not

provide for the quality of paper,

typography, or expense of framing.

He will then be transferred to a 're-

serve component' in which he will

remain for ten years after the ex-

piration of his first year of army

life. There will be a continued liabi-

lity for periodic training while in

peal Boards.

the "reserves."

Something to Keep

The maximum penalty is five years in prison (not in the army) and \$10,000 fine or both. Desertion or any subversive activities after "selection" is subject to the usual Army Regulations and will be dealt with by court martial. Presumably no exceptions will be made unless it is essential to the "national health, safety, or interest."

Buy a Yacht on This!

Men "called to the colors" receive \$21 per month for the first four months and \$30 per month for the duration of their term. Opportunities for promotion are provided. The men can spend their pay in any way they wish: on candy, liquor, or stock in munition factories. The problem of "dependents" is overlooked but, no doubt, public assistance will, if necessary, be made available.

Anyone who has to give up a Federal job will, if "still qualified to perform the duties of such positions" and if he applies for re-employment within forty days, be taken back with no loss of seniority or other rights. It is also the "sense of Con-

(Continued on page 3)

LABOR ACTION

Labor Runs Its Own Anti-War Candidate in the Bronx

Signature Petitions Come in Fast As Party Membership Rolls Up Its Sleeves for Bronx Election Campaign – Two Headquarters Open

The petition drive to place Max Brownsville with Shachtman as the Shachtman's name on the Congressional ballot in the 23rd District in the Bronx is going forward at full speed. Despite the frightening clamor of the war hysteria whipped up by the press, three thousand signatures have already been obtained. Of these one thousand were gotten through a three hour mass mobilization of the party and YPSL's, testimony to the anti-war temper of large numbers of Bronx workingmen and women.

Behind the fact of the startling total of signatures thus far obtained, lies the repudiation by the Bronx workers of the candidacy of Joseph A. Buckley, Democratic incumbent in the House of Representatives, who has a perfect score for supporting every Rooseveltian bill to plunge the country into war, including the conscription measure.

Beginning this week, a series of street meetings will be held in the 23rd Congressional District. Max Shachtman will speak at all the meetings, presenting the anti-war Leon Trotsky on_____ Reformism and Jascism program of the Workers Party.

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Negroes Interested

Party members active in the petition campaign report that the Negro workers of the District have eagerly signed their names for Shachtman's candidacy, when they learned that the Workers Party had organized a protest meeting against the brutal lynching of Elbert Williams. Further meetings on the Williams affair are planned in the Bronx and

ALP Tiff-

(Continued from page 1)

who can hardly wait for the day when American boys are given their rifles in the defense of American capitalist Germany by the throat. and English "democracy," asked the cops to go to work on Connally and his supporters. Connally was booted out of the hall, and in the melee five Stalinists were clubbed, and several fist fights went their normal course. All of it accomplished in a fine spirit of hysteria and patriotism.

Roosevelt Nominated

The object of the meeting was to get Roosevelt nominated in order to snare for him, through the ALP, lution, making it serve as a handmaiden to the requirements of reformism. as many labor votes as possible. The ALP controls a couple of hundred thousand votes. The Antonini-Rose crew therefore put Roosevelt and Wallace into nomination. The Stalinists, playing safe, did not nominate Browder, but moved that the ALP left boots on the feet of reformism, support no candidate. A few random SPers spoke up for Thomas, and made something like an antiwar declaration. The SPers, caught between the two groups, protested

main speaker. Nathan Gould has recently taken over the job of campaign director. He announces that detailed plans are under way for the widespread distribution of literature in the Bronx. The campaign committee has arranged for the sale and distribution of between 750 and 1,000 copies of LABOR ACTION weekly in the Bronx, as well as the street distribution of 100,000 election throwaways, summarizing the anti-war program of the WP. Other literature is to be

printed for the campaign, including

a detailed election program, a mani-

festo to the Bronx workers on the 1940 elections Two election headquarters are now functioning in the Bronx, one at 7 West Burnside, Room 29, the other at 1334 Wilkins Ave. Every sign points to a successful drive and the placing of Max Shachtman's name on the ballot.

is placed thoroughly on American rations.

The Role and Fate of Reformism

Willkie and Roosevelt: Each a Moses Who Will Lead Us INTO The Wilderness

between Roosevelt and Willkie, supposedly for the high purpose of clarifying the voters on the issues of the campaign, is pretty much of a dud. We do not mean of course that presidential campaigns have the habit of being much more than duds. We do not wish to convey the idea that in former years it was the custom of capitalist politicians to come before the workers with real differences that were fought out squarely and openly on the basis of real differences between the two capital-

ist parties. However both candidates in this campaign began their apostolic operations with messianic fervor in the attempt to make the workers believe that the fate, not only of the United States, but of the whole world would be decided by the coming election

In terms of world economy, Europe is on the downward trend. Already

The decay of capitalism results in social and cultural decomposition.

the forehead of Europe is plastered beyond removal with American

labels: the Dawes plan, the Young Plan, Hoover's moratorium. Europe

The road is barred for further methodical differentiation within the na-

tion, for the further growth of the proletariat at the expense of the

diminution of intermediate classes. Further prolongation of the crisis

can bring in its trail only the pauperization of the petty bourgeoisie and

The rottenest portion of putrefying capitalist Europe is the social

democratic bureaucracy. It entered upon its historical journey under the

banner of Marx and Engels. For its goal it placed the overthrow of the

rule of the bourgeoisie. The powerful upsurge of capitalism caught it up

and dragged it in its wake. In the name of reform, the social democracy

betrayed the revolution, at first by its actions and later by its very words.

Kautsky, forsooth, for a long time still defended the phraseology of revo-

Bernstein, on the contrary, demanded the renunciation of revolution: for

party claimed that he and it alone could save democracy, keep the people in food, clothing and shelter, preserve "our sacred liberties," and maintain the "American way of Life."

Appeal to Workers

Each leader has appealed to the working class to let him be their Moses. To Willkie, Roosevelt is in the same camp as Stalin, Hitler and Mussolini. Ickes, a Roosevelt spokesman, calls Willkie "the barefoot boy from Wall Street." Roosevelt says 'we" must not give up any of the New Deal Labor legislation. Willkie is convinced that it is mainly the New Deal labor legislation that keeps millions of workers out of jobs and in the bread lines. The man in the White House holds that if labor is conscripted for the army, wealth must be conscripted also. The man who is trying to get into the White House comes right back with the charge that this is a blow at the workers.

Roosevelt trades a few old destroyers to England for various parcels of real estate and Willkie tells the country that he is not against the swap but against the way it was done. Roosevelt did not take the people into his confidence.

Roosevelt maneuvers shrewdly to get a third term nomination and Willkie announces that this is to be the main issue in the campaign. It's against the teachings of Washington and Jefferson. This issue however is dropped like a hot potato when it is revealed that the Republican propagandists have left out pertinent parts of the writings of the founding fathers on this question.

the transformation of ever increasing groups of workers into the lumpenproletariat. In its most acute form, it is this threat that grips advanced **Blowing Bubbles**

> This is just about the way the campaign sums up to date. The Republicans started off in substantial agreement with Roosevelt's foreign policy in relation to the war. They were substantially in agreement with the Roosevelt "defense program." They didn't have a good leg to stand on. They seized on the New Deal and the third term issue. But Roosevelt himself had already deserted the New Deal many moons before the conventions. To attempt to conduct campaign around the third term issue is to spend one's time blowing soap bubbles.

capitalism was entering the period of peaceful development without crises, and without wars. A paragon of prophets! Apparently, between And Willkie's last effort seems to have been totally disastrous. We re-Kautsky and Bernstein there was an irreconciliable divergence. Actually, for to the "Munich Men" speech in however, they symmetrically complemented one another as the right and which he attempted to hold Roosevelt responsible for the events following the Munich compromise, in-The war came. The social democracy supported the war in the name cluding the rape of Czecho-Slovakia of future prosperity. Instead of prosperity decay set in. Then the proband the starting of the Second World lem resolved itself no longer in concluding from the inadequacy of capi-War. After this speech, Willkie developed a sore throat that made it necessary for him to rest a few days. We are of the opinion that the GOP high command halted the campaign in order to develop a line and to have some of their bright boys prepare a few speeches for their candidate.

The tug of war now in progress in this country. Each candidate and is the last defense before the U.S. stands face to face with Hitler. This is the way things look to the big majority of the ruling class in the U.S.

> This real situation determines for them their course of action. They know that they must prepare for war against Hitler. They have made their decision, they have accepted the inevitable. The Marxists have made this analysis again and again and pointed out that the contradictions of capitalism inevitably lead to imperialist war. War for mastery of the world, for the protection of profits, for reallocation of colonies, for intensification of the exploitation of the world working class.

We say that the ruling class in the U.S. is united in its preparations for titantic struggle against Hitler. Does anyone believe, therefore, that it will make any difference which candidate is elected president? They have both heard their master's voice and are prepared to do the will of the bosses. The ruling class will support one or the other candidate solely on the basis of their guess as to which can organize the war more effectively. Effective organization of the war of course includes such important items as the "labor problem," taxes and profits.

The important point to remember, in the circumstances, is that the bosses will prosecute the war just as vigorously with Willkie as with Roosevelt. They will fight like hell against Hitler to protect their profits, their commercial influence and their prestige.

What Happens to Labor

The workers however tend to show a preference for Roosevelt. They believe that, despite the fact that both Roosevelt and Willkie are representatives of the ruling class, Roosevelt has been a "friend of labor." They hold that the only way to preserve the "gains" the workers have made is to keep Roosevelt in the White House. Let us assume that Roosevelt's intentions are good, that his heart is in the right place. This will solve nothing. We have explained that Roosevelt, along with Willkie, is not a free agent. He is an agent of the ruling class.

The requirements of pushing the war, protecting profits and consolidating the imperialists interests of the ruling class will tend to drive Roosevetl away from the last vestiges of New Dealism. This process began long before the opening of the war as was pointed out in LABOR AC-TION last week. What happens to labor will not be determined by the good will, the kindness or the moral qualities of Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is possible that the ruling class therefore will consent to soften its war against the New Deal labor legislation. They may decide that satisfied workers, no strikes, acceptance of the status quo, can best be achieved by retaining the labor acts for the time being. The workers must always remember the motives that guide the bosses and their candidates. The main practical question then is what shall the working class do about the coming election? How shall they vote? If our analysis of the war and the presidential campaign is correct, and we are convinced that it is, then "how shall we vote?" is not the pertinent question for the workers to put to themselves. The allimportant and decisive question for the workers to decide is what attitude to take toward the war and the preparations for the ruling class to enter the war. If that question is answered properly the workers can come to only one conclusion: to vote for a labor, anti-war canididate, like Max Shachtman in the Bronx; and where there is no such canidate, not to vote at all as a demonstration of protest.



MAX SHACHTMAN

By ALAN SELKIRK

This Is.

It was midwinter in New York City, but the popular temper had risen to fever heat.

Word had been passed around among the workers to mark off February 22.

50.000 Workers

As that midwinter, February day drew towards evening, thousands upon thousands of workers' began to gather in the vicinity of Madison Square Garden. By eight o'clock, more than fifty thousand workers had gathered in the side streets leading to New York's largest arena. They had been called there for a

reason. Inside the Garden, the first, allinclusive rally of American fascists was being held.

The German-American Bund, the Coughlinite Christian Front, the Pelley Silver Shirts and the Italian Fascists had joined hands in an antilabor, anti-semitic meeting. They were out to "capture" New York.

In this, they were taking a leaf from the book of Hitlerism. Early in the history of the German Nazi movement, Joseph Goebbels, with an advance detachment of Storm Troopers, had "invaded" laborite Berlin in order to gain a foothold in that On February '22, 1939, the Ameri-

can fascists were meeting in Madison Square Garden for the same reason -but under totally different circum-

veteran organizer, editor, orator and warrior in the cause of Socialist emancipation. Max Shachtman entered the revolutionary movement at the age of

fifteen, in 1921. Lonin was still alive and Trotsky headed the beleaguered but victorious Red Army.

This is Max Shachtman, young but

Three years earlier, the Russian Revolution had established the first workers state in history.

Shachtman, then enrolled at City College, was caught up in the rising tide of revolution and early in 1921 foresook the class room for the class struggle.

Animated by the spirit of revolutionary devotion and sacrifice, he launched a career that has never deviated from its course: the proletarian revolution.

(To Be Continued)

Draft Bill-

? (Continued from page 2)

gress" that State and Municipal employees be treated in a similar fashion (apparently Congress has no power to legislate because State and Municipal workers are not engaged in interstate commerce).

Jobs May Hold

Draftees drawn from private in-

meekly against. the undemocratic procedure

In the vote, the Roosevelt motion got 442, the Stalinist motion got 234, and Thomas motion got 11.

The Two Groups

No political resolutions were presented. These are expected to come before the ALP meeting scheduled to meet in New York on September 28. But the direction and purpose of things was quite clear. On the one side, a group of war-mongers determined to get the workers of this country into the war on the side of Britain at all costs. On the other side, a group which has an equal disregard of the needs and desires of the workers, determined to champion the interests of Kremlin foreign policy.

Hillman and Roosevelt were, no doubt, the unseen operators behind the ALP State Committee meeting. Their whole scheme is to use the ALP as a vote-catching device for Roosevelt, and, if necessary, toss it into the ash-can immediately after the elections.

It doesn't look as though anything like a real, independent labor candidate will emerge from the ALP this year. Unless something unforeseen happens at the State Convention, all the candidates are going to be tied to the boss political machines.

The way to an independent labor party does not lie through the Stalinist or Roosevelt machine. Such an independent labor party still remains a crying need.

Yes, the Workers Day IS Coming

LONDON, Sept. 14 (AP)-Shouting "The workers' day is coming yet',, thirty men and women entered the Hotel Savoy's "swank" subterranean restaurant and air-raid shelter tonight and demanded they be allowed to remain during an alarm. They said they were all from Stepney Poplar and Aldgate in London's East End, describing themselves as refugees, most of whom had lost their homes and were without shelter. After they had stayed in the hotel until the all-clear signal, police, who had inspected their identity cads. escorted them-again shouting "the

workers' day is coming yet"-to a near-by shelter. (N.Y. Times Sept. 15)

talism the inevitability of revolution; nor was it one of reconciling the workers with capitalism by means of reforms. The new policies of the social democracy now consisted in making society safe for the bourgeoisie at the cost of sacrificing reforms.

But even this was not the last stage of degeneracy. The present crisis that is convulsing capitalism obliged the social democracy to sacrifice the fruits achieved after protracted economic and political struggles and thus to reduce the German workers to the plane of existence of their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers. There is no historical spectacle more tragic and at the same time more repulsive than the fetid disintegration of reformism amid the wreckage of all its conquests and hopes. The theater is rabid in its straining for modernism. Let it stake more often Hauptmann's "The Weavers": this most modern of modern dramas. But the director of the theater must not forget to reserve the dress circle for the leaders of the social democracy.

Fascism Enters the Historical Scene

Incidentally, however, these leaders are in no mood for the theater: they have reached the utmost limits of their adaptability. There is a level beneath which the working class of Germany cannot drop willingly nor for any length of time. Moreover, the bourgeois regime, fighting for its existence, is in no mood to recognize the level. The emergency decrees of Bruning are only the beginning, only feelers to get the lay of the land. Bruning's regime rests upon the cowardly and perfidious support of the social democratic bureaucracy which in its turn depends upon the sullen, half-hearted support of a section of the proletariat. The system based on bureaucratic decrees is unstable, unreliable, temporary. Capitalism requires another, more decisive policy. The support of the social democracy with its one eye ever cocked on its own workers, is not only insufficient for its purposes, but has already become irksome. The period of half-way measures has passed. In order to try to find a way out, the bourgeoisie must absolutely rid itself of the pressure exerted by the workers' organizations, these must needs be eliminated, destroyed, utterly crushed.

At this juncture, the historic role of Fascism begins. It sets on its feet those classes that are immediately above the proletariat and who are ever in dread of being forced down into its ranks; it organizes and militarizes them at the expense of finance capital, under the cover of the official government, and it directs them to the extirpation of proletarian organizations, from the most revolutionary to the most conservative.

Fascism is not merely a system of reprisals, of brutal force, and of police terror. Fascism is a particular governmental system based on the uprooting of all elements of proletarian democracy within bourgeois society. The task of Fascism lies not only in destroying the Communist advance guard but in holding the entire class in a state of forced disunity. To this end the physical annihilation of the most revolutionary section of the workers does not suffice. It is also necessary to smash all independent and voluntary organizations, to demolish all the defensive bulwarks of the proletariat, and to uproot whatever has been achieved during three quarters of a century by the social democracy and the trade unions. For in the last analysis, the Communist party also bases itself on these achievements.

-From WHAT NEXT?, written by Leon Trotsky in 1932, pages 10 to 13.

Two Issues

There are at least two issues in the present campaign that need discussion and clarification: 1. The "defense program" in preparation for the struggle against Hitler. 2. The status of the workers and their organizations in relation to the war plans and preparations.

Both candidates and their lieutenants have given consideration to these two questions, each in his own way. But neither of the candidates is a free agent. They do not exist in the clouds. Their programs are not spun out of their own minds. Roosevelt and Willkie are the chief spokesmen for political parties. Both of these parties, the Repubican and Democrats, are the political organizations of the Sixty Families, of the ruling class. These parties of Roosevelt and Willkie are a collection of the big bosses organized for political action, for power, for the control of the government in the interest of their own class and for the absolute protection of their own class interests.

The two parties and the candidates therefore can have only minor differences as has been demonstrated once again in the present campaign. On the great and decisive question of the second world imperialist war and the regimentation of the working class for participation in that war, there is and can be no significan distinction made between Roosevelt and Willkie.

Ruling Class Acts

The present war and the Hitler successes have struck the ruling class in the United States an unexected blow. They did not foresee the swift movement of Hitler's legions right up to the English Channel. They fear now that England will be forced to bow before Hitler's bombers. Billions of their investments, in continental Europe are in the hands of Berlin. The continental European market is closed to them. They turn their eves to South America and China. Yet Hitler has been victorious so far and is now pounding away at Britain, and England, in their opinion

The important working class function of the workers today is organized opposition to the imperialist war. Organized opposition to the conscription act that has just been passed. No let up in the fight against conscription because it is the "law."

The workers must intensify their struggle for higher wages and shorter hours. They must oppose every tendency of their leaders to collaborate with Roosevelt or Willkie for the reasons we have given. A vote for Roosevelt or Willkie is a vote for the ruling class, a vote for the enemy.

It is supremely important that we oppose the war in a very concrete way. The organization of anti-conscription actions in every city and every union is one such a way. Sure, we must prepare to resist Hitler. But, at the same time, we must be determined to resist the near-Hitlers in the United States.

DOWN WITH THE PARTIES OF THE RULING CLASS! AGAINST. ROOSEVELT AND WILLKIE!

NO AID TO THE IMPERIALIST WAR MAKERS!

EXPROPRIATE THE SIXTY FAM-ILIES!

FOR A WORKERS GOVERN-MENT AND A PEOPLES ARMY!

stances Whereas Goebbels had encounter-

ed little resistance in his invasion of Berlin, the Bundists, Coughlinites and Silver Shirts were met by a formidable mass of angry and aroused workers.

Read Call to Action

The more than fifty thousand workers who scared the wits out of the fascist scum that February night had come in answer to a stirring appeal. The man who had penned that rousing call to action was Max Shachtman. This appeal was reprinted by the million in the New York Daily News which was staggered by the boldness and incisiveness of the call.

It was Shachtman who stood at the head of the aroused thousands of anti-fascist workers, personally conducting the series of attempts to surround the garden so that the fascist rabble could not enter.

It was he who, marching in the front lines, defied the indiscriminate brutality of more than seventeen hundred heavily armed police called out to protect the fascist rally by "liberal" Mayor LaGuardia.

In Freedom's Cause

This is the man who for twenty years has dedicated himself to the struggle for mankind's liberation.

A Letter -

A PLEDGE TO KEEP **ON FIGHTING**

Dear Editor,

I would like to extend my most heartfelt sympathy in this hour. When I heard of the murder of Leon Trotsky there came to my mind a part of a song I heard at a funeral of a worker some time ago:

Heart that was brave in Freedom's holy train,

Striving to break the master's cruel chain:

Here by your grave, we pledge ourselves anew

Fraternally,

H.S.

Never to rest until your dreams come true!

Placentia, Calif., Aug. 26

dustry, after their term of service. in addition to being "still qualified", shall be returned to their former jobs "unless the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it im-

It'll Help

WASHINGTON - Speaking on the Burke-Wadsworth military training bill, Senator Wheeler declared in the Senate early this week, "This proposal (conscription) is offered by people who fear radicalism, but if it passes it will create more radicalism in six months than has ever been created in a similar length of time.'

possible or unreasonable to do so." The employees retain their seniority, insurance, and other rights. Once reemployed, they "shall not be discharged from such positions without cause within one year after such restoration." If the employer does not rehire the ex-soldier, the U.S. district attorney or comparable official, "if reasonably satisfied that the person so applying is entitled to such benefits shall appear and act as attorney for such person (the exsoldier) . . ." If the attorney is successful, the employer will have to rehire the man and pay him the wages lost during the "adjustment period." No other punishment seems to be provided for the "unlawful act" of the employer. Jobs made vacant through the draft are not to be filled by "any person who is a member of the Communist Party in the German American Bund."

Industry Too

Industry, too, is "conscripted". The President, through the Secretary of War or Navy, in addition to the present facilities, is empowered to place orders with corporations, companies, etc., for military equipment and other supplies at a "reasonable price." Preference must be given to government orders. If a firm does not "cooperate", its plants, machinery, etc. can be taken over and operated by the USA at a "fair and just" compensation determined by the Secretary of War or Navy. The firm or its responsible executive may receive a maximum punishment of \$50,000 fine and three years imprisonment. Probably the fine may be paid from the proceeds of the "fair and just compensation."

LABOR ACTION

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

- 1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
- For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty Thirty -\$30 weekly minimum wage-30hour weekly maximum for all workers.
- 3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries-aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
- Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
- 5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
- 6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
- Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
- Against compulsory military training and conscription.
- 9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
- 10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
- 11. For an independent Labor Party. 12. For Workers' Defense Guards against
- Fascist and vigilante attacks.
- 13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
- For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

Why France Fell

The National Manufacturers Association and other employer groups have discovered why France fell. The NAM is using billboard advertising in California to give all who can read the answer to this question. This big manufacturer's association says that France was not prepared to fight Hitler effectively because her strength, vigor and morale were sapped during the period of the Peoples Front and the Blum government. It was the labor laws, the 40 hour week and the vacations with pay that weakened France. This is the story of the NAM and other boss groups.

The inference, of course, is that the United States should be duly warned by the plight of poor France. New Deal labor legislation should be revoked. The Wager Act, the Wages and Hours Act, old age pensions, social security and the Walsh-Healy Act should be repealed. Working hours should be lengthened, strikes should be forbidden and the workers should wait until the war is over to ask for wage increases. If these things aren't done the United States will be weakened, morale will be lowered, "our people" will grow soft and the country will be forced to capitulate to Hitler.

Not because it weakened France; this is bunk. The leaders of the Popular Front were not the masters of France. Under the guidance of the Stalinists, the Popular Front played around with half way measures; stopped at a half way house. The Stalinists, shouting, "all power to Daladier," and the Socialist Party's Blum,

er land with

vote chasing and hanging on to the coat tails of Herriot, betrayed the revolutionary workers of France and paved the road for Hitler. These leaders softened the class struggle in France, stifled the upsurge of the French workers and sold them down the river. They left the French ruling class in

possession of the factories, railroads, banks, mills and mines. They led the workers in disorderly retreat right at the time when the proletariat of France was in the mood to take over. These workers would have fought against Hitler too—just as the workers of every country must fight agaist Hitler. Not under the banner of the ruling class and in the wars waged by the imperialists, but under the banner of the working class on its way to a workers' government and Socialism.

This then is the tragedy of France and this alone: the defeat of the French working class.

Herein is a lesson for the workers in the United States and every capitalist country in the world to learn, and learn it thoroughly. Organize, and fight! Carry the class struggle through to its end! Our fight today is against our own ruling class. OUR MAIN ENEMY IS WITHIN OUR OWN COUNTRY.

The Union's Job

George Scalise, one time president of the Building Service Employees International Union (AFL) has been tried and convicted in a capitalist court for forgery and stealing from his union. The jury said that Scalise had stolen \$2,857 from the union and falsified union records by causing false statements of his expense account to be entered.

We are not especially interested in Scalise's conviction. If he had been found not guilty this would make no particular difference. The fact, if it is a fact, that Scalise stole a couple of thousand dollars or falsified the union records is not the important factor in this case.

What is important is the fact that whether guilty or not from a technical legal standpoint, Scalise is a union racketeer. He is a type of scoundrel that had no business in any leading capacity in the labor movement. He might have been found not guilty by the capitalist court jury. This would not have destroyed our charge that Scalise is a racketeer, an antiunion person, a shyster, a real labor faker.

The Second Article by Max Shachtman

The Murder of Leon Trotsky

(Continued from page 1)

the Chief of Police of Mexico City on September 3, 1940, based on an extensive interview with Jackson, in which he demonstrates that Jackson's claims, in so far as they relate to connections with Belgium, are utterly false.

Jackson claimed to have been born in Teheran, capital of Iran (Persia), while his father was Belgian minister to that country. Loridan showed that Belgian records revealed no such person on the diplomatic or consular lists in any country whatsoever, and that Belgium's minister to Persia from 1904 to 1908 was M. Marc t'Serstevens, replaced in 1908 by M. Havenith.

Jackson claimed that his brother was "secretary of the consulate" in 'Belgium's foreign representations.

Not a Belgian, No Knowledge of Belgium

Jackson claimed to have studied in the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Brussels. Loridan, who studied in the same institution, asked Jackson to give the names of any of the professors. Jackson was unable to mention a single one!

Jackson claimed to have started and concluded the courses of the Military School in the little Flemish town of Dixmude. But there is no military school there! Furthermore, although the discipline is extremely strict in Belgian (as in all other) military schools, Jackson claims to have obtained permission to follow the courses at the University of Brussels-130 kilometers from Dixmude.

Jackson claimed to have studied in the Brussels Jesuit college of "St. Ignatius Loyola." But there is no such college in Belgium, and his indication of its alleged address was denied by Loridan.

Jackson claimed that his mother lived for some time at No. 1 of the "Chaussee de Havre" (there is no such place in Brussels, although there is a "Chaussee de Wavre"); at that number on the Chaussee de Wavre there is a big department store known to all the inhabitants of Brussels!

Loridan pointed out, finally, that Jackson did not know a single word of Flemish, although he claims to have studied in the Flemish town of Dixmude, where, apt linguist that he is, he could not help picking up a bit, at least, of the Flemish language.

"There is enough," concludes Loridan about his interview, "to demonstrate that he is not a Belgian and that he has no knowledge whatever of Belgium."

What possible purpose could Jackson have had, then, in creating such a completely false identity for himself? And to do it from the very beginnings of his connections with the Trotskyist movement? Can there be any reasonable answer save the one that he was covering up his real identity as an agent of the GPU?

His Passport Cut, Out of GPU Cloth

tion the name of his alleged employer or his whereabouts, although as a "revolutionist" he could hardly have any special interest in covering him up. The place which he gave originally as his business address in Mexico City has been proved to be fraudulent. And most decisive of all, Jackson took special care to burn every one of his papers just before he went out to Coyoacan to murder Trotsky, that is, all the papers that might have proved his point if he really had been working for an Allied purchasing agent and not as agent of the GPU. Why did he burn his papers? To protect a patriotic Allied business man, or the GPU? It is not hard to choose the true answer.

His Address-The Address of the **Siqueiros Conspiracy**

FIFTH and most significant: On the evening of August 30, in the hospital room of Sylvia Ageloff, there occurred the second, and this time a most dramatic and sensational, confrontation with Jackson, in the presence of Judge Carranca Trujillo and other Mexican authorities. The judge first verified the fact, stated by Sylvia and admitted by Jackson, that in New York he had given her his Mexican business address as the Ermita Building in the Tacubaya section of Mexico City. Suddenly the judge turned to Jackson and asked: "Did you know that this was the address of the Siqueiros conspiracy?"

David Alfaro Siqueiros, prominent Mexican Stalinist, is the main and self-acknowledged leader of the machine-gun assault upon Trotsky's house on last May 24, which ended with the tragic kidnapping and murder of one of Trotsky's guards, Sheldon Harte. From his hiding place somewhere in Mexico, he, or someone else in his name, sent a communication to the Chief of Police and to the Mexican press after Trotsky was assassinated, in which he again boasted of the fact that he had led the May 24 attack. The Ermita Building was the organizing center of the Sigueiros raid!

To the judge's question, Jackson made only a 'stupid, or rather a mocking reply. He did not know Siqueiros; had no connection with the May 24 affair, and the fact that he had given Sylvia the address of the Ermita Building-of all the buildings in Mexico City, a city he was visiting for the first time in his life-was "pure chance"! "I gave her the first address that came to my mind," said Jackson coolly. And that address, the "first to come to my mind" and given by "pure chance", just "happened" to be the same as that used by the GPU in organizing the first attempt on Trotsky's life!

His Reason for Covering Up the GPU

Did Jackson expect his fantastic reply to be taken seriously? Of course not! Nobody did-least of all the judge-nor did or could he imagine that anybody would. Then why this impudent and transparent falsehood? The answer is simple: Jackson does not care whether his story is believed or not. He knows per-

-THE NEGRO'S FIGHT Stand Together, **Fight For Jobs-**That's the Way

By J.R. JOHNSON

In the struggle for jobs, Negroes must not lose heart by the difficulties they will meet. The thing to do is to organize. Negroes must not go begging, one by one, for a job as a special favor. That would be of small value in the great crisis. They must organize.

A vigorous, intelligent Negro can achieve wonders in this work if he follows the principles of proletarian struggle. Do not go begging to the contractor or the boss. Do not ask the Negro parson, or the white parson for that matter, to say a word for the Negroes. Let any Negro who sees the situation get together with a few of his fellow-workers and his friends, their wives and families. Call a meeting, plan the future, find out where there are jobs in the district, contact the local unions and the local political parties and demand jobs as a right, not as a favor. The ruling class expects to put five million men to work between now and this time 1941. The Negroes must get a substantial number of these, or they. are lost in the difficult days that are to come,

YOU MUST BE UP AND DOING

You demand and are refused. Ask why! Write letters to the press, not very long letters, but stating, simply and clearly, what this American democracy does to the Negro people. If the press refuses to print the letter, then publish it yourselves on a leaflet and distribute it all over the town. Call other meetings. Get the local Negro population interested, and the white workers too.

You will get support only when people see that you are up and doing, and not taking the blows of American democracy lying down. Organize and fight, my Negro friends, organize and fight and fight, because tough times are ahead, and whether times are tough or not, you need to find your place among the workers.

If things look black, keep on fighting. Let every one in your town know that the Negroes are dissatisfied and are demanding their rights, above all their elementary right to a job. If you live in a district where there are members of the Workers Party, consult them. They will help, but do not wait for such help. Write to this paper and we will be glad to give such help as we can. But organize and demand some rights!

A LESSON LEARNED IN BALTIMORE

Listen to this story: some years ago, a white southerner came to live in Baltimore and was appointed a member of the school board. This prejudiced scoundrel saw the children of Baltimore, white and black, going to the same schools. No one objected. It had been like that for years. But it hurt the soul of this poisonous beast, and he began to work to change it. One by one he worked on the members of the board and brought them over to his point of view. After six years he had a majority and the board passed a law separating the white children from the black in a certain district.

The Negro parents would not accept this. They refused to send their children to school. They educated them at home as best they could. After a struggle lasting nearly two years, they won, The Jim-Crow attempt was wrecked and all the children thereafter went to school together.

IT TAKES PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

We can learn much from that But for th

This Lie,

-this monstrous fraud of the bosses has been peddled all over the U.S. The daily papers have carried it in editorial columns, the stooges of the rich have uttered it on the radio, in the pulpit and the classroom. They have conspired to put this lie over because it is part of their plan to guarantee for themselves unlimited profits from war orders.

They prate about culture, freedom and democracy. But they don't give a damn for culture, freedom, or democracy if these things don't yield a profit. They say they want to preserve the "American Way of Life." But the "American Way of Life" for them is union breaking, scab herding, bread lines for the millions and lynching, while they draw huge dividends and fat salaries.

We shed no tears over the defeat of the ruling class of France: the 200 families and their parliamentary representatives. Like the 60 families in the U.S. it is bound by class fies to the gang for which Hitler acts. Threatened by the workers of Germany, France or the United States, they will all unite in common class cause.

We want to see every national ruling class, including our own, replaced by the working class. That section of the working class to which we belong fights for A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT, FOR SO-CIALISM, FOR THE SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF THE AMERICAS, FOR THE WORLD SOCIALIST FEDERATION. This is

Our Main Task

-our historic mission as workers. We too were against the Popular Front.

We don't say these things because the court found Scalise guilty. We don't have confidence in the capitalist courts. They have been known to find innocent workers guilty and to set guilty bosses free. We don't have any confidence in Dewey's socalled union clean-up. We have known district attorney's to frame innocent workers.

Enough of the actual record and union operations of Scalise have been revealed to substantiate our charge that he had no business in the labor movement. This is what we are interested in. We are further concerned with the fact that the union and the AFL did nothing to rid the union of Scalise. Bill Green, other Building Service international officials and the membership permitted this racketeer to stay at the head of the union and carry on his anti-union racketeering activities.

,The workers in the union and the AFL leaders let this thing go until the capitalist court stepped in to halt Scalise. This is perhaps alright with Green since he has called on the police and the FBI to clean the racketeers from the unions.

Scalise was tried by the wrong court. He should have been tried, convicted and ousted by the members in the union which he headed. All other union racketeers must be tried by this same court. The unions cannot afford to turn this job over to the capitalist courts. This is asking our enemies to build our unions for us. They can have no interest in this and when they pretend to, their actions are a fraud and a fake.

For Labor Action-Join the Workers Party with the state of the literation of the

THIRD: Jackson claims that he obtained his passport and the money for his trip to Mexico from a member of the Bureau of the Fourth International. He does not know his name or pseudonym; he does not even know his nationality. In the first place, the Fourth International is notoriously poor, as Jackson himself acknowledges in the letter which the police found on his person. In the second place, he, who claims to have been passionately devoted to the cause of the Fourth International, never thought of returning the sum of money he got from the Bureau member when he finally succeeded in getting several thousand dollars for the same trip-from Europe to Americafrom his "mother." In the third place, the passport was Canadian, made out in the name of Frank Jackson.

Whoever is even slightly acquainted with the meager financial and technical resources of the Fourth Internation, understands how impossible it would be for it to provide anyone with a false passport. But, apart from private and lucrative forged-passport rings, there is one which is notoriously active in this field, namely, the GPU! It is no secret that the GPU has at its disposal any number of passports from any number of countries, and that it has the technical equipment to "fix them up" for purposes such as Jackson's or ones similar to it.

And finally, there is reason to believe that the Canadian "original" of Frank Jackson was not a stranger either to the Stalinist movement itself or to Stalinist enterprises. It would not be surprising to learn, for example, that the aforementioned "original" is no longer living and that he turned over his genuine passport (later adapted to Jackson's use) to the Stalinist commissars in charge of his activities in the country where he died, not so long ago. Even more than the letter found on his person, Jackson's passport -we freely predict-will prove clearly his connections with the GPU.

Why Did He Burn His Papers?

FOURTH: Jackson claims to have been engaged in a job which-from the standpoint of his crimewas more or less innocent. That is, as employee or assistant of a secret purchasing agent for the Allied governments in the United States and Mexico, he was working at a job which, under the given conditions, could scarcely be thought of as being related to an attempt to assassinate Leon Trotsky.

But-he does not have a single document to prove that he was engaged in this work. He does not menfectly well, as we pointed out last week, that regardless of what kind of story he tells, whether obviously false or even if completely true, his personal fate is sealed. Regardless of what kind of story he tells, the judicial verdict will hardly change by a hair's breadth. All he does care about is not to make any statement or admission which would directly implicate his real masters, the GPU.

And why does he so unwaveringly cover up the GPU? In the first place, so far as he himself is concerned, he has little to gain by inculpating the Stalinist murder syndicate. In the second place, it is pretty clear that the GPU has some formidable hold upon him, at least as strong as its hold on the pathetically wretched defendants in the Moscow Trials, at least strong enough to impose silence upon him.

What is this power that the Moscow assassins have over him? One can only conjecture, for the present. Is it simply that he is a poisoned fanatic? Or do they hold in their hands some dire menace to someone he really loves, someone, say, like his mother for whom he has expressed to his intimates, in the past year or more, a positively impassioned affection, an attachment very much like a fixation? We repeat, one canonly conjecture.

Stalin Must Be Brought to Account

However that may be, the real murderers cannot be concealed, no matter how stolid and nimble Jackson may continue to be. The GPU murdered Leon Trotsky as surely as if its hands and not Jackson's wielded the brutal mattock. That is to say, Stalin murdered Leon Trotsky as surely as if his hand had struck the blow.

Stalin-that means steel, that means today the poison-tipped steel of the brute-killer.

Joseph Stalin, skulking, perfidious, cowardly assassin, striking down an adversary who was his opposite in every respect-in honor, in nobility, in integrity, in culture, in selfless devotion to the cause-and striking him down characteristically from behind, it is from this hideous and most sinister of all figures that the working class will yet demand an accounting when it brings him to his last judgment.

Be Sure to Get the Sept. Issue of the New Int'l

A state of the second

persistent snake, the problem would never have risen at all. But patiently and with persistence he worked to introduce his reactionary ideas, We must have the same patience and persistence. If the first attempt to organize Negroes for jobs fails, try again. Win over some supporters one by one, and it won't take six years to do it.

Note next how the southerner, was beaten. The people just refused to stand for it, and by holding together, after a long struggle they won. That is the spirit of organization. All together and fighting determinedly. Your wives who have to bear the burden of living on a few dollars from the relief bureau must be drawn into the struggle. They must demonstrate with you. They must write to the press, they must go with you to ask for the job.

Once more: Tough times are ahead. Negroes must organize, or they will be battered soft. Organize now, fight for jobs in industry. You need them to live and to tie yourselves to the labor movement.

LABOR ACTION 114 W. 14th Street New York City

Dear Friends:

I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

Name _____

Address

City _____

