LABOR ACTION Workers! This Is Not Our War! In This Issue -It Is a War for Boss Profits! U.S. Empire Page 3 Join Hands in Independent Indo China Page 2 Labor Action Against the War! Correspondence Page 4 THREE CENTS ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES **NOVEMBER 11, 1940** 98 THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER-WHAT NEXT? Roosevelt's Third Term Course Is Clear-He "We're on Our Way" - - F. D. R. **Facts Prove** Will Continue Marching on the Road to War **Jim-Crow** Following the most heated and bitter presidential campaign in recent years Franklin D. Roosevelt was re-elected by the smallest plurality since 1916. Willkie received the largest vote In Boss rolled up by a defeated candidate. The Democratic Party retains majority control of both houses HOME of Congress. RELIEF "Defense" The president won 468 electoral votes as compared to 523 in 1936, and only 55% of the popular vote as against 62% four years ago. This marked a significant decline in Roosevelt's support among the people. Analysis of the available figures shows that the President's votes came from the traditional-By SAM WOLF ly solid Democratic Jim-Crow South, and from the overwhelming majority of the workers, parti-Faced with a movement of widecularly the trade unionists. It appears that he lost votes among former middle class and farmer spread protest against the jim-crow supporters. In addition reports indicate significant switches against the President among the antipolicies of the army and navy, and the discrimination against Negroes British, Irish-American, in war preparations industries-the It is generally accepted that far more than previously votes in the present election were Roosevelt regime has been scramb-FIRST TERM ling around to assure the Negro that determined by a desire to dethere will be no discrimination on feat the opponent candidate. - THE WORLD AT WAR racial grounds in the government's The Willkie vote was in large vast war preparations program. Both the National Defense Advis-The Unfolding of the War measure primarily an antiory Commission and the War depart-Roosevelt vote, and vice versa. ment have issued statements attempt-Will Prove F.D.R.'s "No War" ing to deny jim-crow policies in con-**Feared Wall Street** BOARD nection with the war preparations program **Promise a Willful Deception** BUT HERE'S HOW THE RECORD The large labor vote for LOOKS. Roosevelt indicated the de-Here are a few examples of how termination of the workers to boss "democracy" is actually being By MAX STERLING armies are available, together with defeat Willkie. They feared carried out: huge air forces, it appears that the Now that the elections are over. that the direct representative campaign of the Axis in Greece will the American people are anxiously ARREST SEAMEN WHO be successful. Land operations in othof Wall Street would destroy the PROTEST DISCRIMINATION looking forward to the fulfillment er parts of the Near East may follow. social gains made during the of the candidate's promise that no SECOND . . The Axis may reach all their Three weeks ago, the Negro mess-TERM American troops will be sent to par-Roosevelt Administration. Their objectives, which may include all men on the battleship U.S.S. Philalicipate in the war across the seas. delphia wrote to the Pittsburgh Cour-British naval bases in the Near East, suspicions about the President's That promise can no more be fuloil fields and the Suez Canal. The onier about the abuse and discriminaforeign policies and their hostilfilled than Roosevelt's earlier promly thing to stop the march would be tion to which they were subjected ise that the United States would British air power. WHERE IS IT TO ity to his conscription plans were on this ship. They disclosed no naval maintain an attitude of strict neu-COME FROM? overweighed in their minds by secrets. They simply took this means trality towards any European war. "The British Navy in the Eastern to protest the jim-crow policy which the need of stopping Willkie Who is mad enough to say, now that relegated them to "kitchen help" be-

now at a loss, and the same is true

on a larger scale when it comes to

paying rent above the allowed scale.

the full amount of the stamp. How-

Storekeepers Chisel

before she needs it.

(Continued on page 2)

meeting.

names to the letter they wrote. According to wires received by the Courier, 18 of these men have been put in prison for their act. They are jailed because they dared to protest against . discrimination in the navy which is supposed to be defending democracy.

cause of the color of their skins.

They had the courage to sign their

REFUSED JOBS AT ARMY AIRPORT

DANVILLE, Ill., Oct. 24-Baskin Jackson, Negro worker, and Floyd Debosa, white worker, both members of the Building and Construction Trades Council, Vermillion County, No. 624, A.F. of L., along with Ceci

Relief Clients Voice Complaints at UPWU Meeting

culture.

Imposes Hardships

Jobless Protest Abuses Of Food Stamp Plan

as surplus by the Secretary of Agri-

For the United States, the greatest imperialist nation in the world, the struggle for world empire is of the greatest importance. Because American imperialism has judged that a victory by Hitler is the greatest danger to her imperialist aspirations, THIRD TERM she has thrown in her lot with Great

Britain. The war has a logic of its own, and both Presidential candidates understood this logic. That is why their promise not to send American troops was a willful deception, a deception which will speedily be exposed.

American war industries are sending

half of their output to Great Britain,

that we are neutral in this war?

Mediterranean, with all its lines of communication severed, may be forced to leave Greece and attempt to defend its bases and oil ports from attack. The British Army could not

long stem the Axis avalanche. "Britain's weakness in the Mediterranean is a lack of troops and airplanes." (My emphasis: M.S.) From this statement, made coldly and realistically, we see that the de-

veloping war in Africa and the Near East, which is decisive for Britain, spells defeat for her unless additional man and air power augments her admitted inferiority in these branches. WHERE WILL THIS COME FROM? The frightful conclusion cannot be evaded. It is no wonder that the American draftees feel deeply and maintaining their labor standards. While they mistakenly identified Roosevelt with the defense of social legislation. they manifested their enmity to the open candidate of big busimess.

'That accounts for the unprecedented sharpness of feeling in the campaign as shown in the demonstrations of hostility against Willkie by the workers in Detroit and New York. On several occasions missiles were thrown at the Republican candidate.

Taylor, another Negro worker, went to Rantoul, Ill., where a new army airfield is being built, to look for jobs.

Told that six men were needed they were sent to the foreman, who hired Debosa immediately. Jackson and Taylor were sent back to the office, where, after waiting several hours, they were told: "We just don't hire any colored!"

FAIRBANKS-MORSE. CATERPILLAR JIM-CROW

CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 31-According to reports made public today, the Fairbanks-Morse Company of Chicago, and the Caterpillar Tractor Company of Peoria, both of which are working on government contracts, follow a policy of race discrimination in employment.

Fairbanks-Morse is working on a \$19,000,000 government contract, and Caterpillar Tractor holds a \$300,000 "defense" contract.

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 2-Further racial discrimination in employment was uncovered this week at the Hedgewick assembly plant of the Ford Motor Company in Chicago, J.E. Conner, an electric welder, and Henry Gardner, an auto mechanic, were both refused employment in their trades because they were Negroes.

The personnel director of the Ford plant stated that the only jobs open to Negro workers were janitors.

The Ford Company has been awarded a number of "defense" contracts by the government.

By SUSAN GREEN When the food stamp plan went into effect in Brooklyn in September, Welfare Commissioner William Hodson

ment:

made the following optimistic state-Because the whole family has to participate in the plan, and not only "From every standpoint it is helpone or two members, it results in ful and constructive, and we are great hardship by taking a huge slice out of cash payments. As it works certainly grateful to the Federal Govout, for example, a family of five, will get only \$20 instead of \$35 in cash. It was pointed out at the UPWU

ernment for making the experiment possible. My hope is that it will prove so successful in Brooklyn that we can extend it throughout the city without too much delay."

That the optimism of Hodson has not been realized in the eight weeks Just A Mote that the plan has been in operation in Brooklyn, was attested to at the meeting of the Unemployed and Pro-In The Eye ject Workers Union on October 29. One home relief client after another got up and told about the abuses of Of "Justice"

the food stamp plan. The complaints fell into three categories: (1) families taking the stamps were deprived of cash for even the most elementary needs; (2) they were not getting the full value of the

1939, the Department of Justice has stamps because of change difficulties: (3) housewives going into stores with stamps were ashamed, and storekeepers took advantage of their It will be remembered that, under

the plan, for each member of a home relief family \$3 is deducted from the semi-monthly checks. In return the family gets orange stamps, with a face value of \$3 for each member,

good for any type of foodstuff, and. blue stamps, with a face value of \$1.50, good only for foods designated

failed to reveal a single instance where this newly-created unit has taken action in numerous cases where Negroes have been lynched, beaten, and deprived of the right to vote according to a statement issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The statement charges that this

refusal to protect Negro rights makes it clear that Negroes are unable to secure the same type of justice as other American citizens from the present Department of Justice.

Since the establishment of its spe-

cial Civil Liberties Division early in

Citing the lynching last June of Elbert Williams, NAACP member, who helped to lead a Right-to-vote Campaign among Negroes in Brownville, Tennessee, as the most flagrant case brought before the Justice Department in many years, the statement quoted an association representative in Brownsville as saying: "Members of the mob that lynched Williams can be seen each day in Brownsville going about their work

as though they had only killed a rabbit. Tip Hunter, the leader of the mob, recently took office as Sheriff of the county." Many other cases where Negroes

have been refused the right to vote were cited in the NAACP statement. No doubt the Department of Justice is so busy hunting down "reds" and "foreign agitators" that it does not have time to investigate these flagrant, violations of Negro rights guaranteed on paper by the Constitution of the USA and by the spokesmen of both political parties.

NEUTRALITY? BUNK! meeting that, with so little cash,

participants in the food stamp plan On the very eve of the elections, have no money for such things as Roosevelt boasted that he would send haircuts, stockings, an occasional 12,000 airplanes to England, and Willmovie, or even a ride on the city's kie countered that that was mere subway. The barber will not accept chicken feed. Suffice it to say, that, a bunch of carrots for payment, nor if there is time, this promise of will a head of cabbage fit into the Roosevelt will be fulfilled. Howslot of the subway machine. Smokever, only people who live in the ers to whom an occasional pack of clouds can think that American aid, cigarettes is almost indispensable, enormous as it is and will be, can feel the pinch. Housewives, who bebe limited solely to the materials of fore the food stamp plan, could war. squeeze a few pennies off the food

There are many people who comto patch up the electric bill when it fort themselves with the thought that got beyond the \$1.50 allowed, are after all, even if the war makers wanted to send American troops abroad where, with France gone, is there a place to send them? But one need only look at the war map for the answer. The war is world-wide. Storekeepers are supposed to give South America and Asia are as much a signed credit slip for the change arenas of war as Europe-and, make no mistake, U.S. imperialism covets when a purchaser does not buy for the Latin American market, the East Indies oil. etc. ever, there has been chiseling and

great inconvience on this score, ac-Take a look at the Italian camcording to speakers at the UPWU paign in Greece. Everyone knows that this is no isolated campaign, but is a The story was told of a Negro wompart of a much larger strategy aimed an at a butcher shop. The butcher at the British Empire in the Near East and Africa. If to-day the Italrefused to give her a credit slip for ians are fighting in Greece without change. Finally, because she kept the aid of Germany this is because insisting, he tore off a bit of newsthe Axis strategy is and has been to paper and jotted down something invade and conquer one country at hardly legible. It was obvious he had a time. Should Italy meet with more no intention of honoring the slip in the future. Often grocers, refuse resistance than it can overcome, Germany will come to her aid. It is outright to give the credit slips, estimated that no less than 1,500,000 demanding that the customer buy Nazi troops are standing by in southmore merchandise, stuff she does not eastern Europe. want and which may go bad on her

BRASS-HATS KNOW At the open air markets, where

business is done on pushcarts and The military brains of the United stands, it is almost impossible to get States are not blind to the realities. credit slips for change. The result Thus, Rear Admiral Yates Stirling, is that women buy an extra bunch U.S.N. Retired, has this to say in of this and an extra head of that. the New York Times of Nov. 4 ". . . They don't need it and it gets stale The British Navy is trying to help Greece, but unless large British

and bitterly that they are on their way to war and not merely to a year's military training.

Relief Clients Barred From **Housing Project**

Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO-The formal opening, October 27, of the Ida B. Wells Housing Project saw relief clients barred from its benefits. Built in the midst of the crowded Negro area of Chicago's South Side, it excludes those whose living conditions are worst-those who are forced to live in rat-infested fire-traps because relief clients cannot rent apartments in the better buildings.

The housing authorities state that they cannot accept relief clients because of the rental policy of the Chicago Relief Administration which at present gives only 80% of the actual rent, and gives the remainder of the budget in non-negotiable food stamps. Where this policy has not resulted in evictions, it has forced relief clients into even worse homes than they had before. It is now barring them from the project to which hundreds of them looked forward so eagerly as a chance at last to exchange the dingy crowded tenements for decent homes. Many of them are still hope-'fully filing applications unaware of the latest dirty deal handed out to them.

/ At the dedication meeting of the project, the South Side Action Committee issued leaflets urging all workers to join it in its fight for 100% rentals and for the right of relief clients to live in the Ida B. Wells homes.

Class Feeling

It is with some accuracy that the Republican spokesmen accused Roosevelt of appealing to class feelings. Recognizing the profound hatred of the workers for big business, the President was able to utilize this feeling against the candidate of Girdler, Lamont and Pew.

On his own part, Willkie also made demogogic appeals to la- . bor, bragging about his humble experiences as a fellow worker and pledging to defend the existing labor laws. However, it was impossible for the direct nominee of the reactionary monopolists to pose as the friend of the workers. Not even John L. Lewis was able to swing the workers into line for Willkie, as Roosevelt's large majorities in the coal fields .show.

Another important reason for Roosevelt's labor vote was the re-employment of several million workers in the past year as a result of his tremendous armament program. There is no doubt that the President, having failed to make a dent in mass unemployment during the first seven years of his regime, undertook this program, in part, with an eye on the 1940 elec-(Continued on page 4)



Something To Be Proud Of-

It will be some time before the final tally on Max Shachtman's vote in the 23rd Congressional district of the Bronx is shown. But this much is known now: regardless of the size of the vote, the campaign conducted by Local New York of the Workers Party was a success of which the New York party members may well be proud.

Winding up the campaign in whizbang style, the campaign committee toured the Bronx with speakers who delivered the socialist anti-war message through a loud-speaker rigged onto a car. Additional thousands of pieces of literature (making approximately 100,000 pieces in all) were distributed as the membership turned out in full force. An indoor meeting at the Hollywood Gardens, addressed by Max Shachtman and

other speakers, climaxed the drive. No other candidate in the district, not all of them put together, came anywhere near making the number of speeches that Shachtman did-on street corners, and in halls. The Workers Party was out to spread its message, to make its program known to the Bronx workers-and that it did.

In the coming issue of LABOR ACTION, we will present a summary of the campaign by Nathan Gould, New York Organizer.

You Ain't Lying, Pal

"The Morris Plan Bank."

When one of the registrants for the draft in Akron was asked for the name of someone that would always know his address, he replied,

Page 2

With the Labor Unions_____ Stamp Plan_ **On the Picket Line**

DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM THE BOSSES' STOOGE

Sidney Hillman, "labor representa- contracts. tive on the National Defense Advisory Commission" is certainly making a most inglorious record as labor leader. There is a strike brewing at the Camden plant of the New York Shipbuilding Corporation. Local 1 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers is conducting negotiations with the company for a new contract that will give higher wages and better working conditions. There was a deadlock and the matter went to Hillman.

This alleged representative of the workers, talking like Tom Girdler or a police chief, told reporters, "there will be no strike. You can take my word for that." Hillman told the union's leaders that a strike would not be "tolerated" because the shipyard has \$500,000,000 in "defense"

Who is this Hillman anyhow and what does he think he is? The reporters and the bosses can take his word that there will be no strike. Hillman will protect the interests of the shipyard owners. He will guarantee continuous production and profits.

To be sure it was Sidney Hillman getting off this big talk but he was only expressing the line of Knudsen, Stettinius and the other workers' enemies on the War Preparations Commission. The shipyard and other workers need not and should not pay attention to Hillman. They should conduct their negotiations with the employers and if they cannot come to an agreement then they should strike. They should give absolutely no heed to this little stooge Hillman.

transportation even though under

We share all of these fears with

Mr. Woll except his solicitude for

the loss of "peacetime freedom" by

"capital." Capital seems capable of

taking care of itself very nicely.

And even if the capitalists run into

a few difficulties that is all right

What we would like to discover

is what is Mr. Woll doing about the

danger that faces labor? As far as

we can discover he is doing nothing.

There have been all manner of at-

tacks, open and under cover, against

labor standards already. The place

for Woll to begin is in the Execu-

tive Council of the AFL and not at

a futile talkfest in the Rand School

from the government to build new

plants as well as a guarantee of 10%

to 15% in profits. At the end of five

years the plants can be bought for

cost less depreciation. This "less de-

preciation" clause is the catch. The

hired and compliant accountants of

big corporations can produce tre-

mendous depreciation over a five

year period. A ten million dollar

plant can depreciate to around two

million for purposes of making a

settlement with the government. If

the workers would only get wise.

they would demand a little "help"

in the form of a big increase in

is, for all the poor except those who

create the wealth he gives to the

eligible employes voting; 1299 voted

refused to recognize the union, to in-

crease wages or to improve working

ing conditions. It was the strike

that changed the mind of the shys-

Before the strike, the company

for the IBEW to 70 against.

ter who owns the plant.

private ownership and control."

HOW ABOUT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT, MR. WOLL?

with us.

of Social Science.

wages

on file."

Community Chest.

Mr. Matthew Woll of the AFL has discovered that there may be some danger in the Conscription Act. He made this discovery after the bill was signed by the president and after registration day. He is similar to a group of "reform" preachers who organize a "clean government league" the day after some gang of ward heelers has won an election with their participation.

Woll fears that the country will become the victim of "militarism." After the war, the demobilized soldiers may become a "menace." "Labor as well as capital may lose much of its peacetime freedom." "We have been cautioned against already strikes against the government." "This may be followed by a warning against strikes in plants engaged in defense production and

LABOR WOULD LIKE A LITTLE OF THIS "HELP"

The government has just handed business. Big corporations get money over \$10,700,000 to the Boeing Airplane Company for plant expansion. The headline in the New York Times reads: "\$10,700,000 given to help Boeing." The Boeing company will construct new plants and the government will repay the costs over a period of five years. At the end of the five years the company will have the option to buy the plants at costs LESS DEPRECIATION or for some negotiated sum. If the company doesn't want the plants the government will take them; presumably to be kept for use in the next war.

This kind of thing is going on all over with the government and big

THEY'LL BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME

The National Association of Manu- passing: "this requirement has been facturers has been caught and ex- imposed by a departmental assistant posed practicing anti-Semitism. A in violation of the association's poli-Jewish lawyer applied for a job in cy . . ." The Association will guard

(Continued from page 1) before they get around to using it.

set apart as second-class citizens because they have to buy for stamps By David Coolidge

instead of cash. They will wait around a store or a pushcart until there are no customers before going over to make their purchases. One stamp user said he gave up buying in a butcher shop where he bought for seven years, because he was ashamed to go in with stamps. This feeling of shame and inferiority also accounts for some of the loss stamp users suffer because of the stamps. They are hasty, are afraid to insist on their rights, and when there are other customers around they will go away without getting satisfaction. It is not only in the UPWU that

complaints are voiced. Complaints have seeped through to the capitalist press. Some papers have carried the story of Mrs. Felloruis, of the Red Hook district. With her husband sick and a family of seven children, the stamp plan badly restricted her purchases of necessities other than food. She said the cash which is being deducted from the relief check would be more welcome since they need shoes and other things, and even soap has to be paid for in cash.

A representative of Local 17 of the UPWU, in Williamsburgh, said that there the small grocer will often give actual bits of cash change, even though it is illegal. He does that in order to compete with the chain store, but gets it out of the customer in some other way. A woman told how storekeepers would not accept stamps, of either color, for goods on special sale. They simply brush aside a stamp customer with the comment, "Sales is for cash customers".

The false idea is current that the acceptance of food stamps is entirely voluntary. The fact is, that very real pressure has been used by the Welfare Department. Relief clients eligible for stamps, who do not take them, are also deprived of the privilege of going to the surplus commodity depots which was their privilege before. Thus it is a case of either taking stamps or doing without surplus food altogether.

Complaints Ignored

brought before Commissioner Hodson by the Unemployed & Project Workers Union, but nothing has been done. The UPWU, therefore on the basis of the evidence presented by its members adopted a resolution at the Oct. 29 meeting which condemned the stamp plan as a step towards putting relief families entirely on the card system. The resolution called for the abolition of the plan, for the reopening of surplus food depots, and for more cash relief. The meeting also passed a motion for its Central Committee to implement the union position by the use of picket lines and whatever other means seem advisa-

ble. It is estimated that there are in Brooklyn 23,000 relief families, a total of nearly 70,000 persons, who have taken food stamps. It becomes evident that many of these people did not realize the full implication of against "any recurrence of this nawhat the stamp plan meant, especialture." That is, they'll be more carely that nothing but food can be ful the next time a Jew applies for bought for the stamps. As the Dea job. They'll reply with regret that partment of Agriculture is planning "the position has just been filled to introduce the food stamp plan in and your application will be kept 200 cities by the end of the year, the stand of the UPWU is one of extreme importance. We will comment further on it in a coming issue of LABOR ACTION.

Breaking Through the Oriental Censorship

Ruthless Oppression

alternative-independent of the de-

sires of French imperialism. That

was the possibility of colonial revolt

most ruthless oppression imaginable

has temporarily halted this, the only

progressive solution to the problem

of Indo-China's fate. In the first week

of the Second World War no less

forcibly lodged in the jails and con-

centration camps of the country! And

now, in the interim period between

the fall of France and the formal

settling of Indo-China's status, the

French administration to prove its

faithfulness to imperialist ideology

no matter what the origin, is track-

ing down those few who may have

The interim period exhibits im-

perialism in its starkest form. Not

only the unprecedented police and

military rule, but the hunger and

unemployment resulting from the

collapse of communication lines with

the outside world. The frank objec-

tive of the French authorities is:

superior technique to tomorrow's

of the essence.

To See or Not To See

He started making this picture about the little Jewish

that fascism with its filth and barbarism is a natural

development of the capitalist system and that Hitler

is the personal embodiment of this development, at

that time regarded Hitler as nothing more than a psycho-

pathic case. Five years ago, before German imperialism

went on the rampage under Hitler's guidance, even

though Chaplin's estimate of the fuehrer was wrong,

his satire of the crazy man in Berlin who needed to

be put into a straight jacket, would have been more

acceptable. Today, everybody realizes that Hitler is

more than a flower-smelling, piano-playing, posturing

and posing violent maniac. Furthermore, the Nazi war

scenes which represent every one of Goering's military

finds as nothing but duds fail in their intended humor.

However, Chaplin is a master laugh-producer and

he doesn't fall down in "The Great Dictator". Nothing

THE HUMOR IS STILL CHAPLIN'S

escaped the first mass arrests.

Saigon: Ripening the Fruit for Plucking Many women feel stigmatized and

By SHERMAN STANLEY

LABOR ACTION

SAIGON, Indo-China-With the collapse of France, the metropolitan center of the French imperialist Ema later date. pire, and with the possible collapse of England, the problem of a redistribution of their respective colonial holdings becomes acute. The totalitarian imperialist powers, eagerly scenting the blood and cast-off limbs of their fallen opponents and with a total disregard of the national aspirations of the colonial peoples. prepare for the division of the spoils. The thieves begin to fall out!

A Rich Prize

French Indo-China, the rich and strategically located prize colony of French imperialism, furnishes a splendid example of the fate that awaits the colonial masses of the two old Empires if the fascist imperialisms have their way and succeed in forcing a world redivision. Rich in rubber, tin and raw materials, this colony straddles the South China Seas and the Indian Ocean. That is, by sea it commands the areas surrounding the Dutch East Indies and those sections of the Middle East (Burma, Malay) converging at the western entrance to the Indian Ocean. In addition, by land it guards

What has happened since the fall the Allies as though nothing had changed were soon disillusioned. The material interests of the French tion began rapidly to adapt itself to

The French rulers faced two clear alternatives-either to remain with England and keep up a pretense of continuing the Allied struggle, or to adapt themselves - a polite expression for capitulate - to Japanese imperialism. In the first instance they faced the dead certainty of Japanese invasion with quick defeat, for their forces were feeble and demoralized. The second alternative was their choice. It is today's policy. Along this path lies at least the pos-

Nobody Paid Much Attention To Him

You probably won't read about it tickles the funny bone so much as to see the supposedly in your paper, because it was only superior guy made to look small and ridiculous. So

sibility of a temporary survival as masters and we shall have our share property owners and masters of -be it a minor one. men, with the chance of a subordin-

ate sharing in the administration at What Next?

"In all likelihood Indo-China's future will be decided without the participation or consultation of its There has existed all along a third masses. The most hounded Party of all-the Bolshevik-Leninists of Indo-China-are still in too weak a position to assert independent leadership. Already, even petty Thailand (Siam) on the part of the Indo-Chinese and Annamite masses who make up the blusters and threatens, demanding population of the country. But the back certain small areas in the North. Even the National Chungking regime of Chiang kai-shek talks big about a counter-invasion if Indo-China submits unresistingly to the Japanese. But these are minor threats or bluffs when compared with the realthan 25,000 Nationalists. Stalinists and Fourth Internationalists were ities of Japanese policy.

Large units of the Japanese navy, based at the island of Hainan, hover off the northern coasts; extensive military units press against the north frontier; swaggering Japanese officials and military officers inspect cargoes; freight cars and bus communications, eager to halt the minutest trickle of goods to Nationalist China. Inexorably edging in and building the foundations of tomorrow's formal rule come the vanguard forces of Japanese imperialism. And what of the Indo-Chinese masses? Today, they can do little but sit silent as yet another halter is placed around their neck. They have no illusions; they will lift no welcome Hold on at all costs, display our voice to the Japanese. They remain in silence and bide their time.

It is generally assumed in Indo-Chinese circles that a secret understanding already exists between the French government of Petain, the Japanese and Hitler. The status quo is to be formally maintained until some sort of world re-division takes place. Then Indo-China is to be added to the Japanese Far-Eastern Empire. Without the independent revolutionary action of the colonial masses such will be its inevitable fate. Indo-China today serves best as both an example and a warning to the colonies of the world. It offers a preview of the problem each colony must face sooner or later. Either world re-division, with a simple exchange of imperialist masters; or the colonial socialist revolution.

Postscript

SHANGHAI - Shanghai is filled with rumors concerning Indo-China. According to one report which has an air of reality about it, an Italo-German Commission is rushing post haste to Indo-China with the object of making a survey of its raw material resources and trade possibilities. Hitler has no intention, if he can help it, of allowing the fruits of his war to be gathered up by others! Before the new Versailles Conference, before the new world redivision is even in sight the thieves begin to fall out over division of the loot. One war not yet completed; other wars already in sight-such is the meaning of imperialism.

by Susan Green

1. 1. 1. 1.

ly dropping hat and stick-what he is sneaking away from is Hitler's voice thundering anti-semitic threats

HIS MUCH DISPUTED LAST SPEECH

over the radio.

In the end the little Jewish barber, who is the spittin' image of Hitler because they are both played by Chaplin, is mistaken for Hitler and finds himself before the massed Nazi troops after the conquest of Austria. He must deliver a speech of conquest. Instead the little Jewish barber makes an impassioned appeal to fight for kindness, humanity, the end of greed, the end of national hatreds, for democracy. The Nazi troops applaud-probably because they applaud anything the fuehrer says. And Paulette Goddard, the poor Jewess from the ghetto hears the beautiful words over the radio and sees the dawn of a new day.

Reviewers criticize Chaplin for departing from his art to present his political views in this speech. My criticism is that his politics are inadequate. Beautiful words have to be implemented successfully before a new day dawns-and not by the implication, however reserved, that the way out lies in the "democratic" fight of Churchill and Roosevelt, in their own way as able representatives of national greed as is "The Great Dictator"

A word about the acting. Chaplin is great in both roles. Jack Oakie struts beautifully as Mussolini. Paulette Goddard acts more like a Tenth Avenue kid than a Jewish daughter of the ghetto.

changed circumstances.

Four times this matter has been

the frontiers of South China. He who would have Singapore-the Gibralter of the Far East-he who would have the invaluable Dutch East Indies and erect a Far Eastern Empire, must take Indo-China first! Adapt Themselves

> of France? Those phoney "optimists" of British imperialism who envisaged Indo-China and other French colonies as continuing the struggle of plantation owners, landlords and administrators soon overcame their "spiritual" and "ideological" sympathies. The bubble, was pricked in a week and the colonial administra-

See It By All Means THE GREAT DICTATOR Charlie Chaplin has ventured into politics apparently without knowledge of the fact that in that field time

barber who resembles Hitler five years ago. Wellmeaning liberals who did not and do not understand

machine has proved itself so damnably efficient that the

the legal department of the Association and was notified that the applicant "must be a gentile" to get the job. H.W. Prentis Jr., president of the Association is very sorry and promises that it will not happen again. He resorts to the age old buck-

LEVITON WORKERS SHOWED HOW TO DO IT

As a demonstration of what a well-organized militant strike will accomplish, we cite the case of the Leviton Manufacturing Company in Brooklyn, N.Y. This factory is owned by one of that breed of fakers that substitutes big contributions to community charities for decent wages and working conditions for his work-

He gets his mug in the papers, a big name and the reputation of being a leading and philanthropic citizen. His heart literally bleeds for the poor and "underprivileged." That

A BARBARIC PRACTICE STILL IN USE

In South Carolina, the state still permits sheriffs to appoint company deputies that are paid by the corporations. This practice has been discontinued in most northern states. It is an extremely barbaric practice and was rampant in Pennsylvania a few years back. Most workers have heard of the "coal and iron police" in western Pennsylvania coal and steel towns. These thugs who were paid by the coal and steel companies ran roughshod over the workers. even committing murder now and then. These "deputies" although they

are officers of the "law" are responsible to nobody except the company that pays them. As a rule they are taken from the ranks of crooks, gunmen, sluggers, scabs, bandits and any anti-labor scum that can be bought off by the employers. The NLRB has just reported that two of these lice, employed by the Hamrick Textile Mills of Gaffney, S.C. "used their police powers to intimidate and coerce employes and to discourage membership in the Textile Workers Union." Of course that's what they were bought for.

Statement Of Workers Party On The Fourth International

The Voorhis Bill, which provides that all organizations having foreign connections shall register with the government and supply it with a list of its members, has passed both houses of Congress and, after being signed by the President, has become a law.

Up to the time of the adoption of the Voorhis Bill, the Workers Party has listed itself as a Section of the Fourth International. By virtue of the authority vested in it by the plenary session of the National Committee of the Party held recently, the Political Committee hereby declares, in the name of the Workers Party,

the suspension of any connections with the Fourth International. This action and declaration in no wise signifies any alteration in the fundamental principles and policies of the Workers Party or in the adherence of the Workers Party to the fundamental principles which have always been the foundation stones of the movement that established and built the Fourth International. A statement by the Workers Party

on its political attitude towards the Fourth International will be issued shortly.

Political Committee, Workers Party

Plenty Of Money The strike was lead by Local 3, Independent Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL). An NLRB vote Available For Wages was taken and with 93% of the

Corporations are beginning to publish their third quarter and nine month profit reports. Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation reports a profit of \$6,232,903 for nine months this year against \$281,189 for the same period of 1939. Tide Water Oil Company for the first nine months increased its profit \$2,677,307 over 1939.

There is plenty of money available for large increases in wages if the leaders of the working class had the guts to lead the workers into action. Almost all the big companies are in a position to pay a minimum wage of \$10 a day. Now is the time to get it. Steel production is at the highest point in eleven years. This means that immense wealth is being created by the workers. They won't get it unless they fight. The bosses can be forced to pay far more. If the workers show that they mean business the bosses will have to yield. They will have to yield or else they will be faced with losing everything.

THE PHILADELPHIA WORKERS FORUM PRESENTS

Sherman Stanley

Speaking on INSIDE ASIA

Sunday, November 17, 1940 8:30 P.M.

715 Pine Street

For Labor Action -

Join Workers Party

a Little Man who died. Anyway, his death is mixed up in the government defense preparations, and not many people dare ask many questions about that these days.

His name was Elmer Jones (that could be almost any one of us. couldn't it?). He was 54 and he lived near Ravenna. Ohio, where the new munitions plant is going up.

A few weeks ago the government suddenly announced the purchase of 20,000 acres of farm-land, upon which were to be erected huge munition plants.

Families that had tilled the soil for generations; newlyweds just establishing themselves on the land and looking forward to growing old together; men grown old with their farms-all were given a month to clear out and begin life somewhere else anew. One of those who left was Elmer Jones.

But last week he returned to the old farm. Attaching a hose to the exhaust pipe of his car, he started the engine and shortly after he died. Nobody paid much attention. After all, Elmer Jones was just a Little Man. . . .

the fuch rer's elbow slips off the desk when he is trying too look impressive; he takes away a hand full of something after holding a baby; he absentmindedly puts English mustard on his strawberries instead of cream. But the most superb piece of deflation is a speech in which Hitler rants in a combination of German, Jewish English and gibberish. Even the microphones curl up in fright, but the fuehrer winds up with a series of coughing, puffing animal sounds signifying nothing.

However, in the process of deflating Hitler, Chaplin makes another mistake of proportion and politics. It is unconvincing and unreal to allow Mussolini the privilege of making Hitler look like a flat tire. (By the way, Hitler is known in the film as Adenoid Hynkel, Dictator of Tomania, and Mussolini as, Napaloni, Dictator of Bacteria). Napaloni sweeps into Tomania like a tornado and keeps Hynkel fluttering around in the breeze. But it is no argument against dictators to have dictator Mussolini clap dictator Hitler down.

The film is at its best when Chaplin plays the funny little fellow with the turned out feet and baggy pants. Some of the funniest sequences are at the beginning of the film when the little Jewish barber is a dazed German soldier who lets a hand grenade slip up his sleeve and wanders into the enemy lines.

After fifteen years in a soldiers' hospital getting over mental shock, he returns to his barber shop and the reign of the Nazi. His uncomprehending indignation reaches a humorous high when, having been given the works by one storm trooper, he turns to another, saying: "Are you a policeman? Arrest that man. He assaulted me."

There are clever bits in the true Chaplin manner where he rhythmically shaves a puzzled customer to music by Brahms; where he polishes off a customer's bald pate to use it as a mirror; where he sneaks home through the emptied ghetto street, on tip-toe, nervousHollywood Didn't Let Them Have It, But

"THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED"

To use the head is the important thing to Tony Patucci. What if his Amy is with child because of an indiscrete interlude with his ranch foreman, Joe. If Tony uses his head he knows that he loves Amy, that he wants her to marry him and stay with him on his ranch. But Amy is not big enough to accept Tony's foregiveness. She goes away to get over it all.

But this is not the ending in Sidney Howard's original play, which won the Pulitzer prize in 1925. In the play Amy, the waitress who was courted by Tony via. correspondence, knew she wanted Tony with his ranch and his \$10,000 in the bank. When Tony forgave her, she stayed to marry him. That gave justification for the title "They Knew What They Wanted". Hollywood, however, had to make Amy collect the wages of sin.

Though there are deviations from the original play, the film is good in its own right, and one that this reviewer recommends. Several of the scenes are among the best to be found anywhere. One such is the fiesta where Tony is showing off for his Amy. Another is where Joe, the foreman, stands up and takes his punishment when Tony finds out what he has done.

In spite of the fact that Carole Lombard is a bit too glamorous for the role of the practical waitress, she acts the part with true understanding and shows what a good actress she is. Charles Laughton's acting is uneven. At times he seems to get the very essence of the expansive, big-hearted Italian, but often he falls into being just Charles Laughton. The only really bad bit is the dulcet sanctimoniousness of Frank Fay's padre.

Who Gave Big Business Power Over Life And Death?

go to work, but actually going out hunting for a new job. He appealed to someone at the Fordham Medical College to help him get work. All in all he got promises-but no job. So recently, in desperation and hurt pride, he took his two boys out to a wooded road, and pretend-

ing to play blind-man's-buff with them, put handkerchiefs over their eyes and shot them. Then he shot himself.

The International, Business Machine Co., responsible for the triple tragedy, shamelessly offered to console the sorrowing widow and mother, by paying for the funeral expenses.

A few days later Robert Sadler, also employed by the International Business Machine Co. and O'Reilly's immediate superior, jumped to his death off the Brooklyn Bridge. He could not get over the O'Reilly tragedy and felt he was somehow responsible because it seems he had

Army Base in Brooklyn. But the International Business Machine Co. -not Sadler-has the power of firing workers.

Sadler was thirty-three. He left a widow and two small children, one only a few months old. The International Business Machine Co., resumably busy making profits on war orders, stopped to issue a statement about the fine character and ability of Sadler.

Thus a large corporation, owned by profit-making capitalists, has the power of life and death. By controlling the give-and-take-away of jobs, it controls the give-and-takeaway of the lives of the workers. The last war for "democracy" did not in any way alter this industrial despotism. The one thing that has made a dent in it is workers' unions strong enough to wrench from the bosses some measure of job control. During the present imperialist

made an unfavorable report on an war, into which the American bosses installation job by O'Reilly at the are fast pushing us, again to save "democracy", they will try to take away from the workers even that small measure of job control that unions have won. It will end by

fastening upon the workers a more viselike despotism than ever existed before.

A Way Out

These four people of the working class will not have died for nothing if their tragedy will serve to show to other working people that what is needed all over the world today is democratic control of industry through internationally friendly working class governments. Just as Hitler's imperialist war for the domination of a non-existing superior race will do the German workers no good, so the English and American brand for the domination of a nonexisting democracy will do us no good.

On the eve of this country enter- left the house as usual, pretending to ing into another war to save "democracy", comes a tragic illustration of the tyrannical industrial despotism existing in capitalist America as in every other capitalist country. It involves the death of two men in the prime of life, the death of two children seven and eight years old,

the sorrow of a woman bereaved of her husband and two children, the helplessness of a mother and two small children suddenly fatherless. Donald O'Reilly, 31, had had a job with the International Business Machine Co. For eleven years he was good enough for the job of demonstrating to customers the use of machines, of supervising their installation, of advising on efficient operating methods. Then from a clear sky he was fired.

"Solves" His Problem

O'Reilly was a proud man and did not let on to his wife and two boys that he lost his job. Every day he made of America's possessions-but

only of relations with the independ-

Older generations can, of course,

recall the odious Spanish American

War. Many people know that the

United States has colonies but are

ent countries of Latin America.

The fact that the proletariat reached power for the first time in such a backward country as the former Tsarist Russia seems mysterious only at first glance; in reality, it is fully in accord with historical law. It could have been predicted and it was predicted. Still more, on the basis of the prediction of this fact the revolutionary Marxists built up their strategy long before the decisive events.

The first and most general explanation is: Russia is a backward country, but only a part of world economy, only an element of the capitalist world system. In this sense Lenin exhausted the riddle of the Russian revolution with the lapidary formula, "The chain broke at its weakest link".

A crude illustration: the great war, the result of the contradictions of world imperialism, drew into its maelstrom countries of different stages of development, but made the same claims on all the participants. It is clear that the burdens of the war had to be particularly intolerable for the most backward countries. Russia was the first to be compelled to leave the field. But to tear itself away from the war, the Russian people had to overthrow the ruling classes. In this way the chain of war broke at its weakest link.

The War And The Backward Countries

Still, war is not a catastrophe coming from outside, like an earthquake, but as old Clausewitz said, the continuation of politics by other means. In the last war, the main tendencies of the imperialistic system of "peace"-time only expressed themselves more crudely. The higher the general forces of production, the tenser the competition on the world markets, the sharper the antagonisms, and the madder the race for armaments, in that measure the more difficult it became for the weaker participants. For precisely this reason the backward countries assumed the first places in the succession of collapses. The chain of world capitalism always tends to break at its weakest link.

If, as a result of exceptional or exceptionally unfavorable circumstances-let us say, a successful military intervention from the outside or irreparable mistakes on the part of the Soviet Government itselfcapitalism should arise again on the immeasurably wide Soviet territory. together with it would inevitably arise also its historical inadequacy, and such capitalism would in turn soon become the victim of the same contradictions which caused its explosion in 1917. No tactical recipes could have called the October Revolution into being, if Russia had not carried it within its body. The revolutionary Party in the last analysis can claim only the role of an obstetrician, who is compelled to resort to a Caesarian operation.

One might say in answer to this: "Your general considerations may adequately explain why old Russia had to suffer shipwreck, that country where backward capitalism and an impoverished peasantry were crowned by a parasitic nobility and a rotten monarchy. But in the simile of the chain and its weakest link there is still missing the key to the real riddle: How could the socialist revolution conquer in a backward country? History knows of more than a few illustrations of the decay of countries and civilizations accompanied by the collapse of the old classes for which no progressive successors had been found. The breakdown of old Russia should, at first sight, rather have changed the country into a capitalist colony than into a socialist state."

This objection is very interesting. It leads us directly to the kernel of the whole problem. And yet, this objection is erroneous; I might say, it lacks internal symmetry. On the one hand, it starts from an exaggerated conception of the backwardness of Russia; on the other, from a false theoretical conception of the phenomenon of historical backwardness in general.

Lean Tratsky on _____ The U.S. Empire - Its History The Causes of October By ALBERT GATES ______ minds of the people, no mention is of the nation. It is true, that at the pansion and the great rises in population of the people, no mention is of the nation. It is true, that at the pansion and the great rises in population of the people and the great rises in population of the people and the people and the great rises in population of the people and the great rises in population of the people and the people and the great rises in population of the people

beginning of the 19th Century, the

Southern Slavocracy had more than

once glanced in the direction of Cuba.

and proposals had been considered

at the Capitol to forcibly seize the

sugar island and incorporate it into

the United States. But internal prob-

The United States of America is an imperialist nation, just like Great Britain, France, Japan, Germany and Italy. It has a colonial empire which was gained in the same brutal and ruthless manner in which the other imperialist powers acquired their colonies. Chicanery, outright thievery, financial bribery, organized 'revolutions" and direct military intervention were some of the means employed during the years when this country carried on its most promiscuous land-grabbing activities. It got results! Within a short period of time, the United States acquired a colonial empire of 281,044 square miles, and 18,000,000 inhabitants. Nevertheless there is a popular myth that the United States ruling

class has no empire to defend and desires none. This is pure hokum. Though the economy of this country does not depend on a vast world empire, to the same degree as England, Wall Street, that is, Standard Oil Company, National City Bank, Chase National Bank, etc., have more than a small interest in America's colonies. But this is not true for the great mass of American people.

Under the "good neighbor" policy of the Roosevelt Administration,

American interests prior to the Civil War were generally confined to internal expansion, toward exwhich has been dinned into the tending and completing the borders

service. Standards put out by the

army medical corps reveal that the

draftee may be almost completely

blind in one eye, have one-half nor-

mal hearing in both ears and syph-

ilis in communicable stages and still

be accepted for duty. Among the few

causes for rejection are such things

as leprosy, incurable syphilis which

has affected the mind and tubercu-

Incidentally, a high draft official

remarked conversationally a few

nights ago: "We have instructed our

doctors NOT to reject men simply

because of a low degree of intelli-

gence. After all, a soldier needs to

possess only enough brains to under-

.

youth of our nation," an army cap-

tain remarked the night of the draft

drawing amid the sound of creak-

ing boards as he shifted his 270

pounds across the stage to draw a

Army chiefs inform this column

that draftees will dine on "simple

number from the gold fish bowl.

"This draft will harden up the

stand and execute orders."

empire and what this empire means

to American capitalism. In this and

future articles, we will trace the

history of the American Empire.

We begin with the Pre-Civil War

.



losis.

Day.

Nice-work-if-you-can-get-it department. Lehman brothers, New York financial firm, recently increased their steel stock by several thousand shares shortly before the government awarded large contracts to Bethlehem steel company. A few days later they increased their holdings of Yellow Truck and lo, the army awarded contracts for several thousand trucks. Can it be that Herbert Lehman's cousin, Henry Morgenthaus, is letting them in on the ground floor?

Newspapermen in Washington have received blanket instructions that the word "conscript" is NOT to be used when writing about the draft. "Conscript," it was explained, is a "European term meaning someone who is inducted into the army against

his own will."

Chief G-Man J. Edgar Hoover and Texas red hunter Martin Dies don't speak to each other these days. A recent raid by Dies committee officials on a Nazi propaganda agency in New York bagged three desks, a pile of Mein Kampfs, a mimeograph machine-and two FBI agents.

but nourishing and substantial food After examining the physical stand--in fact, the meals will probably be ards for the draft, this department better than those the soldier had in is convinced that a prospective concivilian life." Let's hope none of the script must have one foot in the draftees forget their manners and grave, one foot on a banana peel keep the company waiting for breakand a rope around his neck to avoid fast.

not too greatly concerned with this lems were of greater moment. fact. Yet almost every schoolboy in The Louisiana purchase had in-England knows that India is the creased the territory of the States many times its original size. Migrabackbone of the British Empire; that the empire is the very heart and tion and land settlement gripped the blood of Great Britain. Yes, despite ever-expanding Republic. The War

the absence of "colonial consciousof 1812 had won her new respect ness" in the United States, this counand the right to "freedom of the try has a colonial empire which is seas". Prior to 1812 warships were a living problem, commanding the sent against the Barbary Coast privdeepest interest of the financial and ateers, who were raising American industrial ruling classes. Hence the merchant ships. Settling accounts gigantic military preparations now with England seemed a permanent taking place in this country. thing and always took a little time, It is interesting and instructive to but the United States treated such see how the United States got its problems militantly, always threaten-

> ing to go to war to obtain what she wanted. The Texan settlers who came into conflict with their government in Mexico city, engaged in a successful civil war with the aid of influential government offices in Washington. and achieved their independence. Texas then was incorporated as a new state. In 1847, the unpopular Mexican War was fought for the purpose of acquiring new territories (the southwest).

Webster In the Saddle

Prior to the Civil War, the Webster-Hamilton policy was dominant in domestic affairs. These men favored a high protective tariff, which, placing high duties on foreign goods, help to build native industry. The administration of which Webster was Secretary of State, helped establish a sound currency and centralized banking. The government was extremely benevolent to the needs of business and kept its ear cocked to their grievances and desires.

Foreign trade was growing and became an important factor in the new industrial economy. The first commercial treaty with China was signed through the office of Daniel Webster. Covetous eves were cast in the direction of the Hawaiian Islands. In 1840, trade with China amounted to \$9,000,000. It was with the object of increasing this trade that Webster sent a commission to China to arrange a trade treaty. Coming as it did after the British had defeated Peking in the Opium War, the treaty was a simple matter indeed. Commercial privileges were obtained in all open ports, and Americans were to be tried in consular courts for breaking Chinese laws! Caleb Cushing, leader of the delegation was led to remark: "By that treaty, the laws of the Union follow its citizens and its banner protects them even within the domain of the Chinese Empire.'

Japan, which had insulated itself from the rest of the world for more than 200 years was compelled to open her doors when Commodore Perry, with a few warships, violated her territorial waters, disregarded completely absorbed in post-war re-

lation resulting from unhampered immigration.

Secretary of State Seward, was a powerful and militant advocate of the Webster-Hamilton policies in the Lincoln cabinet and under his tenure of office, foreign commerce increased and new markets were opened to American goods.

The Monroe Doctrine had already warned the European powers to keep hands off the New World. But the ambitious Napoleon III taking advantage of the Civil War, seized Mexico in order to establish a "catholic empire" and to collect on defaulted "loans." He installed Maximillian as emperor, but his disciple's rule was a stormy one since the Mexicans were in permanent revolt against the new regime. The American government frowned upon Napoleon's action and when the Civil War ended, Congress declared that, "it does not accord with the policy of the United States to acknowledge

any monarchical government in America under the auspices of any European power." Troops were mobilized on the Mexican border, but they were not required since the French venture ended in a fiasco. The Mexicans, certain of the attitude of their powerful neighbor to the North, completed the revolt with the execution of Maximillian.

In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for \$7,000,-000, a legitimate acquisition, yet the lower house fought against what it regarded as an unwarranted expenditure of money, in the same way as the legislative bodies opposed Jefferson's Louisiana purchase. But skillful negotiations and a little bit of bribery "won" the legislature to the purchase of what has since turned out to be an extremely profitable investment in the interests of American capitalists. The hesitancy on the part of the "representatives of the people" in accepting the purchases with enthusiasm, was only evidence that for the most part, American interest directed toward

national growth. Seward, however, was an advocate of colonial expansion, particularly in the Caribbean Sea. Using the Navy Department which had been cruising in the neighborhood of Santo Domingo, he obtained a treaty for the acquisition of Samana Bay as a naval base. The government in Santo Domingo was in bad financial straits and in trouble with other European powers. It was prepared to grant this naval base in exchange for American protection and financial support. Seward, at the same time, proposed the purchase of the Virgin Islands, for which he had already obtained a treaty from Denmark: and he had obtained, also, a treaty giving the United States control over the Isthmus of Panama. Both the Senate and the House rejected these treaties and the "unwarranted" expenditures of money involved in the transactions. The defeated South had lost all interest in Latin-American expansion; the Republican Party,

island. Babcock was met by "President" Baez, who claimed that he was the head of the country. This claim was contested by another, "President" Cabral. But even before Colonel Babcock had departed for Santo Domingo, Baez had proposed that his country be annexed by the United States.

The "President" proposed, in his discussion with Grant's representative, to sell the island for \$1,500,000! The two of them then drew up a treaty of annexation and Babcock returned to Washington, bringing with him specimens of ores, hardwoods coffee berries and similar tropical products. Grant declared to an amazed cabinet, who sat glaring at the Dominican samples: "Babcock has returned, as you see and has brought a treaty of annexation. I suppose it is not formal, as he had no diplomatic powers, but we can easily cure that."

What The Senate Did

Not a few embarrassing moments were spent in that meeting of shocked cabinet members. Grant, discomforted by the conduct of his confreres, passed on hurriedly to the next point of business. Hamilton Fish, his Secretary of State, offered to resign because the treaty had been negotiated behind his back. But the President persuaded him otherwise. and Fish before leaving the cabinet meeting agreed to fight for the treaty

of annexation. But Grant had not foreseen that Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would be grossly insulted by the highhanded action of the President of the "Graft" Administration engaging in such foreign sallies without his knowledge. The "insult" was aggravated when Grant erroneously referred to him as "the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee." Sumner organized the fight in the Senate against the treaty and when it came before that body on June 30, 1870. the presidential plea for ratification was rejected.

Grant was highly incensed at Sumner's conduct and the action of the Senate, but it brought a halt for a number of years to the endeavor to annex Santo Domingo. In his final message to Congress, made some six years afterward, Grant disappointedly, but with great candor, declared that if his treaty had been adopted,, Santo Domingo "would soon have fallen into the hands of the United States capitalists."

America was definitely on the high road toward the acquisition of an empire. It was not yet the imperialism of monopoly or finance capitalism. but the meteoric rise of industry was accompanied by colonial expansion. With the defeat of Grant's venture in Santo Domingo, such efforts were directed to other parts of the globe, and we shall see how quickly the United States was to "learn" the art of building a colonial empire.

WANTED -

Page 3

The Law of Combined Development

Living beings, including man, of course, go through similar stages of development in accordance with their ages. In a normal five-year old child, we find a certain correspondence between the weight, and the size of the parts of the body and the internal organs. But when we deal with human consciousness, the situation is different. Contrary to anatomy and physiology, psychology, both individual and collective, is distinguished by exceptional power of absorption, flexibility and elasticity; therein consists the aristocratic advantage of man over his nearest zoological relatives, the apes. The absorptive and flexible psyche, as a necessary condition for historical progress, confers on the so-called social "organisms", as distinguished from the real, that is, biological organisms, an exceptional instability of internal structure. In the development of nations and states, particularly capitalist ones, there is neither similarity nor regularity. Different stages of civilization, even polar opposites, approach and intermingle with one another in the life of one and the same country.

Let us not forget, my esteemed listeners, that historical backwardness is a relative concept. There being both backward and progressive countries, there is also a reciprocal influencing of one by the other: there is the pressure of the progressive countries on the backward ones; there is the necessity for the backward countries to catch up with the progressive ones, to borrow their technology and science, etc. In this way arises the combined type of development: features of backwardness are combined with the last word in world technology and in world thinking. Finally, the historically backward countries, in order to escape from their backwardness are often compelled to rush ahead of the others.

-From IN DEFENSE OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, 1932; pp. 11-15.

We Protest - -

The Chicago post-master has barred the October 15 issue of the Fighting Worker, semi-monthly organ of the Revolutionary Workers League (Oehlerites), from the mails.

What crime had been committed in the columns of this small revolutionary journal? The editors had published an article on the fight against boss conscription. In other words, they had exercized the right of any American citizen to state his views on national issues, and to state them according to his own convictions. The article made no "seditious" appeals to illegal action. It published a point of view-just as virtually every other newspaper in the country published its own particular view.

We are not interested here in the correctness of the Fighting Worker's article, merely in its right as a working-class publication to state its opinions unmolested by those who bend the laws of the land to whatever undemocratic use they wish to put them. Thus the banning of the Fighting Worker is in much the same category as the barring of Communist Party candidates from the ballot. Our differences with the Communist Party are too numerous to list-many more, in fact, than our differences with the Fighting Worker. Still, the application of democratic rights must be impartial. Permit their violation in any given instance today, and they will mushroom out to cover any expression or act of working-class independence.

We do not know what specific paragraph aroused the vigilance of the postmaster (who rarely, if at all, bans anti-labor tracts). But we have read the issue involved, and we note nothing in it more "incendiary," more "seditious" than Thomas Jefferson's plea to the American people: change the government every twenty years, if that be necessary to maintain it as an expression of the will of the people.

The banning of the Fighting Worker, small instance though it may be, is fraught with danger for all labor publications and groups. We therefore extend to the Fighting Worker our pledge of solidarity in protesting the heinous suppression.

- AN EDITORIAL -The Draft? Yes! - - The Vote? No!

The governor of Tennessee, one Prentice Cooper, has taken a firm and impartial stand against discrimination in connection with Negro registration for conscription into the army. When Negroes present themselves to the draft boards it was the position of the governor that they must be registered. When the time comes for selecting men to go into the army Negroes must be selected and sent just like white men.

The Governor will tolerate no foolishness such as practiced in the case of the lynching of Elbert Williams when he went to register to vote in the presidential election. No Negro is to be lynched when he

goes to register for the war. Furthermore, according to the firm stand taken by the stalwart Prentice, Negroes are not to be run out of Tennessee towns for going to the draft board to be sent off to war.

It's all right for Negroes to fight in the army and give their lives to save the stinking carcasses and property of Prentice and his class; that's all right for the "nigger"-but vote and participate in politics? HELL NO! It's all right for Negroes to go like cattle to the imperialist slaughter; but have a decent job? live in a decent house? be treated like a human being? by God sah, no southern gentleman will tolerate such presumption for a moment!

Of course, Negroes will not be permit-

ted to have a place on the draft boards; "this is a white man's country," says Cooper. Not only, will Negroes not be put on draft boards, according to Cooper, but they better keep quiet about it. They better not have any hesitancy about showing up for the draft, because Cooper doesn't "intend to have any trouble or confusion . . . "

Perhaps the little governor won't have any trouble now with Negroes. Perhaps the ruling class and its stooges, like Cooper, won't have any trouble with any of the workers, NOW. But Negroes will not tolerate the Coopers forever and the working class will not tolerate the whole gang of their oppressors forever.

her laws and spurned her protests. British and Russian warships were standing by ready to lend a helping hand to the Americans if the occasion should arise. There was no need for it. A treaty of "friendship" was forced upon Japan in 1854 and a commercial treaty followed in 1858. This was only the beginning.

Seward Moves Ahead

Foreign trade continued to grow. Even though no great surpluses of manufactured goods were produced, industry expanded at a rapid rate. inal overtures. Without informing his The home market, while constantly cabinet, President Grant dispatched saturated, was just as constantly rehis personal secretary. Colonel Babnewed by the tremendous inner excock, to negotiate a treaty with the

construction, had not yet arrived at the period of her "awareness" of this country's "manifest destiny."

Grant Takes A Hand

These efforts at expansion, however, were renewed by the hero of the Civil War, President Ulysses' S. Grant. The Navy Department, always keenly aware of its own special interest, again asked for a base at Samana. Conditions in Santo Domingo at this time appeared favor-

war objectives, a national questionnaire has been sent out to all members of the American Chemical Society. Members are requested to send in lists of non-Society members who are professional chemists or chemical able to a renewal of Seward's orig-

engineers. All these names will be enrolled in the National Roster being prepared jointly by the National Resources Planning Board and the U.S. Civil Service Commission.



Poison Gas Experts!

As part of a national roster of

"scientific and specialized personnel"

which is being mobilized by the

Government for present and future

LABOR ACTION

The Alter

Editorias-

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.
- 4. 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.
- Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
- 7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America. 8. 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. For Workers' Defense Guards against 12. Fascist and vigilante attacks.
- No confidence in the Roosevelt gov-13. ernment. For a workers' government and a people's army.
- 14. 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.

Workers Party **Election Policy**

Because of difficulties in the printshop and the extended treatment given to other matters (Lewis' endorsement of Willkie and the problems of Fascism and the War), an editorial supplementing our election statement (LABOR ACTION, Oct. 28) was omitted from our last number. We apologize to our readers for this serious error, but consider that the importance of the issues involved warrant the publication of our policy even at this late date.-the Editors.)

The dominant and overshadowing issue of the current elections is the Second World War and the relation of the United States to it.

The tragedy of the situation is that at a time when there is a burning necessity

movement or a progressive anti-war force. On the contrary, like the Communist Party itself, these people are tools of the Kremlin dictator; their policies and actions are in accordance with the reactionary orders sent forth from Moscow. If tomorrow Stalin would join the camp of Anglo-American imperialism in the war, these miserable puppets would once again become loud-mouthed "American" chauvinists. Therefore, a vote for this wing of the ALP (or for the CP) would be a vote for the Stalinist war program.

As for the reformist Socialist Party: it is a disintregrating sect which has practically no influence among the workers; has a confused pro-British position on the war, and, in principle, accepts the conception of "national defense" under capitalist imperialism. It is not accidental that a leading spokesman of this party, Daniel Hoan, is a member of the Wisconsin division of the "National Defense Advisory Commission" of the Roosevelt government.

Another sterile sect which has nothing progressive to offer the workers is the Socialist Labor Party. While this party is programmatically against the war and for socialism, it does not represent a living force in the workers' movement, nor does it have a program which can rally the masses against the war and lead them to socialist victory. It does not and cannot symbolize an activist expression of independent labor action against the war and for socialism. A vote for the SLP is a meaningless vote.

On the other hand, the Socialist Workers Party which has placed Grace Carlson and George Breitman as senatorial candidates in Minneapolis and Newark respectively, though a sect with whom we have serious disagreements, is a revolutionary socialist organization. Its candidates deserve the support of the workers. because such support would signify active opposition to Roosevelt's war schemes; for independent labor political action and for socialism.

The Workers Party, though too small and weak to place a presidential candidate on the ballot, has nonetheless part cipated in the election campaign through its press, special literature and meetings. Above all, the splendid campaign of our New York members which succeeded, despite overwhelming obstacles, in placing Max Shachtman on the ballot for Congress in the Bronx, has brought our socialist anti-war message to hundreds of thousands of workers.

A vote for Shachtman is a vote for independent labor political action against

The Elections Are Over - -What Next for the Workers?

(Continued from page 1)

tions. The increase in employment in munitions industries accounts for the surprisingly large vote which the President received in the New England States.

To these factors should be added the powerful machinecontrolled votes turned over to Roosevelt by Hague in Jersey City, Flynn in the Bronx, and Kelly-Nash in Chicago.

Isolationist Vote

At the same time, Willkie's sudden "crusade for peace," undertaken in the last weeks of the campaign, after his failure to make any impression on the country, increased his sup-

Our Readers-

week not to mention the numerous

Many men are employed to grind

down the welds on boilers. They use

high speed grinders that are mani-

pulated somewhat like an air ham-

mer. The worker holds the grinder

directly on a level with the groin.

These grinders revolve at such a

terrific rate of speed that they be-

come red hot and the stone breaks

frequently. Behind the stone and

between the worker and the grind

wheel are two twelve gauge steel

plates put there allegedly to protect

the operator. When the stones break

it is not at all unusual to have one

of the pieces go completely through

the guard steel and imbed itself in

the workers groin which almost in-

One worker was holding the grind-

er in such a **h**anner that he was not

shielded by the guards. The stone

broke throwing one piece complete-

ly through his body and through a

window some twenty feet away. The

operator is not the only worker in

constant danger since anyone in that

variably results in death.

injuries of a serious nature.

PROFITS FOR BOSSES; \

Dear Editor:

in the Middle West. He succeeded, in this way, to cut into Roosevelt's 1936 support. In New York City, the Amer-

port among anti-interventionist

groups, including the farmers

ican Labor Party received less than 318,000 votes for Roosevelt, and did not succeed in electing a single candidate in the entire state. The Stalinist wing of the ALP re-elected Representative Vito Marcantonio in Harlem, and a member of the State Assembly in Troy, N.Y.

"National Unity"

Following the elections, appeals were being made from all sides for "national unity" behind President Roosevelt. The

Take the Floor.. planation is forthcoming from these

> Let the librarian and the professor speak in outright fashion: "We are individuals first and socialists second. Ours is a position of not bucking the stream. The stream flows smoothest toward Capitol Hill. We have our precious nides to think of, our writings, our wit and learning, our reputations. We are individ-

risy almost stops the pen.

their arguments. A repeated search into their voluminous mouthings and writings of late fails to vindicate their pro-war position.

The decision of the intellectuals does not coincide with that of the Wisconsin dirt farmer, the Gary steel worker or the Joad family. Nor with that of the bitter unemployed who vomit at the mention of the "American way of life" or the South Chi-

reactionary open-shop monopolists have already indicated that they will cooperate on the basis of their own policies. Willkie deliberately withheld the formal acknowledgement of defeat until late Wednesday morning. He declared that he will continue fighting for his "principles". Already there are rumors that Roosevelt will try to establish the unity of the ruling class by appointing Willkie to an important post in the war machine.

Though Willkie was Wall Street's preference, the election of Roosevelt was the victory of the more able representative of big business. With the aid of the leaders of the trade unions, he succeeded in getting the labor vote. His future course is already indicated: a, continuation of his interventionist war policy and armament program, the heavy costs of which will be paid for by the sweat and blood of the workers.

Only when the workers through their own experiences learn this bitter truth will they turn their backs on the old capitalist parties and politicians and organize their own independent political party, against the war, for the defense of their economic conditions and democratic rights, for jobs, security and freedom.

1 1 1

The Drive **On Egypt**

For some period now the Italian and native African forces of Marshall Rodolfo Graziani have been carefully edging in on Egypt and the great British naval base at Alexandria.

The world press has carefully explained the importance of this campaign, particularly its relationship to the new German-Italo thrust in the direction of Greece, Turkey, Syria and other areas of the Near East.

At stake is British control of Egypt itself, sea power in the Eastern Mediterranean, Alexandria, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. It is

What's This **Noise About Providing Jobs** For All Of Us?

Page 4

By PAUL TEMPLE

"Whatever you may have to say about the war," said Johnny, "you've got to admit one thing. This defense program has made more jobs for us than Willkie could promise."

BILL: Uh-huh.

JOHNNY: That's why I say the defense program is the best thing that's happened for the workers since the crash. Why, my brother-inlaw's working for General Electric for \$26 a week, and he never made more than fifteen in his life.

BILL: Uh-huh.

Jobs Should Be Constructive

JOHNNY: What's the matter, Bill-sick? No comeback?

BILL: You're absolutely right, Roosevelt's war program has made more jobs. So what?

JOHNNY: So that's why I'm for it! We wanted jobs-OK, we've got 'em.

BILL: I've got a better scheme for making jobs. Instead of building battleships and tanks, the government ought to build an Egyptian pyramid every 200 yards, all the way from New York to San Francisco. If that doesn't make enough jobs, they can have the unemployed tear up all the roads and lay 'em down again in the same place.

JOHNNY: What the hell are you talking about?

BILL: Making jobs. That would do the trick,

JOHNNY: Maybe, but what's the use of an Egyptian pyramid?

BILL: Now you're getting to the point. What's the use of the war program? The answer is: WAR-and that'll give all of us jobs too, dodging bullets at a dollar a day.

The Public Gets the Works

JOHNNY: There you're off on the war again. Well, aside from that for a minute if you can, you admit that Roosevelt has helped the unemployment situation, and that's what I'm interested in right now.

BILL: Listen, I'm not going to tell you that a few fair-sized hurricanes would have made as many jobs as the war has. But if, you can stop to think, take it from this angle. If Roosevelt is relieving unemployment by spending. billions on guns, WHY DIDN'T HE DO THE SAME THING TWO AND THREE AND FOUR YEARS AGO BY SPENDING BILLIONS ON HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS?

JOHNNY: Well, this defense program is a kind of public works.

BILL: Sure it's the kind that GIVES THE PUBLIC THE WORKS .- Remember what they told us then, when we demanded something like twenty billions for building decent houses instead of rat traps?

JOHNNY: Twenty billion dollars! - there wasn't that much money around. You've got to be realistic.

Wall Street Gets What It Wants

BILL: That's just what they told us. "No money, 'scuse us please." So they piddled along with WPA, and then Roosevelt cut that too

we-see-the-light intellectuals .. INJURIES FOR LABOR The rate of injury and death in the Babcox and Wilcox Co. is mounting in proportion to the fat profits they are making on the government contracts. It is impossible to keep

an accurate account of the slaughter because not one case appears in the paper. One worker says it is not unuals first and socialists second." usual to witness two deaths per

But these "enlightened intellectuals" are incapable of such integrity. Questioning of their motives arouses pompous indignation on their part. Of course they do not speak subjectively, their first concern is humanity and not the fear that they may be muzzled in the future should they persist in contesting democratic Capitalism. They speak for the people. First on the agenda today is the blood-tears-and-toil struggle against the Teutonic scourge. Tomorrow, all things willing, we'll resume our valiant fight for socialism. The repulsiveness of their hypoc-

It is not necessary to dwell on

for independent labor political action against the war and for working class needs, no such mass movement exists.

The trade union leaders of the country are tied to the rotten system of capitalist imperialism, and to the two-party set up of the bosses which permits the workers a choice between two sets of capitalist politicians. Dan Tobin corrals votes for Roosevelt and the Democrats. John L. Lewis garners votes for Willkie and the Republicans. They both thereby serve the interests of the reactionary ruling class.

This same course is being pursued by the American Labor Party in New York. This party, following the 1936 elections, showed promise of developing into a vehicle of independent labor political action against the Democratic and Republican parties. Despite half-measures, inconsistencies and "temporary" deals with the old parties, the American Labor Party had the support of the bulk of the New York trade unions and moved in the direction of independent labor action. At that time support for the independent candidates of the ALP signified support to a progressive, growing-though confusedworkers' movement.

Matters are entirely different today. The reactionary policies of the leadership, and the split in the ALP between the pro-Roosevelt supporters and the Stalinists has reduced the ALP to an inactive, impotent force; the right wing is little more than an appendage of Roosevelt's pro-war party. It has conducted virtually no campaign of its own. It chief aim is the election of Roosevelt, and other Democratic Party candidates, as Senator Mead.

Therefore, the ALP in the present elections represents neither a movement of, or towards, the independent organization of the trade unions against the old capitalist parties, nor a party whose program serves the interests of the working class. In no sense can it be considered an expression of independent labor political action today. A vote for the ALP under present circumstances has only one meaning: a vote for Roosevelt's war policies.

Nor does the Stalinist wing of the ALP represent either a mass working class

the war and for workers' needs. Following the elections, the Workers Party will continue with all the forces at its disposal to struggle for the organization, action and victory of the working class, against the war and for freedom, security and socialism.

On British Justice

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, next to Gandhi, India's most popular and well known Barberton, Ohio nationalist leader, has just been sentenced to four years "at rigorous labor" by the British judicial authorities in India.

What "crime" was Nehru-guilty of? As a conservative, moderate follower of Gandhi, we know that he could not have made a revolutionary speech, calling upon India's masses to rise up against continued British rule. Nehru made a pacifist speech, urging Indian workers and peasants to refuse help to England in the war unless certain democratic rights were granted them. He did not demand independence, or the breaking of the tie with the British Empire-as he would have if he were a revolutionist.

But even these simple requests are too much for your "democratic" English authorities. So they have given him four years! What a fitting commentary on the character of this war that England is conducting and seeking to drag us into! Not one single reform-no matter how mild in nature or how meekly asked for-can these imperialists yield. Is there any wonder that India's 400,000,000 people im- . politely sneer when the British ask them to sacrifice their lives and wealth in a war for "decency and democracy". The arrest and brutal sentencing of Nehru will only add to their already overwhelming hatred against the hypocrites of Downing Street and the India Office.

Despite our fundamental differences with Nehru's political ideas and politics, we certainly raise our voice in protest against this new crime of British imperialism. Our hope is that it may assist in setting in motion that nation-wide resistance to British rule which Gandhi has been holding back since the war began.

vicinity may be struck by the flying pieces. B & W cannot "afford" to keep a doctor present but has gone to the sacrifice of providing the plant with a butcher they swear is a qualified interne.

According to the worker it is quite common for someone to be injured on one of these grind stones and the "interne" nowhere to be found (probably out for a beer). One is reported to have bled to death laying on the floor the other evening under just such circumstances. Fraternally,

A B and W Worker

INTELLECTUALS REPEAT THEIR 1917 PERFIDY

Editor:

Randolph Bourne's "War and the Intellectuals", first published in the Seven Arts magazine in 1917, makes refreshing reading these days. His criticism, although pacifist-tinged, exposed vividly the hideous corruption of those intellectuals who chose to support the War-to-Save democracy to avenge the bleeding Belgian babies to defend womanhood to end all wars. Bourne's 1917 indictment is infinitely more true, more deserving of the 1940 pro-war crop of intellectuals.

The mad flight of the MacLeishes, Hooks, Mumfords, etc. from a definite anti-war stand to a hysterical defense of the Allied efforts is catastrophic enough and discouraging at a time when the disorganized masses are starved for intelligent direction and leadership. Startling is the exodus of the intellectuals from the camp of the ruled to that of the rulers, but it is conceivable. It is conceivable if a straightforward ex-

NEWS ITEM:

The Brookings Institute has recently published a pamphlet entitled "How Nazi Germany Has Mobilized and Controlled Labor" by L. Hamburger. This pamphlet gives a complete picture of the regimentation and crushing of German labor from 1933 to the present time.

The pamphlet, which sells for 25¢, was completely bought up in no time at all, much to the amazement of the mentors of the Institute. Their surprise was considerably lessened, however, when they discovered that MANUFACTURERS HAD BOUGHT the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF 400 COPIES OF THE PAMPHLET! It appears that these gentlemen feel' mey can learn a lot from the wazis. Akron, Ohio

cago Negro who has never been born. These people may be flagdrunk for the moment but their way out is not Sidney Hook's. Their art does not sustain them-"ya kin sink your teeth into a thick steak." They have no careers to nurse, are offered no · guarantees for enlightened opportunitism. October 16 is a day of terror for the workers but not for the battle-crying Hook. The extent of Hook's combat duty will be some philosophical sniping on a metroplitan campus while God-blessed Americans, by the thousands, are having their guts scattered over a no-man's land.

The fraudulent role of the 1940 intellectuals far supersedes that of the 1917 lot indicted by Bourne. For these intellectuals have the bloody lessons of a previous world war dinning their sensitive ears. No matter to them, however.

Fraternally,

Chicago, Oct. 10 Philip Marsh

YEAH-IT'S A FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

Dear Editor:

The following story, taken word for word from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, speaks volumes on the nature of the democracy that the working class of the United States is being asked to defend:

AKRON, O., Oct. 16-John Wil; liams, 30, of Aiken, S.C., registered for the draft here tonight but he probably would have passed the whole thing up if it had not been for Police Lieut. Stephen McGowan. Tired and hungry, Williams and his wife, Mary, 28, arrived at the police station late today and slumped into chairs.

Hiking from their homes to Buffalo, N.Y., they had walked all night from Canton to Akron. They had "nothing much" to eat for several days, they said.

What draft?" is what the tired Williams wanted to know.

McGowan then explained the selective service measure and told Williams that he, like 16,000,000 more men in the United States, was compelled to register today.

Williams said it was all news to him, but, "come to think," I guess I did hear something about something like that months ago," he added

After McGowan arranged for food, he had a patrolman escort Williams to a registration booth, leaving Mrs. Williams to protest that "Johnnie- is not fit to fight.'

Fraternally, B.L. a most important aspect of the totalitarian war campaign. If it succeeds, then the British have indeed suffered a severe reverse. Conquest of Egypt means that the totalitarian troops are knocking at the doors of defenseless India!

May Jump Fence

But one other aspect of this Egyptian Campaign has been virtually ignored by the world press. That is the role of the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people. Here, particularly with respect to the action of the masses, we have a significant illustration of the meaning of this World War.

Although supposedly an "ally" of the British Empire; although its territory has been invaded, bombed and burned; the Egyptian government of ambitious young King Farouk has sat in silence and refused to declare war! The reasons are obvious. Having no confidence in the ability of the British imperialists to win the campaign and defend their holdings, the Egyptian merchant and feudal authorities are preparing to on the winning side. No doubt Mussolini has offered the King some jump over the fence and turn up nominal rule over a future Moslem puppet empire he may set up after the war. For the King it may be a profitable change of masters! The formerly powerful Wafd Nationalist Party, now grown small and impotent, is persecuted simply because it sides with the British cause!

Peasants Indifferent

Far more important is the attitude of the masses-the semi-feudal "fellaheen" peasantry, the nomadic Bedouin tribesmen, the small working class. They remain totally deaf to the heart-rending cries of the British for help. The campaign, on the part of the British, is conducted solely by Punjabi troops from India, English soldiery and Anzacs from down yonder. The Egyptian peasant army remains neutral, the Bedouin tribesmen and nomads flee the fighting areas, the masses stand aside.

One again the illustration and meaning of this campaign is clear. As in the entire colonial world, the 20.000,000 people of Egypt understand this is an imperialist war in which they are the intended victim. They have nothing but hate for either side.

LET THE PEOPLE

VOTE ON WAR!

whenever he felt he could get away with it. NOW LOOK! Wall Street has let out a war whoop, and before you can say J.P. Morgan, Congress digs down to the tune of five billion bucks. Why weren't they willing to dig down when it was a question of putting food on the tables of four million workers?

JOHNNY: Still, twenty billion dollars is a lot of money.

BILL: It'll be chicken-feed before the war program is through.-And before I forget: when the workers yelled for jobs and relief, they told us, "Sorry, boys, my heart's bleeding for you, but we've gotta balance the old budget." But not now, no sir. Even the Republicans have forgotten the budget exists now.

JOHNNY: All right, all right, but what does all that prove?

BILL: It proves this much. I can understand you breaking out in a sweat of enthusiasm over the war program if you swallow the bunk about it being really for defense against Hitler. But you said you're just interested in the unemployment situation right now. As a job-making program, it isn't as sensible as my pyramid scheme, because at least pyramids won't destroy other people's houses and lives.

3

JOHNNY: All right then, it all boils down to defending democracy against Hitler. I'll admit that much. But I'm for that too, and I'm for the defense program, so we still disagree.

BILL: Oke, let's leave it at that and discuss the war itself again, next chance we get. But something to chew on:

Here's a government that left at least tenmillion unemployed to half-starvation and millions more to poverty and insecurity, and LIED that they didn't have the money to do anything about it. Do you believe that such a government is really worried about dictatorship in Germany or "defending democracy" or anything else that has to do with the welfare of the plain people? Here's a government that cuts a billion off WPA and then forks over five billion when it gets the high sign from Wall Street. Whose government' is it?

LABOR ACTION Official Organ of Workers Party Published weekly by the Labor Action Publishing Company Vol. 4, No. 31 NOVEMBER 11, 1940 114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. (3rd Floor) Editor: JOSEPH CARTER Managing Editor: EMANUEL GARRETT Business Manager: JOHN BILLINGS Subscription Rate: \$1.50 per year, \$1.00 six months (\$2.00 per year or \$1.50 six months for Canada and Foreign) Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.