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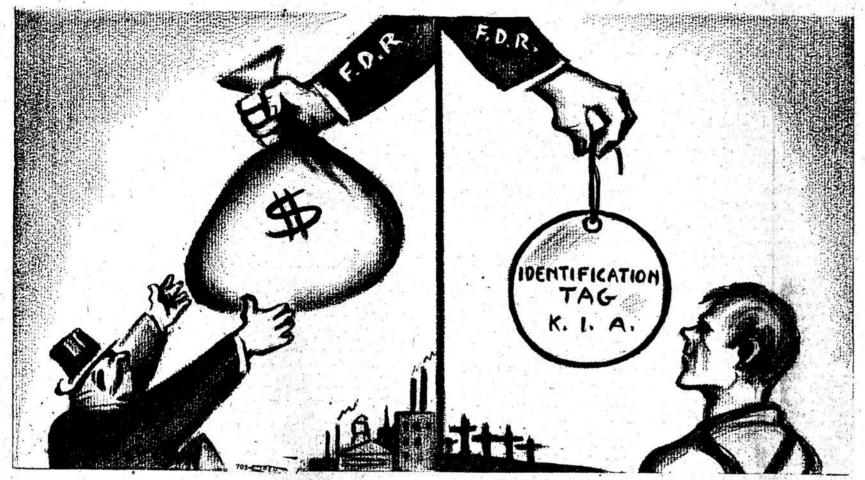
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ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

# D · SHALL ONE MAN DECIDE, NOR SHALL THE PEOPLE?

## Not a Lease, Not a Loan—But a Gift for Each!



# CIO Organization March Has Ford Company on the Run

#### This Is a Good Time for the Unions to Demand Workers' Control of the War Industries

By JACK WILSON

Henry Ford, once the undisputed czar of a billion dollar industrial empire, today faces a revolt of the men who slaved and toiled to create his wealth and power.

The flivver king was shaken on his open shop throne last week when the federal government finally withheld a war order from him because of his failure to obey labor laws.

The War department didn't suddenly go pro-labor when it gave a \$10,298,128 order for 11,781 trucks to another auto manufacturer. It was trying, under Roosevelt's command. to appease the revolt of the Ford workers.

For the CIO is on the march on the sacred grounds of the River Rouge plants. In union there is strength, Ford workers have learned, and the CIO is the union.

#### Resentment Flares

CIO pressure forced the government to place the war order elsewhere. And it wasn't the pressure of Sidney Hillman, but rather the pressure ON Sidney Hillman that caused even that worm to turn a little.

Ford was given \$150,000,000 in government contracts without the slightest attention being paid to his violations of the Wagner Act and the Wages and Hours law. Hillman made a formal beef, but actually consented to this procedure.

The Ford workers, however, did not consent. Nor did the autoworkers in general, A national scandal developed. And Ford workers flocked

into the autoworkers union. Such is the forward march of unionism among the Ford workers that a successful strike vote was taken at the Lincoln plant. And CIO members wore their buttons in the

Unless you've ever lived in Detroit it is difficult to appreciate how changed things are when a union man can proclaim himself as one in the Ford factories.

Harry Bennett's goon squads, his spies, his thugs, his city police stooges, his Dearborn city council combined, couldn't create a reign of terror strong enough to hold back the Ford workers. And Mr. Bennett never missed a trick from sluggings to murder of unionists.

Each time that the federal government gave Ford another contract, resentment within the plant flared. And resentment among the entire labor movement flared.

Ford's anti-unionism was too flagrant, his "workers be damned" attitude too provoking, the unrest in Detroit too great for Roosevelt to let the situation get out of hand.

Even silver-tongued Roosevelt couldn't sell another "war for democ-

## THE WORLD AT WAR

# Sees Handwriting on Wall As Masses Show Signs of **Revolt in Warring Nations**

By MAX STERLING

From the small town of Rakek, on the Italian - Yugoslavian border, comes the report that Italian Fascist militia fired on demonstrating and striking workmen at the Lloyd Triestino workshops at Trieste and that there were casualties among the militia and workers. The demonstrations are reported to have started when the workmen arrived for work on the morning of January 27. One group of workers refused to enter the shops and congregated outside, exhorting their fellow workmen to strike, and shouting, "Down with Germany!" and "Down with the war!" One of the workers who ridiculed Mussolini and assumed a pose and a speech like his, was shot down by a soldier guardsman, who in turn was attacked by the workers. This story is reported to come from an Italian worker who left Trieste right after the clash.

Fascist censorship makes it impossible to know how true this story is. The same thing can be said of the reports by American correspondents about the rioting between the Italian people and the German troops and Italian Fascist militiamen in Turin and Milan. However, the hysterical wrath that these reports engendered in the Fascist authorities, and their haste in organizing mass "loyalty" demonstrations in these cities, looks suspiciously like a case of protesting too much.

What is absolutely undeniable, since there has been more than enough evidence of it, is that the morale of the long suffering Italian workers and peasants is way down. The defeats suffered by Mussolini's legions on all the war fronts, resulting in enormous casualties added to already unbegrable sufferings of the people, is such that the fascist

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racy" to the autoworkers if he openly pats Ford on the back and fills his pockets with war profits while Ford lashes the workers in a vicious speed-up system.

Nor could Hillman be taken seriously by anyone except his office boy if he didn't get some kind of a bread crumb to throw the hungry Detroit workers. The Ford scandal was spotlighted too well for old fashioned shenanigans to work.

Besides, Ford had climbed out on the limb too far. During Christmas season, other auto barons had given bonuses of one kind or another to their employes where the CIO was

If Ford gave a bonus it would appear to be a victory for the CIO and it was already too strong among his employes. If Ford didn't give a bonus his employes would resent it,

and the CIO would have another powerful argument for organization. Ford didn't give the bonus.

Ford was on the run. He was forced to rehire many CIO men who had been discharged for wearing their union buttons in the shop. Another victory.

Ford's strategy committee blundered again when it was announced "unofficially" that Ford would never meet with Sidney Hillman to discuss labor policy. (Ford's anti-semitism came to the fore again with that

#### Pulls a Boner

A friend of Ford's explained that Ford would rather shut down his plants and retire than give in to the "closed shop." Or Ford would

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# They: For "Lend - Lease" Bill We: For the Ludlow Bill

The Lease-Lend Bill is another big step towards plunging the United States into the Second

That's what many of the bill's opponents have already pointed out in the press and at the hearings of the House and Senate Committees.

The Lease-Lend Bill is another big step towards conferring dictatorial powers upon the President in the name of the "defense of democracy."

Opponents of the bill have pointed out that fact, too.

The masses of the people in the United States undoubtedly want to see Hitlerism crushed to ground. They hate totalitarianism and all that it means for their living conditions and their free-

At the same time, the people of this country do not want to be tricked or driven into the war. Even the Gallup Poll says, "The latest institute survey on the question of going to war showed 85 per cent opposed, only 15 per cent in favor."

Yet, the Lease-Lend Bill is aimed in reality at accomplishing just what the American people don't want to see done. On the pretext of promoting the fight agains? Hitlerism, the bill actually promotess the concen-

tration of dictatorial powers such as no President ever enjoyed before. On the pretext of keeping the United States out of the war, it gives the President even more power than he already has to put the country into the war without bothering about the will of the

people, or even the will of Congress. The bill is, therefore another proof of what we have been saying from the beginning. This is not a war for Democracy and against Fascism. Moreover, the deeper the "Democracies" get into the war the further they move in the direction of wiping out Democracy and instituting totalitar-

BOTH the Administration AND its opponents are FOR the war and for "aid" to the British Empire. Even the stautest Republican and Democratic critics of the Lease-Lend Bill are nevertheless in favor of lending Britain billions of dollars.

Why? Because—so they say—Britain is fighting "our battle." It is fighting for "our way of

life," for "Democracy," for the "rule of the people." Well, if this is a people's war, a democratic war, why aren't the people given the right to de-

cide democratically whether they are for the United States getting into the war or not? The masses of the people do the suffering and the fighting and the dying in the war.

Instead of a bill that puts the decision of War-or-Peace into the hands of one man (even if he were the "best man" in the world), the majority of the American people want the right to make that life-and-death decision themselves.

On more than one occasion it has been demonstrated that the people of the United States want A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON WAR.

Several times, the Ludlow Bill, providing at least in part for such a popular, democratic refer-

endum, has been before Congress. It is also before this session of Congress. DEMAND ITS ADOPTION IMMEDIATELY! THE PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO DE-

CIDE BY THEIR OWN VOTES ON THE VITAL QUESTION OF WAR! WHOEVER SEEKS TO DENY THE PEOPLE THIS RIGHT SHOWS HE IS NOT FIGHTING DICTATORSHIP AND IS NOT INTER-ESTED IN DEMOCRACY!

Not the War-Dictatorship Lease-Lend Bill-but the Ludlow Bill!

# Brewster Worker Writes on What the Men Want the Union to Do

#### Lists the Principal Demands of the Workers as Local 365, UAW, Prepares for New Union Election

Dear Brothers:

I have been reading LABOR ACTION'S articles on the Brewster plant in Long Island City regularly. I should therefore like to speak to my fellow workers in the shop and the union through your columns on the problems of our tinion, Brewster Local 365, UAW-CIO, which will hold its regular election of officers on or about February 20. My views, as I present them here, are shared, I know, by many of the workers in the shop.

The first thing that has to be established is that the union is out of its swaddling clothes. When the last election was held about 400 workers voted. In this election, about 6,000 are expected to vote. In short, the union is now full grown. What then are new problems that face the union? What are the issues in the election? What do the men want?

There are essentially two groups running for office; together they represent the old administrationwith new adherents. The present President, Bob Pope, heads one ticket and Tommy DeLorenzo, aircraft organizer for the CIO and chief spokesman for the old administration, heads the other ticket.

The meeting at which the nominations were made was a cut and dried affair. No platform or program stating the aims of either group was or has yet been issued in either written or verbal form. The records of both the main nominees are very similar. They both tried to ram down the throats of the membership the original 60 cents contract. They both thwarted the will of the membership when the men by a majority vote tried to reorganize the Negotia-

tions Committee. DeLorenzo has on his slate the two most unpopular men in the union-Frank Fonte and

#### Where They Failed

They share in common the following failures: they have shown a remarkable inability to achieve mild reforms for the men in regard to working conditions, such as ventilation, spraying, etc.; they have been unable or unwilling to draw the men into the activities of the union and they have failed to carry out the by-laws of the union in regard to educating the men in the spirit of industrial unionism and the traditions of the American labor move-

In fact they represent two cliques with no clear cut policy or real differences. They are anxious to control the union for those eager to become officials and leadmen-as well as for the conservatives. DeLorenzo will try to pose as representing the interests of the new men, with new ideas, etc. But the new men know this to be the bunk-for DeLorenzo shares equal responsibility with President Pope for all the shortcomings of the present administration (and they are plenty).

The nominees are not carrying on a campaign and in general are keeping the men uninformed of the issues in the elections. Is, it a wonder then that the men are disappointed in the slates and are indifferent to the elections and outcome? How could it be otherwise?

The method of carrying on the elections is indicative of the methods used to run the union all year round. Is it strange, therefore, that the

union meetings are small, the men indifferent and suspicious of the motives and activities of the union

Only last week at a general membership meeting, the leadership of the union had an opportunity to arouse the membership, interest them in the gains of the union, point out what's ahead for the union, and show the men how they can participate in the work and activities of the union. Instead they held a meeting with the business agenda unannounced, presented several incomplete reports and made no serious attempt to account for their administration of the past year. The meeting was a long drawn out, boring

affair with about sixty men (of a union of 6,000) present at the end of the meeting.

#### What the Men Want

But the majority of men are getting tired of this situation and of incompetent officials who are making a mess of the union and ignoring the needs of the men. They want to know from all the nominees what they intend to do about the following items of interest to the men:

Reclassifications in April. The men are now getting less money each week than under the old contract. The cut in hours and the increase in cost of living is hitting them pretty hard. They want to

know whether the union leaders are going to fight for a general increase of at least five cents an hour, or will they have to go begging individually to each leadman. The union should get every man an automatic increase

of 5 cents an hour in April. Better conditions - fit for people to work in. Decent ventilation, lockers, etc. An end to the spraying that endangers workers' health. The men ask: Brother officials, please don't worry about how much it will cost the company.

Participation of more rank and file men in carrying out the activities of the union. At present, officials have three and four jobs apiece. The

(Continued on page 4)

# Cleveland Unions Block Street Barricades Law

#### Business Men Seek Anti-Picket Ordinance as Local Strikes Mount

Special to Labor Action

CLEVELAND, Jan. 31-The reactionary Republican city administration of Cleveland, under Mayor Blythin, recently proposed an ordinance which would provide for the fencing off of public streets around factories working on government orders. This measure is supposed to guard plants against "sabotage." But it was very clear that this legislation, if enacted, would prohibit the distribution of leaflets and picketing during an industrial dispute.

The originators of this ordinance are Cleveland's bankers and industrialists, trying to guard their profits against the increasing militancy of AFL machinists' union are entering

Cleveland labor. Among the first corporations applying for this right was the Thompson Products Co., which pays lower wages than unionized plants in that industry, and where, incidentally, the UAWA-CIO is conducting an organization drive.

Introduction of this strike-breaking ordinance brought immediate protest from both CIO and AFL unions, and only their pressure brought about a "deferment" of its enaction. The bosses want its passage in order to stave off strikes, which are growing in numbers.

The following strikes are now in progress: Approximately 700 members of the

their second strike week against the Apex Electrical Mfg. Co. for a 10c wage increase. Standard Tool workers, a division

of Local 217, UAWA-CIO, walked out of the plant, which is working on defense orders, because the company is stalling contract negotiations for a wage increase and job security.

At Republic Steel's Corrigan-Mc-Kinney plant, cranemen struck a second time and received their 15 to 20 cent wage cut back.

NLRB elections are being held in different plants and many local unions are preparing for contract negotiations and demands for wage increases. Thus the reason for this "pay-triotic" city law. .

# Good and Welfare

by Lefty

The organization of the great, democratic United States draft army

swings into action, as reported in the daily press:

FROM COLUMBUS, Ohio: "Military officials at Fort Hayes tonight said an investigation will be conducted into the apparent suicide of Private Harold M. Walmsley, 23, of Canton, O., who was found hanging in the guardhouse early today.'

FROM PORTLAND, Oregon: "Federal Judge James A. Fee sentenced a Methodist minister and a Quaker college professor to a year each in a federal prison road camp today on draft evasion charges." FROM PONTIAC, Illinois: "Ernest R. Eisele, 22-year-old farm youth,

died today from wounds suffered while resisting arrest on a charge of resisting the draft.

"His father, Martin Eisele, who was shot three times in a gun and knife fight with two law officers, remained in a critical condition."

#### WHILE ROME BURNS DEP'T

WORKERS WHO HAVE been anxiously waiting for some message which will help them to struggle out of the net of the bloody world crisis will be interested in the recent ukase of Ely Culbertson, absolute czar of 5,000,000 bridge-playing followers.

Culbertson, who, incidentally, is also quite a reactionary in his none too quiet way, stated last week that his followers now may "bid on minimum suits of queen-four-three-deuce in place of the previous bottom of queeniack-three-deuce. Even weak five-card suits, such as six-to-deuce, may be bid-but he listed them as 'conditional biddable suits.'."

Don't you feel better now, somehow, after hearing that?

A FEW DAYS AGO we were informed that the United States can best be defended "by granting of enlarged powers to the president, not alone to deal with the international situation but with the building of materials and instruments of combat."

And who do you think that was, talking? Wendell Willkie. Yes sir, Wendell Willkie, who just a few months ago was jumping up and down, screaming like a character from one of Carlo's cartoons about Roosevelt centering too much power in his office.

The moral, gentle reader? The moral is the same one that we pointed out at the time of the election campaign: there is no essential difference between the programs of the republicans and the democrats in slaughtering the working class of the United States and the rest of the world on the altar of profits. In short, Roosevelt and Willkie are two cabbages out of

CLARENCE CHAMBERLAIN, the airplane pile-it, who was rushed to the microphone by one section of the war-mad capitalists to counteract the influence of that other pile-it, Lindbergh, who spoke against the lend-lease bill, should be given some sort of prize-say a bag of wet graham crackersfor his original, if super-heated reason for attacking Japan.

Most of the representatives of big business try to give a certain idealistic sugar-coating to the rather harsh commercial reasons underlying a war with Japan. Not Clarence. Listen to him: "Sink the Japanese fleet on general principles . . . Then we can turn our attention to Europe."

Step up and get your prize, Clarence.

AFTER TEARING DOWN the Nazi rag (flag) on the San Francisco consulate, E.G. Lackey, one of the participants, stated: "I'm from Charlotte, N.C., and there aren't any bunds there."

That's true, boy-just lynch gangs, Jim Crowism, and exploited tobacco workers, that's all.

REMEMBER HOW WE used to be lectured about that wonderful British democracy, which could permit the publication of communist newspapers though the government was really at war with the USSR? Remember?

Well, we see by the papers that the British government has ordered the Stalinist London Daily Worker to cease publication.

#### **Boeing Rank and File Asks Change** In National Union Administration

SEATTLE; Washington - Incensed machinists union, at the Boeing aircraft plant here, the local membership went on record for a change in the national administration in

The local voted to support I.A. Sandvigen, secretary of the Washington Machinists council, against Brown for international president.

Brown, through James Duncan, his international representative, ordered a purge of "Communists" in the union after the rank and file, by democratic action, had exonerated members who were victims of an FBI-local police drive.

When the membership refused to by the union busting maneuvers of accept the bureaucratic usurpation of Harvey Brown, president of the AFL its power, and refused to kick out Don Keppler, vice-president, despite two demands by Duncan, the latter secured Keppler's discharge from the

The union meeting was a hot and bitter session with the membership backing local president Bader in his refusal to carry out the Brown-Duncan dictatorial orders

The AFL machinists' bureaucracy is playing hand and glove with Boeing company in its attempts to crush the militant union which won substantial gains recently by strike ac-

## **Vultee Union Uncovers Activities** Of FBI Agent-Provocateur in Ranks

LOS ANGELES, Calif.-Proof that J. Edgar Hoover's FBI agents are acting as agent provocateurs in the union movement was furnished last week by an expose in the Vultee CIO union.

The FBI role was revealed when aircraft local 683, United Automobile Workers (CIO), announced the suspension of Richard L. Walsh, formerly a member of the Vultee negotiating committee.

The entire local union found Walsh guilty of five charges placed against him by a union trial board.

They included: collaborating with the company, refusing to abide by

union decisions involving the illegal use of funds, deliberately spreading slander and false rumors, attempting to organize and provoke violence during the recent strike, and excessive drinking throughout his work as a union member and officer.

Walsh admitted he had been an FBI naval intelligence officer. He refused to answer the question whether he was still employed, but said that there was nothing incompatible with being an FBI man and a union

Although there was absolutely no justification for it, Walsh had suggested to various union men on the picket line that they carry revolvers,

#### Los Angeles Decrees "Concentration Camp" for Jobless Young Men

LOS ANGELES, Calif.-"Concentration Camps" were decreed by the County Board of Supervisors here for nearly 1,500 jobless, single young men. This ruling said that the "non-resident" unemployed men must live in special county camps and get "relief in kind" rather than cash doles.

Of course, the youth will have the "choice" of Army camps via enlistment, instead of the county camps. That's one way to build an Army.

New York City					
					5 8
Enclosed find 25 cent ACTION for 3 months to:	s for	which	please	send	LABOR
Street & No.					
City				- Consideration	

## THE UNITED STATES EMPIRE - - ITS HISTORY

# War With Spain: Empire Comes of Age

With the defeat of the Southern Slavocracy in the Civil War, the industrialization of the United States was assured. The war itself created the need for the erection of new industries and the expansion of the old. Between 1870 and the Spanish American war, the world was to witness the most phenomenal capitalist development in the New World. Railroads led the boom. The material requirements of railroads set into motion many new industries. The industrial population grew swiftly, and toward the end of the century surpassed the agricultural.

This was the period in which the "great American fortunes" were created, through the medium of a horrifying exploitation of labor and natural resources, and the bribing of government officials, no matter what their position or responsibility. The government existed for the sole purpose of serving the business interests. The Republican Party, which entered American politics as a progressive force, had, within a period of twenty-five years, become the party of big business and reaction.

At its convention of 1896, the Republican Party announced itself as the party of imperialism. "Manifest Destiny," dressed up in the supposedly idealistic clothes, of bringing civilization to "inferior races", was merely the slogan under which the Republican Party prepared its program of imperialist aggrandizement. It spoke of the historic necessity of the United States, the white race, to dominate and civilize this continent and whatever other lands or peoples it may come in contact with. We have already seen how this principle, unclear and uncertain in the early days of the Republic, was to become an integral part of the nation's foreign policy.

#### Presidential Fight

The presidential campaign preceding the Spanish American war was one of the most bitter in the nation's history. William Jennings Bryan, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate gathered around him the support of the dissatisfied South, exploited workers, impoverished farmers and a host of reformers, utopians and liberals. Big business, nowever, rode in the saddle They expended millions of dollars for the election of McKinley, a protege of the infamous Mark Hanna.

The Republicans campaigned under tne siogan of a "full dinner pail." just perore the voting took place, thousands upon thousands of workers received the following notice in their pay envelopes: "If Bryan is elected, do not come back to work. The plant will be closed."

In New York, the Herald Tribune, then as now an organ of big business and imperialist expansion, after comparing Bryan with Benedict Arnold, naron Burr and Jefferson Davis, wrote of him that "He was the rival of them all in deliberate wickedness and treason to the Republic." Backed by vast riches, the sup-

port of the ever-corrupt press, always allied with big business, and other instruments of molding opinion, the Republicans carried the election by a slim majority of 600,-000 popular votes. But that was more than enough. The election was interpreted as carte blanche to go full

#### A Dream Realized

American manufacturing and commercial interests had been casting about for many years at the islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific. The dream of an American Carib. bean empire, of vast holdings in the Pacific and the Far East was an old one, and we shall soon see how the dream was soon realized through means far more gross than the stuff of which dreams are made.

Like the rule of all imperialisms over subject peoples, that of Spain in Cuba was no exception. It was ruthless and cruel; occupation of the country led to a most intense exploitation of its resources and its people. Revolutionary ferment long in existence, finally broke out into the open in 1895. The Spanish army of occupation could not subdue the revolt. The struggle levelled down to that of guerrilla warfare, a war of attrition. In answer to the insurgents, the Spanish authorities set up concentration camps, herded into them the families of the rebels, captured rebels and all those suspected of opposition to the rule of the Spanish king and queen. Like all concentration camps, the oppression was bestial. And here the story be-

#### Propose Seizure

American business owned \$50,000 .-000 worth of property in Cuba, invested in sugar, tobacco and iron mines. The stalemate in the revolutionary struggle led to a stagnation of the Island's economy. More than that, the revolutionaries proceeded to destroy by fire and other means, the huge plantations owned by Spanish and American capitalists. By 1897 the situation became fairly cha

At the beginning of the century southern plantation owners had already projected the plan of seizing Cuba and exploiting its sugar possibilities. But the nature of national development prevented the realization of that plan. Now, at the close

ists proposed the same plan.

Spanish - American relations were poor. The vested interests of the United States were for going into Cuba and taking the situation in hand. They wanted to drive Spain out of Cuba as the first step in the protection of American business interests. The Republican platform of 1897 had already declared that Spain was unable "to protect the property and lives of resident American citizens. It cited American investments and losses as a result of the situation in Cuba and indicated what American policy would be if and when the Republicans won the elec-

After two years of struggle in Cuba, the Spanish government was ready for compromise. It was especially solicitous of the attitude of the United States and upon the election of McKinley was fearful of American intervention. It knew, too, that the dominant group in the administration party was a pro-war group. calling for military intervention and seizure of the islands.

The Cuban business men and the intellectuals did not desire independence. They were quite content to settle the dispute by establishing Cuban autonomy and a parliament under Spain, similar to the dominion status of Canada. Quite likely this may have eventually resulted had not the intervention of the United States been consumated.

#### Storm Brewing

In the United States itself, a storm was brewing. The "Manifest Destiny" Republicans had launched their interventionist campaign which gained force with each passing day. President McKinley pursued a course of hesitation and indecision. On the one hand the important press was hell-bent on forcing the nation into an interventionist war. William Randolph Hearst was then making his mark in burid journalism. The haloed Joseph Pulitzer "fishing for more profits, also fumed and stormed over the plight of the poor Cubans."

Hearst sent special feature writers to Cuba with instructions to go the limit. His papers were published with bright carmine headlines reciting atrocity tales of the Island. Other newspapers joined in the conspiracy of big business clamoring for war. The representative from the State of Maine very aptly said at the time, that "Every congressman has two or three newspapers in his districtmost of them printed in red ink . . . shouting for blood." Appeals were made to the emotional feelings of

for the freedom of small defense less peoples—the lie of imperialists: But McKinley also faced the opposition of the Democrats and countless thousands who recognized the campaign for American intervention just for what it was. There was a great stir in Washington in the conflict between the interventionists and non-interventionists. The president

the people to incite them to fight

stood in between this great storm. In addition, too, McKinley found a pliant Spanish government in Madrid ready to deal with him and ready also to acquiesce to most American demands; nay, ready to go beyond the demands of the Administration. The American minister to Spain, General Woodford, cabled McKinley That if congress would agree to a settlement, the Madrid Government was willing to grant any autonomy which the insurgents would accept even complete independence for Cuba, or cession of the island to the United States." If one man knew that war was wholly unnecessary, President McKinley was that man. Spain was in such a plight that the United States could have had what it wanted in Cuba without resort

#### The Maine "Sinking"

In January, 1898, the battleship Maine went to Havana on a "good will mission". The ship was actually sent to re-assure American interests of protection. The situation was not without its aspect of a comic opera. Spain in turn, accepted this expression of good will and sent a cruiser to New York harbor in a return visit of friendship!

In the early part of February,

the Spanish minister to Washington. Senor Dupuy De Lome, wrote a personal letter to a friend in Cuba in which was contained some unflattering remarks about the president based upon his observations as a result of relations with him. He wrote that McKinley had no mind, that he was influenced daily first by one group then another. It was the kind of personal letter, which if made public could do no good in a charged situation. That's precisely what happened. The letter was stolen from the mails in Cuba and sold, quite properly, to Hearst, who published the letter as a proof of the ignominy of the Spaniards. It kindled quite a flame for a period, but even this situation died down.

But on February 15, 1898, the battleship Maine was mysteriously blown up in Havana Harbor. The effect was electrifying. No real findings resulted in ascertaining the cause of the explosion which took the lives of a couple of hundred seamen. Nevertheless American naval officers concluded that the Maine was blown up by a submarine mine. The explosion may have happened in a dozen different ways ,and more than

of the century, the northern capital- forty years afterward there is still of men employed or casualties. The no real determination of its cause. It might well be that American interests were responsible in seeking a way to force the United States into the war.

#### War Factions

The pro-war factions went to work on McKinley, who continued with his hesitating policy. He and the Spanish Government tried to settle the issues peacefully. McKinley's failure to dispatch troops immediately led jingo Teddy Roosevelt, who was then embarked on a great advertising campaign to popularize himself as the great American hero, to declare that "McKinley has no more backbone than a chocolate eclair."

The "good" senator Thurston of Nebraska stated: "War with Spain would increase the business and earnings of every American railroad (it is not difficult to see whose office boy the Senator was!), it would increase the output of every American factory, it would stimulate every branch of industry and domestic com-

Yet in March, McKinley urged Spain to establish an armistice with the revolutionists and abolish the concentration camps. In his note to Spain he spoke of maintaining peace and precluded any American desire of acquiring Cuba.

On April 9, 1898, the Spanish cabinet accepted the American proposals. In their zeal to avoid a conflict with American arms they went much further than McKinley had asked. They were prepared to arbitrate the Maine question, even though, aside from the war-mongering propaganda, there was no certainty of what caused its sinking and no reason for Spain to accept the blame. Spain prepared to call the Cuban parliament immediately and was ready to seek the "pacification of the Island with justice to all parties."

#### War With Spain

The reply came too late. President McKinley had resolved to succumb to the pressure of the war hysteria and the jingoists in control of his party. He delivered his war message to congress one day after the receipt of the Spanish note of conciliation, but made no mention of the note of surrender. On April 19, war was declared.

The war was a short one. The real aims of "Manifest Destiny" were quickly apparent. Long before the war had broken out, decisions as to the deployment of naval forces had been decided upon. The Pacific fleet suddenly entered the picture and went for the Philippines. This is the first time the Philippines enters the scene at all. The Spanish navy was routed in Manila Harbor, although in the absence of land forces no seizure of the country was possible. Troops arrived weeks later and the seizure of the Philippines was nplished with the aid of native insurgent troops after the rout of the Spaniards in Cuba and after peace had been declared!

It was not a real war in proportion

#### Coolidge Tour Backs Up Bay Area Party Work

SAN FRANCISCO. - The highlight of the splendid work of David Coolidge in the San Francisco Bay area was a very successful public meeting, Friday, January 31, in San Francisco. The Workers Party's National Labor Secretary, spoke on War. Wages and the Workers" before the largest group of non-party workers attending a party meeting in San Francisco in the past several years. Attention, questions and discussion were at a high level and the entire audience stayed throughout.

With exceeding simplicity and clarity, Comrade Coolidge exposed the real nature of imperialist war and its consequences for the workers. As he presented the alternative of a world of Fascist barbed wire, or a world of workers' rule growing out of the war, the audience was clearly and overwhelmingly with the speaker.

During his stay here, plans were launched for stepping up local work and for tightening the local organization. Party meetings were held on both sides of the Bay and the organizational and political problems confronting the local movement were thoroughly discussed.

Comrade Coolidge closed his stay here with a Saturday night public social which broke the local Party's record for attendance, enjoyment and-not least important-financial return. The membership of the San Francisco Bay area wishes to express its appreciation to the national Party both for the successful arrangement of so extensive a tour and for the excellent choice of David Coolidge to do the job!

DANCE TO AN ASCAP HIT PARADE OF THE PAST TEN YEARS 916 Ninth Avenue

Saturday, February 8

American army lost 5,462 men, of which 379 were lost in action and more than 5,000 were the victims of disease, inadequate military preparations, unsanitary conditions, and downright rotten food, the scandalous "embalmed beef," which brought great profits to American merchants. The navy lost less than 20 men.

It was in this war that Teddy Roosevelt, the House of Morgan major-domo, made his war record. Actually his war record was no better or worse than hundreds of others in a war of small dimensions. Yet the press stories of his valor, more often than not inspired by himself, led the country to think that he was a veritable combination of battle cruiser and pom-pom guns. So ludicrous did the campaign to glorify Roosevelt appear to discerning minds, that the venerable Finley Peter Dunne was led to say that Roosevelt ought to write an account of the war entitled: "Alone in Cuba."

#### Terms of Peace

The revolution in Hawaii had been raging for some years (See my articles in LABOR ACTION, December 16 and 23). The ostensible purpose for entering the war was to free Cuba and drive a world power out of the new world. Yet, when the commission met to prepare the peace, American demands included the acquisition of Puerto Rico, the Island of Ladrones, and the Philippines. The argument that the United States had not yet conquered the Philippines was unavailing. Nor was the argument that the United States had not once mentioned the Philippines in the pre-war exchanges, considered valid objection by the victorious mmissioners.

McKinley was a new man since he had finally decided on his course. He was not going to permit anything to slip out of the hands of the United States especially since the war was won. The imperialist surge was rampant in the States and it was apparent that the United States meant to grab as much as possible.

There was much interest in the way the President, so hesitant and undecided previously, resolved his "intellectual and moral methods." But McKinley did explain himself in an address to his Methodist brethren. It is an interesting declaration, for he said:

"I walked the floor of the White House night after night, and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed Almighty God for light and guidance more than one night. And one night late it came to me this way-I don't know how it was, but it came . . . There was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace do the very best we could by them as our fellow-men for whom Christ also died. And then I went to bed, and went to sleep and slept soundly."

It was plenty easy for McKinley to resolve things once he had but put on the mantle of Christ and decided that he was sacrificing all for the purpose of civilizing the Filipinos! Shortly thereafter, the American troops proceeded to Christianize the insurgent natives with mass water-cures performed on those who seriously believed the American pronunciamentos that they were there to liberate them from the yoke of Spain so that they may be a free and independent people.

Under the impetus of the war, the annexation of Hawaii, so long adjourned because of nation-wide opposition, was quickly accomplished. At the close of the war, the United States had acquired the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico, Ladrones and control over Cuba. To salve the feelings of the Spaniards, they graciously paid Spain \$20,000,000 for and on account of the Philippine Islands. Ever thus, the noble gesture!

#### A Power The war established the American

Empire, made her a power to be reckoned with in Europe. Heretofore the United States had been scorned by the powers in the Old World, but the imperialist rivalries on the Continent had led to a sharp division of interest. The English, already fearful of the power of post-1870 Germany, was wholehearted in its support of the United States. It challenged Germany at each step where Germany sought to soften American demands, or insisted upon a share for herself. England would then rather have a stronger United States than a stronger Germany, and the American seizures automatically forced Germany to curb her aims in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

In addition, the American policy served, whether it was needed or not, to bolster the imperialism of the Old World, since they could point in justification for their own imperialist policy, to the United States, which still had the reputation of a free and democratic nation. Elie Halevy in his History of the English People, Book I, Imperialism, graphicly portrays the effect of the Spanish American war on Europe and the inter-imperialist struggle in that part of the world, pointing out how positively it affected the British imperialists, as an example.

Thus a new chapter was written in the very upward march of the youngest and potentially most powerful nation in the capitalist world.

# **PRESS**

Last week's Negro issue of LABOR ACTION was a good demonstration of what the Workers Party can do with our press if it sets its mind to it. We more than doubled our press run and we have none but our file copies left. We particularly want to commend the Chicago South Side Branch for its excellent response. Fifteen hundred extra copies were ordered by this one branch and the order was accompanied by a money order in full payment.

On the basis of Chicago South Side's order, New York should have done four or five times as well, but we won't complain too much because there has been a general improvement in New York's literature

Other branches that ordered extra copies of the Negro issue include: Chicago Central, Baltimore, Boston, St. Louis, Newark and Columbus.

The business office feels that if branches can do so well with one issue of LABOR ACTION, it can be done with any and all issues. Comment from all over the country from party members and sympathizers expresses satisfaction with our press. Most interesting was the comment from a member of the Socialist Workers Party, who says, "though there are some political points on which I disagree with you, I support your anti-war stand and your military position."

Last week, LABOR ACTION ran an advertisement offering a special trial subscription-25 cents for 3 months. We want to call this to the attention of all party members and sympathizers again. We expect every member to get at least one new subscriber. A quarter for three months is little enough and here's your chance to acquaint new readers with our paper at practically no cost to them. And don't forget that this offer holds good only until March

Elaborate plans are being made by a newly appointed literature agent in Los Angeles for greatly increasing L. A.'s bundle order by regular industrial concentration and houseto-house canvassing. According to the L. A. organizer, Los Angeles is about to take its place with the top branches in literature sales. What's more, they assure us of full payment of their now too large debt in the very near future.

## **Branch Forum** Discusses Lincoln Square Situation .

The hand of working class friendship and co-operation was extended to a large group of Negroes who attended a meeting sponsored by the members of Upper West Side branch of the Workers Party (Local New York) last Friday night.

The gathering was held primarily to discuss the problems of those neighborhood people who are to be evicted from their homes in the "Lincoln Square" area in order to make way for the "Amsterdam" housing project.

Henry Pellman, organizer for the Workers Party, spoke to the group on problems that are of vital importance to the Negro masses. Inadequate housing, Jim Crowism, WPA cuts and many cases of discrimination against Negroes in the "defense" (war) industries were cited by Pellman as urgent reasons for the formation of a branch of the "Emancipators," a militant organization of Negroes in New York City. He explained that the organization was making real progress in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Mike Cohen, Upper West Side branch organizer, followed Pellman. Deriding the effectiveness of petitions and post card protests, Cohen called for a mass demonstration to force the City Hall politicians and the Welfare Bureau bureaucrats to take up the problem of rehousing the Negro tenants, who will be forced to move when the vermin-infested houses are demolished, in a decent and satisfactory way.

After emphasizing that the Workers Party is not in any way connected with the Community Party, Cohen offered the tenants the full co-operation of the party members in their efforts to demolish the wall of race and class prejudice. He also invited the Lincoln Square Tenants League to use the branch headquarters for their meetings.

Freddy Dutton, well acquainted with the problems of the unemployed in their fight for decent relief, made a brief but effective speech in which she offered home relief applicants and recipients help and advice on ways and means of impressing the well-fed louts in the Home Relief Bureau administration with the urgency of their cases.

After the meeting, the radio was turned on to the Louis-Burman fight and refreshments were served. As the visitors left they were urged to get copies of the Negro issue of LABOR ACTION and, also, copies of the Challenge of Youth. A goodly number of copies were sold.

# Number 5 in a Series by Dwight Macdonald England at War - - Bevin's Problem Shades of 1917! Is How to Starve the Masses and Make Them Like It

"The outstanding lesson revealed by the evolution of Britain's war economy to date is that any attempt to achieve a compromise solution between a free economy and total 'Wehrwirtschaft' (war economy), particularly when faced by an enemy who has long since made the full transformation and is master of its technique, means not only skirting the very edge of disaster, but also foregoing the basic advantages of the old system without reaping the essential benefits of the new.

This does not mean that there must be a slavish imitation of German practices, although much of what Britain has done has been necessarily in conformity with the same pattern, and even more of Marshal Goering's machinery, with suitable minor alterations, could have been copied to advantage in the past 13 months. "Thus this island must try, at least, to operate a

total war economy . . ."

So begins a 108-page confidential report by Joseph P. Kennedy, until lately, U.S. Ambassador to England, to President Roosevelt. The date-according to the Stalinoid newsleteer, In Fact, which presents excerpts from the document in its January 13 issue—is October 10, 1940. These paragraphs gibe with the conclusions

# **Capitalist** Lies Won't **Help Them**

By Susan Green

The National Association of Manufacturers, at its convention held last month in New York, embarked on a huge propaganda campaign in the schools. Running along with the more vociferous war propaganda, like Mary's little lamb, will be this not so vociferous but just as dishonest effort to fill the minds of the children of the country with hokum about the "system of private enterprise".

The exploiters who squeeze profits out of the workers through the ownership of the means of production -which they innocently name "the system of private enterprise"-feel the ground shaking under them. In frantic haste to win the race with history, they wish to make the rising generations believe that the exploiting systm of capitalism is still progressive and is, no less, the best possible social system.

They will lie their heads off in an attempt to do this. Facts will not help them at all. What can be greater proof of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system than its collapsed condition from 1929 till the present war boom? No amount of lying will wipe out of existence the sufferings of tens of millions of jobless, destitute people, while the factories and farms able to produce their needs stood idle.

They will lie a lot more trying to get by the incontravertible fact that the capitalist system cannot make the machinery of production function for the purposes of peace. Only to produce the means for inhuman slaughter of millions of people, do the wheels of capitalist production whir full time, And this is just as true for "democratic" capitalism in America and England as for Nazi and fascist capitalism in Germany

#### No Longer Progressive

Socialists gladly admit that in its heyday capitalism was progressive. The lure for profits in the unlimited markets of the world stimulated the capitalist class to expand and mechanize the means of production. It encouraged science and invention to make possible the ass production of an abundance of commodities. It is true that in its progressive stage capitalism robbed the workers of the product of its labor, just as it does today. But then there was historic compensation for the robbery. The technological means for ultimately abolishing poverty from the face of the earth were being

This reason for putting up with exploitation no longer exists. Poverty stalks the land-but not because of any technological insufficiency. The Brookings Institution estimated that during the twelve-year period from 1922 to 1934 this country could have produced in goods and services \$248,000,000,000 more than it did produce. And, according to other authorities, this figure is altogether too low. Yet, even taking the lowest figure, at least \$8,000 in goods and services were withheld from each of the thirty million American families-because the modern means for mass production were standing

Think what that sum for each family would mean. Translated into food, clothing, shelter, education, health, entertainment, it spells the difference between happiness and misery. All this was kept from the masses by "private enterprise" which holds in its octopus grip the machinery of production and will not let it operate except when there is profit to be made. That is how "progressive" the capitalist system has become.

It is estimated that the minimum annual income on which a family of three can purchase a fair share of the output of the productive plant of America, is only \$2,500. The wonderful things-from cars to kitchen gadgets-advertised in the better magazines of the country, could be bought by all the people, if the average earnings per family of three were the modest sum of \$2,500.

However, the shameful truth is that families with that modest income or over comprise only thirteen percent of the total population. AND DON'T THINK THE 13% ARE WORKERS! Among that thirteen percent must be included America's sixty wealthy familieswith all their sisters, cousins, aunts-presidents of corporations, bankers, politicians, the middle class, etc., etc. Small indeed is the percentage of actual workers who have the golden key to the locked door beyond which lie the necessities of modern life.

#### Smash the Vicious Circle!

Here is the secret of the regressive character of present-day capitalism. THE WORKING CLASS IS PAID IN WAGES ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE VALUES IT PRODUCES. The markets of the world are now so limited that they cannot absorb the huge surplus of which the workers are robbed. So the wheels of industry stop turning and remain practically motionless until the blessings of war descend upon us.

The viciousness of this endless circle becomes apparent. The youth of the working class is killed in war because their parents were robbed of the product of their labor and so that the capitalist masters may secure a larger share of the world markets in which to dispose of the wealth of which the working class will continue

It will take more lying than there is, to get children growing up in a world of war and poverty to believe that the capitalist system is progressive. They will be asking, with true youthful curiosity, why the existing means for abolishing poverty are not used for that purpose, instead of the destructive war.

The logic of the answer of the WORKERS PARTY is bound to appeal to them: "Private enterprise" must be replaced by SOCIALISM-the system which will give to the workers the full product of their labor.

regime, in a capitalist nation like England, can put up an effective fight against Nazi Germany; (2) England so far does not have such a regime, either in the field of war economy (article 3 in the series) or in respect to the workingclass (article 4).

The problem of the day facing the Tory-Labor government in England, therefore, is how to advance more rapidly towards totalitarian controls, towards what Kennedy calls "long term planning forced by State fiat to maximize this country's industrial effort in accord with the principle of totalitarian Wehrwirtschaft". This is now on the order of the day, and it is Bevin, most powerful figure in the Labor bureaucracy, whose job it is to find a solution. In the last few weeks, he has already embarked on the road, with the steps to conscript

The Kennedy memorandum indicates the approach of this new turn: "There is undoubtedly a wide and growing opinion that the labor market has still too much liberty to go its own way and that the time has come to bring labor under further compulsion, . . . According to usually reliable sources, Mr. Bevin has felt that the workers were entitled to a 4 or 6 months period to be free to do what they wished with their new or extra war earnings. The time is now shortly approaching, however, when the difficult and unpalatable job of the Churchill-Labor government must be to tell the workers that there is no way of avoiding serious inflation except through the wage earners being prepared to cut expenditures and to consume less. With open wage controls 'political poison', this means in practice the adoption of some sort of direct levy on virtually all incomes or some form of compulsory deferred savings . . . or a very much wider extension of rationing and supply prohibitions; possibly a combination of all of these

Recent events seem to bear out this analysis. On December 1, the government ordered the wholesale supply of a wide range of consumer goods reduced by 50%, and also put into effect drastic reductions in meat and milk rations, which were extended even further six weeks later. And on January 6 Churchill announced a new "Big Four brain trust" to be given complete control of production: the Tories Beaverbrook and Duncan, and the Laborites Bevin and Alexander. Bevin, continuing as Labor Minister, was also made top boss of this supreme production authority. There have been complaints in the Labor press that this new committee is armed with insufficient powers over private business, that it will be able to coordinate and control production little better than the previous inadequate machinery

But the point of the reshuffle seems to be not the better control of business-the Tories are in firmer political control of the government today than at any time since last May-but rather of labor. It looks as though Bevin were being put into a position where he can, at last, really crack down on labor. His job will not be an easy one. As we have seen, the British workingclass is still strong. Yet the brute pressure of war economics under capitalism can no longer be safely resisted: the masses must be put on short rations. Now that Bevin is making the attempt, we may expect a dramatic intensification of class struggle in England.

The Kennedy Memorandum exaggerates the "new or extra war earnings" the British workers have enjoyed up to now. Bevin & Co. have already done a good job in reducing workingclass living standardsthough, as Kennedy correctly emphasizes, nothing compared to the blitzkrieg they are now preparing. It is true that, as the liberal weeklies like to point out, over one hundred million pounds have been added to British wages since the war began, and it is also true that some of the bigger and stronger unions have been able to force wages to keep within sight of living costs. But the overall picture is different: according to British Labor Research, wages have gone up 10% since the war began, while the cost of living has risen at least 23%. (This seems to be a conservative estimate: Commerce Reports for January 11 last states that food prices have gone up no less than 58% since the war began.)

Nor is this all. The Tories have been careful to keep in their hands the financial conduct of the war, which means that the drawing up of the war budgets-which determine which class shall bear what part of the burden-was passed from the hands of the Tory, Simon, to the Tory, Wood. And Wood, protected as he is by governmental colleagues from the Labor Party, has piled taxes on the workers and the "little man" as Simon never dared to do. (One of the most obvious uses of the Labor section of the present government is to get the masses to swallow the economic privations the war increasingly imposes on them.)

It is true that income taxes in the high brackets now go up to 85% and that the 100% excess profits tax has driven net earnings of 337 big British companies down 21% from the last peace year (National City Bank Bulletin, Dec. 1940). And Chancellor of the Exchequer, Wood may be granted the point he made in presenting the third war budget last July: "If he confiscated every salary in the country over \$8,000 a year, he said all he would get would be \$280,000,000 or enough to keep the war going not quite nine days. That, he said, is his position, so it is mainly the little man who is on the spot tonight." (Though nine days is something . . .)

But there are more ways than one to skin a cat-if you want to skin it, that is. Hugh Dalton, foremost Labor Party economist, indicated one when last winter he declared boldly in parliament that the "very rich" should be taxed two pounds for every pound of their income—the extra pound to be collected by a capital levy. "Six per cent of the population of this country," he said then, "hold 80% of the property, and less than 2% hold 40% of the property. This is an injustice which our soldiers, sailors and airmen certainly are not fighting to maintain." But that was before Mr. Dalton entered the government himself as Minister of Economic Warfare. Since that happy date, nothing more has been heard from him or his Labor colleagues as to a capital

Nor has anything been heard from them as to the sales tax on consumers' goods which Chancellor Wood put through last fall (also something that the Chamberlain government had never dared to do). The N.Y. Times of July 9 noted that at a meeting of the National Council of Labor, the rank and file overruled Greenwood and Morrison and insisted that the Council go on record against a sales tax. When the Churchill-Labor cabinet nevertheless tried to drive the tax through parliament, strong opposition from Labor Party members killed it -temporarily. Two months later the tax went into effect-one more indication, by the way, of the increasing specific weight of the Tories in the present government.

#### "Meat . . . or Bardia?"

The total revenue expected from the new sales tax is some \$400,000,000 a year. This will run the war for less than two weeks, at present rates of expenditure. But the tax is important less for revenue than as a means of cutting down on consumption (and thus production) of consumers' goods. The most direct method is rationing or outright prohibition, and this is being resorted to more and more. In a society like that of England today, this means-no matter how Bevin & Co. try to smooth over matters-a sharpening of class antagonisms. Consider, for example, the meat situation.

A few weeks ago the Tory Minister of Food, Lord Woolton, announced a cut in the meat ration from 47c worth of meat per person per week to 30c, and two days later a further cut to 23c (which at war prices means just one pound of beef or two of mutton). "There are excellent reasons for this decision," said Lord Woolton reassuringly, "among them the diversion of shipping to Libya. Would you rather have a little less meat . . or would yau rather have Bardia?" (Another slice of Bardia, please . . .) But there was more to it than Bardia. The N.Y. Times of Jan. 11 reported: "The London Trades Council went on record today protesting against the 'scandal' in the muddled meat supplies of Britain. They were concerned specifically with price reduction and equal distribution through the removal from power of those linked with combines and the food trust." For Lord Woolton, as is the general practice in the Tory-Labor regime, has set up "to keep food prices at a reasonable level" a committee composed of "food manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.'

Nor was this all. Rationing hit the workingclass much harder-to say the least-than it did the wealthy. The latter could buy unrationed luxury foods like chicken (at 65c a pound). Or they could gorge themselves without limit at expensive restaurants. The London Daily Mirror, popular tabloid, sent out a reporter with a wellfilled waller. Excerpts from his story:

Within five days I have eaten at least seven times my weekly meat ration, five times my butter ration. ... Not content with this debauch, I have swallowed saddle of hare in wine sauce, lobster Thermidor, caviar, Hungarian pork goulash, quails in aspic and goose livers. In addition I have eaten two dozen ovsters and a considerable quantity of fish, ranging from smoked salmon via tuna, sardines and anchovies to an enormous Dover sole. This mountain of food was obtained without the loss of a single food coupon. ... I have watched the great as they dine-Morrison, Beaverbrook, Duff Cooper and Eden among them.

After this expose and the London Trade Council protest, Lord Woolton promised to cut down food supplies to restaurants and to forbid the serving of more than one "basic dish" (fish, meat, poultry, cheese, eggs) at any single meal. But restaurant diners still don't have to present food coupons (as housewives buying at stores do). It is an interesting footnote on this "war for democracy" that in German restaurants food has been strictly rationed since the beginning of the war.

OLYMPIA, Washington-As in the fateful year of 1917, the state legislature here succumbed to a wave of war hysteria and barred State Senator Lenus Westman from his seat by a vote of 28 to 17 because he had once been a Communist Party mem-

Although Westman had repudiated the Stalinists to become again a Roosevelt bootlicker in the Democratic Party, the Washington Senators weren't satisfied.

Their action was similar to that taken by the New York state legislature in 1917 when it barred Socialists who had been duly elected to

# Women Finks Organize Scab Outfit

Special to Labor Action

LOS ANGELES, Calif. - National publicity was given a week ago to the picketing of local grocery stores here by a group of women who protested against the signing of union contracts by the grocers.

The outfit behind this move is known as the Women of the Pacific. It is more than just another open shop outfit composed of Chamber of Commerce wives. It is connected with the notorious Associated Farmers of California.

It was brought out at the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee hearings that this organization was paid by bakery owners to act openly as a strike-breaking outfit.

The Women of the Pacific is also backed by the Chandler interests, owners of the Los Angeles Times, easily the most reactionary and laborbaiting newspaper in America.

The Ralphs Grocery Co., which was picketed by these well-dressed finks, published a statement complaining that it was forced to sign a union contract, because all the warehouse and delivery drivers were unionized! Quite a tribute to the AFL unions involved!

Interesting too is the fact that one Ralph store reported an increase of \$200 in daily business while it was being picketed by the Women of the Pacific. Union consciousness is on the uptake here.

## Dear Sally-

Everything is well with us, except Joe is always so tired and I don't see much of him. With all these government war orders at the factory he is kept working sixty hours and over every week. Sometimes he even works on Sunday. Of course, he gets overtime, thanks to the union, but he'd rether work fewer hours. Financially it's better than it's been for years, but it's an awful strain on Joe.

Remember the Johnson's who used to live near us when we were kids? Well, I met the youngest girl, Lillian on the street the other day. She's been out here for three years and is now working in a sweat-shop. She works forty hours a week and gets the minimum wage-30 cents an hour. There's no union in the shop. They're filling government orders for surgical supplies.

There is always a continual speeding up of work and firing for the slightest reason or none at all. Why, last week two girls were fired for talking during working hours. Sounds silly, doesn't it. But that's exactly what happened. No talking during working hours is one of their rules. Imagine working all day and not being able to ask the girl next you what she did last night, or what time it is. Lillian says time goes slow and it is a

Let me know when Sis is getting married as I want to send her something. The family send their best, and love from

## Dear Mary:

Glad to get your letter. Yes those sweat-shop places are lousy, and hard to organize. But Jerry was in from New Hampshire and told me a story about one of them that sort of cheers me up. It was the same kind of place you wrote about where the boys have worked for years and no union nor any chance to talk about unions. The cost of living has started going up and some of the boys in one department decided that now is the time to get a raise. They had no union, but got to-gether and elected a couple to go to the boss and ask for a 15% raise. It was the first time in five years at least that they had made an attempt to get together on any demands. And this one department could have tied up the shop if they struck. And they said they would strike if they didn't get the raise. The next morning two of the ringleaders were fired. It was obvious that the boss had decided to present them with another problem than the raise. The boys talked this over and decided that if they didn't get these two back to work they would be licked, so they decided to strike if the boss wouldn't put them back. They also decided they wanted a union, and got in touch with the union organizer. They went back to the boss and presented their demands-either you put those two men back or we strike. The boss asked for two days to think it over. They agreed. But meanwhile they signed up that department in the union and laid plans for contacting other departments. Two days later the boss agreed · to put the two men back. I suppose he figured that might settle it ,but as Jerry says, it is only the beginning. They are going right ahead and organize and in a month or two when the season gets started they are going in again for that raise. I'm betting they get it too.

It only goes to show that in the lousiest sweat-shop, where the workers have never dared to ask for anything, conditions will eventually force them. We can see it all over the country now, with the prices of food, etc., on the way up, with the prospects of the bosses making millions out of war orders, the workers are more determined than ever to get decent wages. Well, I'm all for it, let's go.

Give my best to the family and take care -

# This Is A Profit System-

CHICAGO-The Chicago Relief system can teach the nótorious Chicago milk trust a thing or two when it comes to boosting the price of milk . . . and turning over a nice profit.

The Relief buys milk from a Federal agency for approximately 5 cents per quart. This same milk is then sold to relief clients for . . . 11 cents. And that ain't all! A recent decision of the Relief administration requires relief clients to pay for the milk whether they get it or not.

# All Is Not Enthusiasm In Europe

In a series of articles appearing in the Chicago Daily News and the New York Post, Wallace Deuel has been painting a picture of European conditions which bode no good for the ruling classes in the warring countries.

The war itself, says Mr. Deuel, and all the misery and bloodshed connected with it, is, of course, the main source of popular discontent. But the thing which makes this dissatisfaction more intense and more ominous than it would otherwise be is the fact that the people can see no hope of better things to come after the war

The people remember "the last war from which much of Europe never recovered. There were inflations and deflations and depressions and panics. There was party and racial strife. There were civil wars. There were pre-war preparations and pre-war crises . . ."

The people see that the "German question" was not solved by bringing Germany to her knees in the last war, and they cannot see how Churchill will solve it this time. On the allied side the people see the tremendous sacrifices demanded of them in "blood and treasure and freedom." And even if they win, what do the common people have to hope for? "There are also on the Allied side the hopelessness of the failure to solve the peoples' own problems, with the result that the peoples have lost much of their faith in their own ideals. The world depression is Adolf Hitler's most potent ally."

In Germany, says Mr. Deuel, the people feel just as hopeless. They have been exhausted by the last war, the blockade, the revolution, the inflation and eight long years of Nazi oppression, low wages, long hours of work and a constant pre-war pitch of excitement and hysteria. They remember that in the last war they also won all the battles but the last one. And even if they win . . . "what good will the victory be to the Germans? The longer the war lasts, the more the Germans wonder if it is worth fighting." (Our emphasis).

"The German people are tired as few peoples in the world have ever been tired without breaking down. In a single generation they have gone through a major war, a starvation blockade and a catastrophic defeat; they have had two revolutions; they have had their currency wiped out altogether once and have been seriously threatened with the same fate again; they have had the same exhausting and disillusioning experiences of the depression the rest of the world has had; and now they have entered a new war."

The people are hopelessly confused. They do not know just whom to blame for their terrible plight. They fight on as if in a nightmare. All this Mr. Deuel sees and reports, and one gets the impression that he too feels as if he were in a hopeless nightmare. The day of awakening will come when confusion gives place to certainty, and the workers take their arms to fight against their real foes-and for ideals in which their confidence cannot be shaken.

#### EUROPE AT WAR ---

SWITZERLAND: Dependent on European neighbors for access to the world markets, Switzerland is subjected to blockade and counter-blockade. Her reserves are dwindling and some of her industries are beginning to shut down for lack of raw materials and export facilities. No shipping is available for trade. Coal rations have been cut by 50%. Tourist trade has totally vanished. Buses and private autos have almost entirely disappeared (there is no gasoline).

## Rats Infest Chicago Slums-**Another Negro Child Bitten**

Special to Labor Action '

CHICAGO-A nine months old Negro baby, Dianne Bowling, was added to the ever-growing list of Chicago children being made the victims beings." of unsafe, and unsanitary housing conditions, when she was bitten by rats in her home, Jan. 18.

Mrs. Hilda Gitlin, assistant head of the Chicago Metropolitan Housing Council, stated that "this is the second time in nine months of life that this child has suffered from rat

LABOR ACTION has reported three other such cases in Chicago in the past 6 months, one of them a case of a child killed by rat bite.

"Rent hog" landlords and a lax Board of Health have allowed an

army of rats to grow to such proportions that authorities recently estimated that "there are more rats in the city of Chicago than human

In the crowded Negro areas on the South Side, where landlords have built up a segregated area through restrictive covenants which makes it possible for them to extort exhorbitant rents without the need to repair or rehabilitate buildings, the situation is particularly acute.

The largest exterminator company in the city has given up a contract to eliminate rodents and vermin from a two million dollar real estate area, because they stated that it was impossible for them to eradicate the menace of these pests with the present lack of city help.

# World at War - -

(Continued from page 1)

extraordinary fakery to gain the people's favor; for example, the sending of all cabinet ministers to the "front" and the elevation of the Italian Crown Prince to the "command" of the Italian army.

#### BRITAIN TOO The struggle against war is not

confined to the weakest link in the Axis: Italy. The British Empire is showing similar cracks in its structure. The fierce fighting between civilians and British troops which broke out in Johannesburg, the mining center of the Union of South Africa, in which thousands of people were involved, is symptomatic. This mass outbreak against British overlordship and against the war lasted for three full days before being put down by the authorities. According to the press; the political grouping behind the outbreaks against British "democracy" is republican in character, although there are undoubtedly some reactionary, perhaps even pro-German elements in it. It is called the Ossewabrandwag.

The struggle against the British in South Africa has a long and bloody history. The British imperialists established their colonial rule there only after the terrible Boer War which lasted from 1899 to 1902. During the last World War the Boers rose in insurrection against the British but were savagely put down. No wonder then that the Boers have no sympathy for the new British war

The biggest crack in the tottering British Empire is revealed in India

which has been called the finest regime finds it necessary to resort to jewel in the British crown. Recently the London Times' India correspondent wrote that "India is in a state of political ferment for which no parallel can be found since the civil disobedience movement of ten years

The movement for independence and against the war has already resulted in the jailing of some 5000 Indians since last October. Besides the cruelest persecution of revolutionists, arrests have included the President of the Indian National Congress, three one-time Presidents, four former Prime Ministers of Indian Provinces, eleven former Ministers, five speakers of provincial legislatures, seven members of the Congress Working Committee and 100-odd members of the Congress Executive Committee—in fact every important Congress leader except Ghandi himself.

In its attitude toward India, the British ruling class gives the game away. They demand India's aid in the war in order to preserve the British Empire and British exploitation of millions of colonial slaves. "Two out of ten Englishmen depend on India," said Winston Churchill and with that he summarized Britain's war aims.

The workers and colonial peoples of the world have their own aims. Already, here and there, the spectre of a people's revolt against both war camps looms. The last World War almost sounded the death knell of capitalism. Though the mighty war machines are still intact. in Italy. South Africa, India and other countries, one already begins to see the ominous handwriting on the wall.

# Editorials -

#### OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

- 1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
- 2. 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
- 6. 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
- 11. For an independent Labor Party. 12. For Workers' Defense Guards against
- Fascist and vigilante attacks. 13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government
- and a people's army. 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

# A Stab in the **Back of Labor**

Federation.

"A stab in the back." That's what Philip Murray, CIO president, called William Green's statement on Ford unionization. And that's just what it was.

In the midst of an intensive CIO drive to unionize the plants of the most notorious open-shopper in the country, Green issued a widely-publicized statement claiming that a majority (no less!) of the Ford workers are already organized in two newly chartered federal AFL unions.

On the face of it, Green's statement is ridiculous. It could be dismissed as that were it not for the fact that, under the circumstances, it amounts to a whitewash which Ford can use as a handle against the real unionization drive in his plants. Green's statement is therefore a monstrous act of union disruption.

There isn't an observer in the United States, acquainted in any degree with the union situation in Ford, who wouldn't dub, Green's claim as fantastic. Such workers in the Ford plants as are organized are undeniably in the CIO. And the trend of the workers towards the CIO is unmistakable. An NLRB election at the Lincoln plant has already been applied for by the CIO. And as Murray says, "The AFL is not even in the picture."

The CIO, so rapid has been the progress of its drive, has had to double its office force to handle new Ford applicants: It has 54 organizers on the job, and 29 union offices in the vicinity of the Ford plants. In contrast, according to Murray, the AFL has "one small store in Dearborn which by latest reports is not yet even open for business.

What other effect can Green's statement have than to bolster the resistance of labor-hater Ford against unionization. It took a mountain of labor pressure to force the government to deny Ford a war contract (after he had gotten many others) because of his consistent violations of the federal labor laws. Now along comes Green with his statement. Ford will bargain with him, tie up unionization in all sorts of legal snarls, play off the AFL against the CIO, perhaps even sign with the AFL on the basis of a deal—and then bid for more war contracts. In short, by creating the appearance of a jurisdictional dispute, Green aids Ford in confusing the issue.

The dispute between the AFL and the CIO is something for labor to settle within its ranks. Against the boss, all labor-CIO, AFL or independent-must stand together! Only in that way is the cause of labor truly served. In essence Green's statement is an act of disloyalty to the WHOLE labor movement. It would therefore be proper for local AFL unions and officials to publicly slap Green in the face by strongly worded resolutions of con-

Also in place would be resolutions of encouragement to the CIO in its campaign to organize the Ford plants. That it will most certainly do in any case. Try as he will, Ford cannot stave off forever union organization of his plants. No amount of ratty statements will avail him. But labor, extending its fraternal hand to the Ford union organizers, will speed the inevitable. Labor, standing together, can hold its head high and defy all its enemies.

# Support the Zimmer Bill!

Local 5 of the Teachers Union in New York has been ordered to turn over its membership lists to the reactionary Rapp-Coudert Committee, investigating "subversive" activities in the New York schools.

The action of the court is a dangerous precedent which comes as a threat to every union in the country. As the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee revealed in great detail, and as every union militant knows from his own experience, the bosses have utilized union lists and records, however obtained, to smash the unions-by black-balling workers, discrimination, etc.

The Rapp-Coudert Committee (which, let us add, in order to complete the picture, also has as one of its aims the determination of ways and means to cut the school budget) will undoubtedly use the membership lists as a whip against teacher unionism. It will use the lists to threaten and discriminate against militant teachers, to discourage teachers from joining the union—in a word, to destroy free trade unionism.

A precedent left unchallenged in the case of the teachers will later be used against any and all unions. This challenge must therefore be taken up by New York's unions, and taken up squarely in such a way as to set the union-busters back on their heels. In self-defense, the unions of the country must denounce the action of the Rapp-Coudert Committee. They must support, we repeat in self-defense, the Zimmer Bill now pending in the State Assembly which would prohibit the seizure of union lists."

Raise the question at your next union meeting! See to it that it is acted upon!

# **Answer This** Challenge Too

Of the same breed as the action of the Rapp-Coudert Committee is the Dunnigan Bill presented in the New York State Legislature which would bar the Communist Party from the ballot. Also, the Phelps-Devaney Bill which "would bar from the ballot any branch or affiliate of a foreign organization."

We repeat what we have already said thousands upon thousands of times: we have no use for the CP, nor any interest in defending its activities which are in their true meaning inimical to the best interests of the working class. We do, however, have a great interest in preserving the democratic rights of the working class. And that is what is here involved.

' It is not merely a question of the CP-Labor will itself take care of that outfit in due time. It is a question of defending every working class organization or party -whether you or we as individuals or groups approve of their purposes and program—from boss attack.

Both bills are a vicious blow at civil liberties—dressed up, as they invariably are, in the pretty raiment of "defending democracy against Communism and Fascism." Actually, they are intended as weapons given into the hands of laborhaters to be used against democracy.

Once the precedent is established, it can be used-and you can be sure it WILL be used—against any working class party or group whenever the boss class, acting through its legislative stooges, thinks it warranted by the occasion. Suppose Labor organizes a real Labor Party. Suppose this party declares itself against the war plans of the bosses. Isn't it obvious that in a time of war hysteria and reaction, the precedent set in the Dunnigan Bill will be dressed up to fit and trotted out?

So it is with the Phelps-Devaney Bill. A Labor Party composed of unions would fall rafoul of this bill if, for example, one of the unions involved had an affiliate section in Canada! Many labor organizations have relations of one kind or another with similar organizations in other lands. Such a labor organization might feel it necessary to demand a place on the ballot for one or a dozen reasons at any specific time. According to the Phelps-Devaney Bill, it would be automatically

And that isn't all. What is to prevent Messrs. Phelps and Devaney from saying that this or that labor organization has a foreign connection, even if it isn't true? You cannot expect big-time scoundrels to stop at a small detail.

No, fellow-workers, we dare not let these bills be passed. Every step must be taken by you, ACTING THROUGH YOUR ORGANIZATIONS AND UNIONS, to block the Dunnigan and Phelps-Devaney

# British Representatives Hold Delhi Conference

By SHERMAN STANLEY

In October and November of last year a little announced, but highly important, conference of representative authorities of the British Empire was held in New Delhi, capital of British India.

At this imperialist gathering there sat representatives of India, Burma, Çeylon, Australia, New Zealand. South Africa, Malaya, Hong Kong, Palestine, Southern Rhodesia and the East African colonies. Although coming from countries of the brown, yellow and black races only whites -that is, English-were present. A lone Dutchman "representing" the Javanese and Sumatrians was present from the Dutch East Indies which is now, for all practical purposes, a part of the British Eastern Colonial

What was the objective of the Conference? In the words of Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, "It is to see how, in cooperation, they (the colonies represented) can contribute, for their own defense and for the common cause, the very maximum of those elements of supply and equipment upon which the expansion of the Empire's armies must depend . . . It may well be that Delhi is laying the foundations of that Army of Empire whose first contingents are defending the Middle East today, but which is destined in its ultimate plentitude of power to march in the van of a liberated Eu-

#### Economic Objective

Herein is stated the economic objective of the Conference. To develop the war potential of the Empire forces by mobilizing colonial industry, raw material supplies (wool, lead, zinc, meat, jute, cotton, rubber, tin, manganese, grains, etc., etc.) That this will mean a heightened imperialist exploitation of the colonial slaves "represented" at New Delhi is candidly admitted by the cynical British. The London Economist writes that war economy for the Empire "will involve sacrifice, it will mean inroads into that high (?) standard of living which gives the British Dominions their special qualities." Those acquainted with the "high" living standards in Britain's Empire can only wonder at the colossal brass of these imperialist gentlemen. Lowering the standards of India's paupered 400,000,000 people means concretely a wave of pestilence and famine, while the country's steel and munitions industries expand,

Out of the meagre reports on the Conference, other economic objectives emerge: (1) India is to "equip and supply the forces of England in the Middle East and those east of Suez." This includes every possible war material.

(2) Expansion of industry and tories in India and other backward colonies will be pushed forward. Attempts will be made to draw in more colonial native capital and thus bind the darker-hued capitalists closer to their white-skinned brothers of Mother England.

(3) Increased quantities of raw materials will be demanded for convoy shipment to England.

(4) In conjunction with growing dependence upon America, the utilization of American capital will be encouraged. More precisely, attempts will be made to draw in this capital. In India, the Indian Aircraft Co. (the nation's first airplane plant) will be

### Brewster --

(Continued from page 1)

members are interested in the union. Place them on committees. Give them responsible duties to carry out.

Acquainting the men with an understanding of their tradition and heritage-the American labor movement. Tell them how and why the CIO was born. How rank and filers can become , leaders in the union. How they can defend union stand-

More social affairs-dances, etc. The men want some social activities run by the union. Other CIO unions have a ladies' auxiliary. Why can't this union have one also?

These, according to the men working at Brewster's, are the main questions. Any candidate who wants the vote of the men should give a clear and correct answer to these questions. His actions must show that he intends to carry out the desires of the men.

I appeal to my brother unionists to take up these questions and to discuss them with their shopmates. BREWSTER WORKER.

#### SCHEDULE FOR COOLIDGE TOUR

Columbus Pittsburgh Baltimore Washington Philadelphia Worcester Boston

New York

February 9-10 February 11-13 February 14 February 15-17 February 18-19 February 20-21 February 22-23 February 24-25 February 27

## EXCLUSIVE

organized and run by American technicians, the General Motors and Ford assembly plants in Bombay are being greatly expanded. Recognizing the inevitable ascendency of Yankee capital-of which this is another small, but significant example-the London Economist of October 19 comments, "The question of leadership (between England and America) need hardly arise. If any permanent closer association of the two nations is achieved, an island people of 50,000,-000 cannot expect to be the senior partner . . . The center of gravity and the ultimate decision must increasingly lie in America. We cannot resent this historical develop-

In addition to its economic moti-

vation, the Conference had a twofold, serious political character. First, it was a mobilization of all the important "White Dominions" with the exception of Canada. Recognizing the disintegrating tendencies within the Empire, the dangers of colonial native revolt-particularly in Indiathe British believe in advance preparations. This means lining up the "White Dominions" of New Zealand, Australia and South Africa against the other colonies.

Secondly, the gathering was necessary from a political standpoint to bolster up the Empire morale and draw the ruling authorities closer together. If England should fall to Hitler, the British will continue their part in the inter-imperialist struggle from Canada and the Near and Middle East. In the last analysis, the Delhi Conference had the sinister purpose of forcing India to become a new center in a continued war.

# Our Readers-Take the Floor ...

NOT BY DESPAIR, FELLOW-WORKERS, BUT THROUGH

Dear Editor:

I read your editorial "By Whose Right?" in the Jan. 6 issue of L.A. with interest since I am in an AFL metal trades union. Everything you say about the union leaders giving away our unions' real weapons for enforcing demands is true. But the very last sentence "It now remains for the metal trades workers to make their own attitude known at the union meeting," doesn't quite hit the point.

Do you suppose that the leaders would have dared to adopt the "no strike policy" if they thought for one moment that they would get hell from the membership? The only reason they can do such a thing is that the whole union outfit is run like a business. The main and biggest source of income are the enormous initiation fees, and then there's dues and there's work permits on the side. The 'labor bureaucrats control the whole set-up from top to bottom, and there are no cracks left open. They come to work drunk as hell in the morning and don't do a damn stitch of work on the job. They're known for that throughout the shop

# Ford on Run-

(Continued from page 1)

rent his plants to the government for one dollar a year for war produc-

How can Hillman sell the rank and file of the CIO this line when Ford wouldn't even let Hillman lick his boots in a conference? Unless Hillman was treated at least like half a man his usefulness to Roosevelt as a labor sell-out artist would be gone.

Ford had made a mistake there. And his talk about never giving in to a closed shop was not taken seriously by anyone. At present that isn't the main issue in the Ford plants.

But the blunder of blunders was the offer to give the government the factories to run for one-dollar a year. Ford's friends who made the offer for him didn't mean to have it taken seriously.

But it had within it the germs of a great idea. Ford has enough money to live on for the rest of his life. Why not have the government take the plants over, some workers asked.

Panic ensued at the Ford strategy committee meeting when those implications came out. Right away, denials were issued about the offer. But the damage had been done. The idea is spreading. Ford workers will like it best. (If the CIO would demand that the government take over Ford and give it to the union to run, they would have something.)

Ford's bid to manufacture the trucks was turned down in order to get the minds of the workers off the subject of conscripting the war industries, especially under workers'

#### Tide Can't Be Stopped

This rebuff for Ford is a union victory. Everyone in Detroit knows it. Above all, its effect is to shatter once again the myth of the invincibility of Ford.

The autoworkers are doing this for themselves. They've had to put the pressure on the government, and Sidney Hillman. They'll have to keep it up, and intensify it to organize

While the CIO moves too slowly at times, and its policy temporizes too frequently, the rising tide of unionism in the Ford dynasty is stronger than a breakwater here or there.

Ford's autocratic grip is shaking now. The very foundations of his empire will overturn tomorrow. Under the banner of the CIO his thousands of vassals are rallying to fight for their freedom. And they have won the preliminary skirmishes.

For Labor Action -Join Workers Party

-the vice-presidents, and executives of the unions and the shop stewards, too. If a mechanic happens to meet the business agent when he's drunk, it means he'll have to pay a bigger installment on his initiation fee

than usual.

The attitude of the men towards the union is just as bad. There's no talk of union politics. Why, the boys I work with didn't even discuss the "no strike policy"! There was not a word mentioned about it. Just as long as the union gets them the high hourly rate and double pay for overtime, they have no kicks. They don't even mind the high initiation fee. They figure it's a fair enough business deal for the high wages.

The way I see it, the only time the situation will change is when the government starts to insist on overtime with no extra pay or something like it that hits home hard. Then the boys will wake up and become interested in seeing that the union protects them. Let's hope it won't be too late.

#### A Sheet Metal Worker Baltimore, January 14, 1941.

(At any given moment it is quite

possible that the membership of a union may be indifferent to its real problems. But it is wrong, dangerously wrong, to throw up your hands in despair, to lose confidence in those who hold the power of decision in their hands-the working class. If a union member fails to see his interests today, then it's the job of the union-man who does see it to call it to his attention. You forget th over the country, unionmen, including many who may have been complacent a week ago, are rarin' on their hind legs on getting set for action. Should the bosses or government try to cut wages, or otherwise strike at union conditions in the shop, you will see the membership drop its indifference quickly. And if the leadership stands in the way of the membership's interests, they will cease to be tolerated. The main thing to remember is that only the membership can correct a union's shortcomings. As a worker contributor wrote in the last issue of LA-BOR ACTION, a militant's job is to get into the swing of the union's activities, and not to stand on the side-lines and growl. We feel that labor will stand up for its rights when they are menaced. We also feel that the last word will be said by the union membership; not by the incompetent leadership or the government. That, we repeat, is your job: to explain things to those who do not understand them, to patiently press the cause of union militancy, and to see to it that the men DO have last say.-Ed.)

#### "Grapes of Wrath" In the Flesh

EL CENTRO, Calif.-"Grapes of Wrath" can be seen here, only it's not the movie. It's real life. Once again the desperate agricul-

tural workers in Imperial valley are striking to get a half-way decent living wage., And once again the Associated

Farmers thugs are riding the highways, and crashing the picket lines, and spreading terror and violence to curb the strike. Armed to the teeth, the Associated

Farmers strike-breakers marched a handful of scabs past a picket line here after the CIO union went on strike at the lettuce sheds.

But the intimidation failed. Over 1,700 workers have left the lettuce sheds in this area and joined the walk out called by the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers Union (CIO).

Court injunctions against the picket lines to give a legal covering for the Associated Farmers strike-breaking have been obtained. And the AFL teamsters union had obtained an injunction against the strikers so they can haul away the packed lettuce! But the strikers were holding firm

THE NEGRO'S FIGHT

# The Whole Boss Set-Up Reeks of Race Prejudice

By JACK MANN\_

In our comments on the discrimination against Negroes by the army and navy we have tried to point out that this official policy of the government is merely one phase of the general problem of discrimination and Jim Crowism which the Negro has to fight.

We have also criticized the narrow and con-

tradictory position of many Negro individuals, organizations and newspapers which, in attacking the discrimination practised against Negroes, limit their demands to the right to serve in every branch of the military forces, when they know that even if this is granted it will mean being segregated and Jim Crowed into separate Negro regiments.

The struggle for equal rights and against discrimination can have real meaning only when it is carried on under the slogan of COMPLETE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EQ-UALITY. To compromise on this and to acquiesce to Jim Crowism or any other form of discrimination anywhere, is to vitiate the entire struggle for equal rights.

The National Airmen's Association, which is composed of Negro flyers throughout the country, has taken the first step in demanding full equality in the armed forces by condemning the War Department's plan to establish an all-Negro pursuit squadron as part of the army air corps. The air corps has traditionally barred Negroes and the present action by the War Department in agreeing to set up a Jim Crow pursuit squadron is a result of the protests and pressure by Negro and other organizations. It is now necessary to follow the example of the Negro flyers and demand an end to Jim Crowism in every branch of military service.

A. Philip Randolph, veteran Negro trade unionist and ex-socialist, who is head of the Pullman Porters organizations, proposes "that ten thousand Negroes march on Washington, D.C., the capital of the Nation, with the slogan: WE LOYAL NEGRO AMERICAN CITIZENS DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK AND FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY . . . Our demand would be simple, single and central; namely jobs in National Defense and placement as soldiers and officers of all ranks we are qualified for, in the armed forces."

He also states that: "The whole National Defense setup reeks and stinks with race prejudice, hatred and discrimination." True enough! But not only the "national defense" setup, Mr. Randolph. The whole system of American capitalism towards which you want Negroes to be "loyal American citizens" stinks just as much with race prejudice and discrimination. "Our country," for which you want to fight, legalizes and practices discrimination against the Negro everywhere. It refuses to abolish Jim Crow or the poll-tax which prevents Negroes in the South from voting, it refuses to pass the anti-lynching bill, it gives the Negro the worst jobs at the lowest pay, it humiliates and degrades the Negro at every turn.

Before you call upon Negroes to fight and die/ for "their country," Mr. Randolph, don't you think they ought to have a country to really live in first? Or do you think that their life now is good enough?

A march on Washington is a good idea. As a matter of fact we are in favor of Negroes organizing for a march and demonstration in every city to demand their right to-equal treatment. not only in the armed forces, but in jobs and wages, in housing, in schools, and in every other

The United States is preparing for WAR. The question every Negro should ask himself is: Is it a war for democracy and freedom? What is the war being fought for? What have I as a Negro and worker to gain or lose by participating?

To give support to the war plans of the government and the bosses while being denied every democratic right and without considering or even questioning their aims is to give advance notice that no matter how badly the Negro is treated, he can always be depended upon to be "loyal" to the government that oppresses and exploits him.

I think most Negroes will renounce such an attitude. Instead they will organize their forces to demand democracy NOW in every phase of American life BEFORE they are asked to die for it abroad.

LABOR ACTION 114 W. 14th Street **New York City** 

Dear Friends:

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

***************************************	p.u.i.s.	Sect Blog 1	
Name	***************************************		
Address			
City			

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