The Compensation of the Four Leading Executives of General Motors Corporation for 1940 was



Nero Was a Piker ... by Comparison

1

Congressmen and Auto Workers or:

Carlo

Pensions and Priorites

Congress gave American labor another taste of what is in store for it during the imperialist

While a bill to provide some sort of relief to the hundreds of thousands of auto workers thrown out of work by priorities unemployment

But Congress gave no answer. It was too busy ... voting itself a pension, no doubt as a mark of its esteem for itself.

703 - 1PEU-

Perhaps labor would do well to give Congress a token of its esteem-by driving these capitalist boondogglers out of Washington in the next election and sending instead some representatives from a genuine independent labor party.

LABOR ACTION A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR ONE CENT **FEBRUARY 16, 1942 GOVERNMENT SEEKS CEILING ON WAGES**

Real Estate Gougers Jack Up Rents as High as 90%

Disclosures of how gouging real estate corporations and landlords were using the war program as the occasion to jack up rents, in some instances as much as 90 per cent, were made last week in a survey published by the WPA research department.

Of 115 areas investigated, rents "increased substantially" in 114. Only one city, sleepy Boise, Idaho, showed no rent increase.

Most of the cities surveyed, in which rent increases took place, were important war production centers, such as Wilmington, N. C., shipbuilding town, where rents have increased 19 per cent; or Burlington, Iowa, location of a huge munitions plant, where rents skyrocketed 27 per cent since March, 1940.

Other instances given by the survey were Leesville, La., where rents jumped 94.9 per cent and Ravenna, Ohio, arsenal center, where rents are 14 per cent higher than in 1940. (In its December 15 issue, LABOR AC-TION carried an exclusive dispatch describing the Ravenna situation in detail.)

(Continued on page 2)

Why Thousands **Died in Greece!**

Thousands of soldiers died on the Greek battlefields-Australian, Canadian, British and Greek soldiers. They were told they were fighting "for poor, heroic Greek democracy." And in America the professional patrioteers, "liberals" and "democrats" also wept for Greek "democracy."

On Sunday, February 8, the New York Times published an article by its Near Eastern correspondent, A. C. Sedgwick, which proved in detail what LABOR ACTION had always claimed:

1) "Poor, heroic" Greece was ruled by a brutal fascist dictatorship.

2) This dictatorship fought for its self-preservation, and not for democracy.

3) All the talk about "democracy" in Greece was just so much deliberate lying on the part of the imperialist propagandists.

We reprint below the main sections of the article. It speaks for itself.

King George II has decided to bring to an end the Greek. dictatorship. His action is greeted with marked satisfaction by representative Greek communities.

Observers in Greece in recent years could hardly have failed to note that at least 80 per cent of the Greek people (Continued on page 4)

Missouri Negroes in Defense Against Terror

Sikeston Lynching Came After Attacks on CIO Organizers

By ROY GOULD

ST. LOUIS-It's a long time since the Negro community has been so stirred as it is today. The Sikeston lynching hits near home. It is such a shocking contrast to the false sentiments of democracy being voiced on all sides that anyone can see the fakery. The murder of Cleo Wright

defend themselves with their own strength. The preacher has taken leave from his pulpit and is giving full time to organizing the Negro resistance.

"It is a strange thing for a preacher of the gospel to do," said this other-worldly minister, caught up in the swirl of history here below, really is and must be. "but sometimes you have to fight."

there, black and white, were finding their way together on a class basis into an agricultural workers unionthat way they were preparing to fight their common enemy, "Ole Boss," the landlord. And we fear that this economic movement is being diverted into a race struggle instead of a labor struggle, such as it

also is demanding one dollar a day and the union shop, and that the CIO aluminum workers have presented a similar set of demands to their bosses makes the steel un

demands before the War Labor

Board decisive, since the verdict of

the board in the steel situation will

be the precedent for the other union

men from coast to coast are directly

involved in the demands before the

War Labor Board, and the action of

the President and Henderson there-

fore is a serious frontal attack at

The mood of the ranks of the CIO,

under the pressure of the rising cost

of living, and the terrible toll that

priorities unemployment is taking,

were indicated over the week-end in

(Continued on page 3)

The wages of nearly 1,000,000 CIO

negotiations.

the CIO standards.

The Roosevelt Administration joined hands this week with the powerful corporations to prevent the CIO from obtaining a nation-wide demand for a dollar-a-day wage increase to meet the mounting cost of living.

By JACK WILSON

Leon Henderson, Roosevelt's price administrator, sent a letter to the War Labor Board, which has before it two crucial CIO test cases, and urged the board not to grant any substantial wage increases.

Last Friday at the White House, President Roosevelt had read the same letter to the six-man CIO-AFL board which had its first meeting with him, according to the New York Times.

Significantly, neither, Phillip Murray nor William Green told their union ranks after the meeting with Roosevelt that he had put pressure on them against getting wage increases.

The CIO has before the War Labor Board the cases involving the Little Steel companies and their 155,000 employees. The SWOC, as part of the CIO, has demanded one dollar a day wage increases and the union shop from these companies.

Apparently knowing that the Roosevelt administration would assist them to beat down labor, the steel companies refused to grant any important concessions, and now the case is before the War Labor Board. Since the War Labor Board itself is packed with friends of business, they hardly need any encouragement to turn down pleas of the CIO for wage increases and union security.

FDR's Encouragement

However, the open assistance of Roosevelt and Henderson will give them further courage to prevent labor from getting enough wages to begin to meet the rising cost of liv-

The fact that the CIO auto union

was languishing in committee, the worthy representatives of the people got down to serious business . . . by voting themselves lifelong pensions!

These very same congressmen, who used to squeal like pricked pigs when they were asked to vote relief or WPA funds for the poor, had no hesitation in voting for these "liberal" pensions.

The \$10,000-a-year congressmen were providing for their future. But in the meantime, thousands of auto workers, unemployed through no fault of their own, were asking: WHAT ABOUT OUR PRESENT? How are we to live while the auto plants are being retooled?

P. S .- As we go to press, a great row is being raised because the workers at Ford's auto plant don't want to work together with a slimy company stooge, who openly boasts that he took part in the famous beating of CIO organizers Frankensteen and Reuther a few years ago.

We'd bet our last dollar that for the next few days Congress will be filled with speeches attacking the UAW workers for "holding up production"----while nothing is done to help the 200,000 jobless UAW members who are without work because of the greed of the bosses.

tices felt by every American Negro. It strips Jim Crow naked so that everyone can see how awful Jim Crow is.

brings out into the open the injus-

The Negroes of southeast Missouriare aroused. Here in St. Louis we hear that they are taking concrete steps to defend themselves. We hear that there has just been another murder down there-but that is not unusual for southeast Missouri. It did not even make the newspapers. We hear too that after the lynching a Sikeston Negro preacher helped to organize the Negroes of Sunset Village for their own defense. They set up five armed watches, day and night, over the approaches to the village. They know that they must

significant: During the two weeks before the lynching two CIO organizers were run out of Sikeston for trying to organize white and colored workers at the shoe factories. It is no mere coincidence that the lynching followed close on the heels of this violence against organized labor. The same bosses who had Cleo Wright lynched preceded this action by using similar tactics against the white CIO organizers of the district.

Terror Deliberately Planned

We hear all these things from southeast Missouri and we are perturbed, because we know that the dayhands and sharecroppers down

We believe that this lynching We also hear something else very terror were deliberately planned to confuse the real issues and divide the workers and turn their fight into a reactionary race war instead of a progressive labor struggle.

> Yet the white landlords may be fooling themselves. Southeast Missouri is not the "Old South" and the "Roadside Niggers" are not the same cowed Negroes of the South. This lynching may backfire yet. For Cleo Wright-whatever he may have been -was from a race of free men, freed of their mental chains by the great roadside demonstration of 1939. You can't lynch one of them like you used to lynch the poor Negroes in the

(Continued on page 2'

Congressional Sideshow Reveals Profit Grab-bag

By ALBERT GATES

The attempt of the Vinson Naval Affairs Committee to smear the labor movement and center public attention upon it, by appending to its report on profits accruing from Navy Department war contracts, the charge that the labor organizations were also profiteering through war

Aircraft Workers, Attention!

Do you remember the big row in the papers about a year ago when the workers of Vultee Aircraft went out on strike, demanding decent wages? How they were ac-cused of being "traitors" and similar things?

Well, the Vultee Corp. has just given out the figures for its profits for the year of 1941. Vultee after allowing for all its taxes and deductions (which often hide profits) increased its profits about 800 per cent since 1940 - from \$374,457 to \$3,100,735!

contracts, received an unexpected setback when it heard the testimony of J. E. Barnes, Washington lobbyist for the Todd Shipyards.

Barnes' testimony was extremely outspoken in revealing the "unconscionable profits" gained by his company. The important aspect of the whole affair is the manner in which the big business press concealed the details, for aside from a few, the large metropolitan papers remained discreetly silent about it all or referred to the remarks made by this lobbyist in the most general terms. Immediately after the Vinson report was made known, the press, and the companies mentioned, objected to it on the ground that the report might tend to create false impressions as to the extent of profits made on naval contracts. They asked the committee to wait a longer period (no doubt, the end of the war) before determining how much profit would actually be realized. But the cat was already out of the bag.

Mr. Barnes took the stand for the purpose of "correcting a statement" contained in the Truman committee report on his company's profits. But his testimony revealed the following facts:

Todd Shipyards Corp. is capitalized at \$40,000,000.

The company expected to do about (Continued on page 2)

How the Allies Helped to Arm Japan! It is a notorious fact that Great Britain contributed largely **HOW JAPAN IMPORTED THESE NEEDS:** to the successful re-arming of Hitler Germany, thus creating the Wehrmacht-the Imperial German Army which threatens

to devour one of its creators. British bankers and British industrial concerns did not hesitate for a moment to aid and supply Hitler's needs when it was a matter of (1) making profits; (2) assisting him to smash the German labor movement.

Precisely the same story is true of American trade and commercial relations between Japan and the United States, with this exception-namely, IT IS EVEN MORE FLAGRANTLY TRUE! Without American aid Japanese imperialism could not have launched or driven home its adventurous drives into Manchuria, China, French Indo-China and the South Seas. The planes, the bombs, the tanks, the explosives, the bullets that are today blacking out the lives of American workers and soldiers had their origin in the stock piles of the Allied imperialist camp. The American munitions manufacturers and the "merchants of death" culled vast profits out of the sales of metals and ores that are flung back in our faces out of cannon and rifle muzzles,

Here are the facts. All statistics are based on official United States Department of Commerce statistics.

WHAT JAPAN'S WAR MACHINE NEEDS:

RAW MATERIALS-Raw cotton for textile mills and gun cotton; wood pulp for its rayon plants; wool for the woolen mills; rubber for planes, trucks, etc.; quinine for the army; copra, hemp, fibres, etc.

METALS AND ORES-Scrap and pig iron; iron ore; copper and lead; aluminum and nickel; petroleum and its products (gasoline, airplane gasoline, etc.); tin and coal; tungsten and manganese; gold, silver, etc.

MANUFACTURED GOODS-Machine tools; special steels; industrial and explosive chemicals; automotive and aircraft parts and products; iron and steel semi-finished products; completed machinery; ball bearings, etc

RAW MATERIALS - METALS AND ORES - MANUFAC-TURED GOODS.

- (1) From Japan's colonies (Manchuria, Kwantung, China) there came: 23.4 per cent in 1939, 22.8 per cent in 1940.
- (2) From the Allies (United States, British Empire, Dutch East Indies, Philippine Islands, Latin America) there came: 75.5 per cent in 1939, 76.2 per cent in 1940.
- (3) From the United States ALONE there came 34.3 per cent in 1939; the percentage for 1940 is not available.
- (4) Specific breakdowns:
- (a) Britain and America supplied 70 per cent of raw cotton.
- (b) British Empire supplied 80 per cent of wool imports.
- (c) Britain and America supplied 98 per cent of Japan's scrap iron, copper, lead, aluminum.
- (d) America and the Dutch East Indies supplied ALL of Japan's petroleum and oil imports.
- (e) Britain and America supplied 75 per cent of machine tools.
- (f) Britain and America supplied 80 per cent of automotive and aircraft products.
- (g) Britain and America supplied over 50 per cent of iron and steel semi-manufactures.
- (h) British colonies supplied 75 per cent of ores, tin and pig iron.
- (i) Malaya and Dutch East Indies supplied all crude rubber needs.

JAPAN'S BEST CUSTOMERS:

EXPORTS-Wheat flour, lumber, cotton textiles, silk, canned fish, tea, consumers' good and sundries.

- (1) To Japan's colonies (Manchuria, Kwantung, China) there went: 48.8 per cent in 1939, 53.2 per cent in 1940.
- (2) To the Allies there went: 50.4 per cent in 1939, 45.8 per cent in 1940.

(3) To the United States ALONE there went: 18 per cent in 1939; percentage for 1940 not available.

- (a) The United States took 86.3 per cent of Japan's silk, "thus producing the largest part of the foreign exchange required to pay for Japan's imports." (Department of **Commerce Bulletin.)**
- (b) The Dutch East Indies and the British Empire took the "heaviest volume" of Japanese cotton textiles and manufactured goods.

NOTE: It should be understood that Japan's economy depends largely upon its ability to EXPORT and receive foreign currency with which to purchase the imports needed for its imperialist war machine.

AMERICA AND JAPAN:

- (1) America has supplied Japan with approximately 34 per cent of its total imports.
- (2) America has purchased 16 to 20 per cent of Japan's exports annually.

(3) Exports to Japan-(round figures):

	. 1939	1940
Cotion	\$42,000,000	\$30,000,000
Wood pulp	2,000,000	7,000,000
Oil products	45,000,000	55,000;000
Iron and steel	43,000,000	38,000,000
Scrap metal	33,000,000	17,000,000
Copper	28,000,000	25,000,00
Machinery	25,000,000	23,000,00
Automobiles, etc.	6,000,000	2,000,00
Totals	\$232,000,000	\$227,000,00

This is the story of the arming and supplying of Japanes militarism by its rivals.

Negroes' Defense--

Page 2

South. It just won't work the same way. You have lynched from a race of free men. Watch out, Mr. Lyncher and Mr. Landlord! You can no longer substitute race hatred for labor struggle.

The St. Louis Negroes are also aroused. Thousands of them jammed the NAACP mass meeting against lynching and a thousand more were turned away to an auxiliary meeting. Such spirit has not been seen for years.

There were two kinds of speakers -fighting speakers and politicians, To the fighting speakers, the crowd responded. One of these fighting speakers was the fighting preacher from Sikeston. Another was a Dr. Douglas. First he made his strong point: he hung his head in shame of the white race which murdered Cleo Wright. The crowd cheered. Then, as if by accident, he condemned Jim Crow in the Army. This brought the house down. For five minutes these thousands of St. Louis Negroes, most of them middle class people, screamed and cheered. They whistled and stamped their feet against Jim Crow in the Army. Three times Douglas tried to speak and three times they cheered him down again. Never did I see such a spontaneous demonstration of feeling. Finally he got the floor again and mentioned Jim Crow in the schools. Again they screamed and stamped.

Resolve to Fight

It was too plain to miss. St. Louis Negroes don't want Jim Crow and won't have Jim Crow. They resolved to organize to fight it and they clearly stated that they must take the lead themselves. They appealed to white workers and white liberals for aid. The other class of speakers were

the politicians-mostly white. These mayors and ex-congressmen became very wild and radical. They condemned lynching and Jim Crownot in ,St. Louis, of course, but way off in southeast Missouri. The Republican mayor became very abusive of the Democratic officials in Sikeston. He went into great detail about their legal failings and he worked himself into a rage. He protested what a great friend of the Negro he had always been and how he had given \$25 a year to the NAACP. But not one word did he say about the hotel strike, about the discrimination at the Carr Square housing project, about segregation in St. Louis schools, about Jim Crow in the St. Louis defense industries or about any Jim Crow in St. Louis. He is a great friend of the Negro-somewhere else.

Other politicians condemned A Suspicious Fact lynching and Jim Crow, only to conclude that this must not affect our loyalty to the government. They condemned Jim Crow in the Army, only to conclude that we must give our full support to the war machine that fights for democracy abroadand kicks us in the face at home. A few Negroes cheered these politicians, but the crowd was pretty wise. When will the Negro leaders

Special to LABOR ACTION MISSOURI, Feb. 10-Sikeston and all of southeast Mis-

souri are simmering. The only reason a miniature civil war has not broken out is because one of the two sides does not have the means to conduct it. If you move around the area, you are certain to run

up against this subdued civil war personally. For example, last week a Negro friend drove from one small town to another, near the area. The friends who drove him left him to return home. He arranged to meet them the next day at another spot. When he reached this spot the next morning, he heard that one of his companions of the night before had not reached home.

This is what happened:

The two Negroes were driving along and saw a car in front of them. They blew their horn once or twice because the car in front was straddling the middle of the road. The Negro driver pulled around. At the same time the car in front pulled around, so that the Negro had to go onto the dirt to pass. It was a casual inci-

dent, not even talked about. Both cars went on to the next filling station.

NO GAS FOR THE NEGRO

The Negro driver ordered gas. The second car came in a bit later and a white man got out and walked into the store behind the station. He happened to look back and saw that the driver who had passed him was a Negro. He ran back to the gas attendant and snarled:

"Don't give that n-r no gas. I'm going to gas him tonight."

"Get into that car," said the white man, and held the driver, a boy of 20, by the neck, pushing him into the car.

He then got into his car and drove away with the Negro boy in it. The Negro who remained behind got home and the next morning he and the abducted boy's father set out to look for the boy. They didn't know where he was-in jail somewhere, beaten unconscious, perhaps dead, perhaps in the area, perhaps three hundred miles away.

Why Roosevelt Loaned \$500,000,000 to China

ish Empire

ple of China.

built.

Rents Jump

High as 90%

(Continued from page 1)

Rent increases have been particu-

larly steep in the Midwest, where

new war production plants are being

These increases are examples of

sheer profiteering. The real estate

gougers are utilizing the present sit-

uation for the normal pursuit of all

Nor will the recently passed Price

Control Act-which will neither con-

trol prices nor prevent inflation-be

able to stop rent increases. Charles

Abrams, U. S. Housing Authority

consultant, writes in the New Leader

of January 31 that "it is now too late

for rent control to prevent rent in-

flation in war production areas, since

the upward surge of rents is already

an accomplished fact. Rents have

risen as much as 100 per cent in some

industrial areas and workers are de-

capitalists-getting more profits.

By HENRY JUDD

As part of its announced policy to give material and financial aid to those countries fighting on the Allied side, President Roosevelt last week granted a \$500,000,000 loan to the Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek.

Simultaneously, Great Britain announced that she was giving \$200,-000,000 to China as her contribution. According to official statements, the object of these loans is to help China "in the successful prosecution of the war" by stabilizing her currency. The grand total of \$700,000,-000-and there have been previous loans of around \$200,000,000 before this-is supposed to strengthen China internally and make her a more powerful ally in the camp of the United Nations. War materials now being shipped to China over the Burma Road now find, according to Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau,

their "financial counterpart." But is this the real purpose of these enormous loans? Seven hundred million dollars is a lot of money to "stabilize the currency" of China! First of all, we want to remind LABOR ACTION readers that these great capitalist "democracies" of England and the United States which today seek to rush to China's aid were not so very long ago engaged in the highly profitable business of supplying munitions to China's deadenemy: Japan. Everyone knows ly that Japan could never have continued her five years' war against China without the aid of the United

Nations.

This fact should be enough to make us suspicious about the motives that lie behind this new-found friendship for China.

voting as high as 50 per cent of their Arthur Krock, New York Times incomes to meet rent payments." Washington correspondent, really let And, continues Abrams: "Efforts the cat out of the bag when he disto reduce rents to April, 1940, levels closed that an American member of would be met with stubborn resistthe committee that negotiated the loan (which has already been apance or evasion." In other words, rent inflation has proved by Congress) had proposed that Chinese soldiers should be paid directly by the United States government! This idea was not accepted because of the protest of the Chinese negotiators. It would have been a little TOO raw!

His Old Tricks . A long time ago, Joe Curran, the

ities for the safeguarding of the Brit-Stalinist president of the National Maritime Union (CIO), used to work The \$700,000,000 loan is, in reality, on a ship. He worked as a mate. a huge bribe to the bankers, finan-There he gained eternal fame among ciers, landlords, etc., who surround seamen under the name of "No Cof-Chiang Kai-shek in Chungking and fee Time" Joe. who run his government. If the scan-The reason he was called by this dalous racketeering and grafting strange name is as follows: It is a that goes on over the Burma Road

custom among seamen to take a few is kept up with respect to these loans, minutes off from work several times during the day to drink coffee in then we can rest assured that an allorder to warm up. But "No Coffee too-large proportion of the money will find its way into the pockets of Time" Joe said: Nix; No coffee time the Chinese capitalists and damn on company time. little will go toward helping the peo-

'No Coffee Time'

Joe Curran at

Afterward when "No Coffee Time" Joe went into greener pastures and decided to become a Stalinist stooge in the trade union field, he tried very hard to make people forget his reputation. But it appears that he still retains the same mentality and outlook.

Last week, the New York Post carried an "alarm" story about how thousands of foreign seamen were deserting their ships and thus causing a shortage of Allied shipping. Toward the bottom of the story, the Post happened to mention the not insignificant little detail about how these seamen were deserting because the wages they received were lower than those of American seamen and they preferred working on American ships.

Now, what would you expect the leader of the seamen's union to say in such a situation? Why, any union militant could give the answer blindfolded: Just increase the rate of pay to these seamen on ships of foreign registry and they won't desert to American ships

But not "No Coffee Time" Joe Curran. Not this Stalinist stooge. He came out with a statement condemning desertions, pledging his support for "keeping the ships moving," etc. But not a word about wages! All this fits into line with the strikebreaking position which the superpetriotic Stalinists have recently adopted.

They set out to look for the boy and they didn't know what his fate was, or if they'd find him. But the Negroes around here take it in their stride. They are accustomed to it. That is the only "democracy" they have known. They know no other.

The boy was found in jail twenty miles away, safe and sound. The white man had dropped him there, promising to press charges the next day. But he never turned up and they let the boy out. WHY DIDN'T THE NEGRO RESIST?

Why didn't the Negroes resist? Why didn't the boy fight? Because there were lots of whites around the filling station and all would have jumped at him. Under the circumstances he couldn't resist.

Why did the white man do it? To terrorize the Negro; to make him know his place. And because the feeling between the races is growing more bitter every day. "He wanted to do something to the boy like at Sikeston. But he didn't have the nerve."

The sentiment of the Negroes is: "Give us the guns to protect ourselves. That is what we want."

REASONS FOR TENSENESS

The situation is unbearably tense because of many reasons.

1.' The Negroes are tired of their poverty. They are literally starving. "Everybody you talk to wants to start something."

The women are now pressing the men. "We have to do something." There has been so much talk about democracy that the contrast between what they have and are supposed to have becomes more exasperating every dav

2. The war has reacted sharply on the whites. The average poor white has developed a peculiar interpretation of the war in the Far East. For him it is a "race war." The Japanese, he thinks, are killing the whites and sparing the Chinese and Filipinos. He was immensely struck by the fact that the Japanese confined the whites at Manila, Germans included, and are supposed to have mistreated white women.

3. Furthermore, the Army does not accept anyone with less than a third grade education. This excludes many Negroes. So that whites are going and leaving many Negroes behind.

ONE INCIDENT IN A CHAIN

The Sikeston lynching is one incident in a chain. On the night BEFORE the lynching, in another town a few miles from Sikeston, a Negro, familiarly known as Mooney, was standing at the entrance of a saloon. Two white women went up to him and started to talk. Three white men passing by saw what was happening and beat the Negro within an inch of his life.

Since the lynching, there comes another story from Catron. On Tuesday a Negro and a white man had a dispute. The white man left and came back with three others. They knocked at the Negro's door and when he opened it, they him in the head and put out one of his eyes. Then they left with him, telling his wife that they were taking him to the hospital. He has not been heard of since.

Free and Equal . . ."

The War Department finally took cognizance last week of the outrage perpetrated against the 28 Negro soldiers who were shot and beaten by white police three weeks ago in Alexandria, La. Its official announcement said: "Civilian policemen and one military policeman indulged in indiscriminate and unnecessary shooting.'

Investigations, said the War Department, will be continued with a view toward eliminating "the basic years of Baltimore Patrolman Edtable causes which might oth

There have been similar epidemics before. In fact, life in the South is one long civil war, with most of the Negroes; contrary to general belief, hitting back and defending themselves with unwavering courage and ingenuity. What distinguishes this from similar outbursts in the past is the widespread feeling that it is getting worse and that the Negroes are sick of it, are not going to put up with it much longer and feel they must defend themselves directly.

There is only one thing that can help them-mass organization on an industrial basis. It is the only means of making serious headway against the prejudices of the large masses of the white day-laborers and sharecroppers. That is the job, to help them organize themselves. The trouble is that the UCAPAWA, the agricultural workers' union, is a Stalinist-controlled union and its leaders, Henderson in the UCAPAWA Journal and Whitfield on his tours are using all their energy to get the Negroes to volunteer for "national defense" and to buy defense bonds.

"Labor's pennies are mightier than the millionaire's dollars." This is one of Henderson's latest pronouncements. It is a dreadful mockery to a starving, embittered and systematically humiliated people. They don't need to be told of Henderson's and Whitfield's conduct. A surprising number of them see its true meaning.

What they need is help to organize themselves, the white croppers and laborers, and thus clear the way for a state-wide union organization.

SOCIAL SCIENCE SEMINAR

2 More Sessions for Each Class

Monday-7:15 to 8:30-Modern Economics-A. Gates

Monday-8:45 to 10:00-The State-M. Shachtman

Tuesday-7:15 to 8:30-U.S. History-H. Judd

Tuesday-8:45 to 10:00-American Labor History-J. Wilson

PLACE: IRVING PLAZA ADMISSION: 25 Cents per Session

Reveal Profit Grab-bag--

- Acres

r

(Continued from page 1) \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 worth of business this year.

The government had built \$24,000,after he had started working he was 1000 worth of plants on company land, which, when the leases expire, will either be torn down by the government or sold outright, at a low price, to the company.

The company expects to make \$15,-000,000 to \$20,000,000 profit on its present contracts, or a 50 per cent return on its capital investment of \$40.000.000.

How did this occur? Barnes stated that the Navy "voluntarily" offered contracts to Todd Shipyards based on

"All Men Are Created

Terror Reigns in Southeast Missouri!

LABOR ACTION



(Continued from page 1)

learn to keep them off the platform? Before we can organize for our civil and economic rights we have to get way past these politicians and get our own mass, working class organizations.

An Ad in **A London Paper**

"TORQUAY-Gresham Court Hotel. Everything designed for your comfort. Hot and cold, bedside lamps and luxurious comfort. Few minutes sea. Terms 4 and 41/2 guineas, including breakfast in bed, daily paper and "nightcap." 10 per cent reduction all members of H.M. forces."

But this proposal reveals clearly enough the status of China in the bloc of the United Nations. "Free" China-that section of the country not occupied by the Japanese - becomes a part of the United Nations war machine; directed by and supervised by the high command of the allies.

The soldiers of China who, until yesterday were fighting for the freedom of their country against Japan, are now being used by the Allies in Burma, in Singapore and other local-

already begun; the so-called Price Control Act can't stop it: and efforts to bring rents down to the 1940 level would meet with "stubborn resistance or evasion." By whom? Mr. Abrams doesn't say, but it takes no particular brilliance to know that the real estate and capitalist interests would be the ones to fight against such a proposal. Yet that is no reason for the work-

ers to remain quiet about this scandalous situation. There is no reason for rent increases. The workers must begin an organized campaign through their unions to put into effect LA-

BOR ACTION'S proposal: Freeze rents and food and clothing prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living!

Two Famous New International Articles Still Available!

"Their Morals and Ours" By Leon Trotsky June. 1938

"Intellectuals in Retreat" **January**, 1939 25 CENTS EACH Very Limited Supply FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

Write to:

The NEW INTERNATIONAL 114 W. 14th St. New York City

class brothers to the South springs

erwise result in future disorders." All this, as every Negro knows, is just so much verbose eyewash. The War Department knows very well what the cause of these incidents is: Jim Crowism. And it knows just as well that it has no intention of removing Jim Crowism. That is the job of Negro and white workers.

All the pious protestations of the Roosevelt Administration that it does not want Jim Crow can be seen for the hokum they really are when we read of what happened to Rozell R. Nesbitt, Chicago electrical engineer. This Negro was appointed by the CIVIL SERVICE to the position of junior government inspector for the War Department in the Sperry Gy-

ard Bender was sh and killed recently as the result of an encounter between the two. Thomas Broadus, the soldier who was shot, had been on leave from Fort Meade and was celebrating with several companions when the policeman tried to break up what he termed "a fight." After an alleged assault by Broadus, Patrolman Bender shot him. Spectators said the trouble started when Bender tried to prevent Broadus and his friends from getting into a car.

roscope Co. in Brooklyn. Five hours

dismissed because the work to which

he was assigned "had not material-

ized." An investigation has been

promised by the President's Commit-

Anti-Negro violence is not confined

The second Negro victim in two

to the deep South or Sikeston, Mo.

From Baltimore comes this story:

tee on Fair Employment Practices.

Capt. G. C. Lashley, white commanding officer of the 132nd Service Unit, said that a three-man board would be appointed to investigate the shooting. Every Negro knows exactly what to expect from the Armynothing.

rates established during the height of the economic crisis and that under such rates the company made profits up to 62 per cent on individual contracts! The company, according to PM, "charged the Navy all wage costs, plus 40 per cent to cover overhead, plus commissions on machinery and materials, plus 10 per cent of the total for profit."

In face of the current congressional investigations, the company returned \$4,000,000 of their profit. But the excuse given was that they believed their profits to be "outrageous." The subsequent revision in their contracts limiting profits to 10 per cent still leaves the company with enormous profits, as we stated above, of \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000.

But Barnes added: "With our low capitalization, if we only made 1 per cent profit we'd be profiteers."

Barnes went on to say: "We made big profits. There is no denying it. We paid about \$4,000,000 back to the Navy because we were taking such big profits."

Then followed a question by Republican Senator Brewster of Maine, which appeared only in the New York Daily Mirror. Brewster asked Barnes: "Would you use the word unconscionable?"

"I think so," Barnes replied.

Brewster, apparently surprised at the frankness and implication of the reply, remarked: "This information is shocking when a Navy Department spokesman testified that he did not think unreasonable profits were being made."

Barnes also testified that in the last war his company tried three times to reduce its profits, but were told by Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board: "Shut up. What do you care?"

No wonder the reactionary Senator Byrd, completely upset by the results of this investigation, remarked: "That's an astonishing situation."

Actually there is nothing astonish ing about the Todd affair. The same general facts apply to all companies that have been handed juicy contracts by the big business minded brass hats of the Navy and War Departments. And that's the story of the whole war program: Big business is enriching itself on the war, It demands sacrifices only from the workers.

nomic fields. The wish of South Union but it has shut down its Daily Worker. A little blitz put some starch into the English. We are still flabby and afraid to offend Stalin.'___ "I suggest that Mr De Toledona

This is in reply to your letter asking for a continuation of my subscription to your weekly, LABOR ACTION.

First, I think that your paper is definitely the best-filled and smartest looking in the field. I agree with most of your policies and sincerely wish you and your (and my) ideas the greatest success

M. G.

1

The Daily Worker Wouldn't Print This

Dear Editor:

Best Wishes

For Success

Dear Editor:

The Daily Worker refused to print the following letter, probably because the Stalinists themselves are trying to get the government to supress publications which do not suport the war:

"In the social-democratic New eader Ralph De Toledano has an tem in defense of the Trotskyists and the Bill of Rights. By some queer turn he ends his article. 'Lonon is giving all aid to the Soviet

take another look at the Bill of Rights."

R.A.

Corrects Use of

Word "American"

Dear Editor:

Last week you published an article, "U. S. Dollar Diplomacy Wins a Victory in South America," by one of your competent contributors, Henry Judd. I believe that Judd made an error, however, in using the words "America" or "American" to refer exclusively to the United States

The workers and peasants of South America have been so exploited by United States imperialism that their distrust of the United States is ingrained. The phrase "el peligro yanqui"-the Yankee danger-is a common one on Latin American lips. One of their measures of United States arrogance is the monopoly of the term "American," reflecting as it does arrogance in more basic eco-

not from the momentary expediency American peoples to be known equally as "Americans" often conceals a of United States imperialist interests progressive desire for liberation and but from a class solidarity. equality. You can be sure that Sumner Welles and the dollar diplomats at Rio made no such blunder as to represent themselves as "Americans,"

Jhe Readers of Labor Action Jake the Floor

because they were there to purchase support of United States imperialism in the war. The regard of Marxists, however, for the sensitivities of their working



Sunday, February 22 **Place to Be Announced**



Likes Articles on John Henry **Truman Report** (An old reader) Dear Editor:

After reading the tripe in the daily press on the Truman, Vinson and Roberts congressional, reports, LABOR ACTION'S analysis and interpretation came as a pleasure and joy, a sanitative breath of clean air. The only analysis which made sense. I don't know where we'd get any news that smelled like the McCoy if it were't for LABOR ACTION. That half a buck I spent for a subscription was more than paid for by those articles. Keep up those distributions at my factory gate! In the meantime, enclosed find three sub-

Los Angeles Aircraft Worker.

scriptions from 'union brothers who

work around my bench

(Reader John Henry is absolutely Nationalization of correct and our writer, Henry Judd, wishes to acknowledge the correct-War Industry ness of his criticism. But we're glad

Dear Editor:

Your paper has shown encouraging signs of new life since recent weeks. I would like to see you carry on a sustained campaign for nationalization of war industries-under union control, of course-instead of your more or less sporadic and ethereal agitation for conscription of wealth. M. D.

(We checked the recent issues of LABOR ACTION and found there was hardly one which didn't take up the problem of nationalization of war industries under workers' control in one form or another (especially in relation to the auto industry.) But we'll try to satisfy Reader M. D. and have more of it. And thanks for the plug.-Editor.)

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

class of both western continents only when they are united under an American Federation of Socialist republics. With best wishes for the continued excellence of your paper.

The term "American" will have to note that LABOR ACTION is gettrue respectability for the working ting a sufficiently lively response these days to get comments from its readers-applause and criticism. We welcome both-Editor.)

LABOR ACTION

- THE WORLD AT WAR-

Behind the Singapore Debacle Lurks the Imperialist Policy Of its British Rulers

By SENTINEL

-st

The Japanese have breached "impregnable" Singapore. Despite the repeated assurances of the British generals, the great Allied fortress is about to topple over. This is due not only to Japanese military superiority. There is something wrong in Singapore itself and its name is imnerialism.

The English periodical, Reynolds' News, of January 18 hints at what is wrong. It says:

"We spent millions of pounds to make Singapore an impregnable fortress. But we left out one ingredient. We forgot to make allies of the Malayans and Chinese who make up the mass of the population."

There is an important correction to be made here. The British imperialists did not simply FORGET to make allies of the Malayan and Chinese masses.

The truth is that they COULD NOT make allies out of the colonial masses. What kind of an alliance can there be between the latter and their white imperialist oppressor of over 100 years? Can there be anything in common between the colonials who are treated like dogs and the rubber planters and tin mine owners? Can the exhausted, underfed and beaten colonial feel anything except hatred toward the imperialist overlord?

No Arms for Natives

In the capitalist press China is praised to the skies for her long and determined stand against Japanese imperialism. But there are also Chinese in Malaya and Singapore. In fact 60 per cent of the 600.000 inhabitants of Singapore Island are Chinese. But do the British imperialists praise these Chinese and treat them as allies? No, these are different Chinese. For these Chinese there is no lend-lease supply of arms.

Despite all efforts by the Malayan Stalinists to get the British to arm the natives in defense of British imperialism in Malaya and Singapore, the British refused. Petitions were sent to Governor Sir Shenton Thomas asking that arms be provided for a "people's army." The Communist Party of Malaya demonstrated on June 21 in Singapore for this policy. The demonstrators carried the Union Jack, the White Star, and Blue Flag of China, the Hammer and Sickle, and the Australian flag. It is of the utmost significance that despite the sympathy that the colonial masses have had for China's struggle against Japan only 3,000 (these figures are, from the Daily Worker and therefore probably exaggerated) of Singapore's theming native population could be inspired to gather under that confused melange of banners.

Stalinist Manifesto

The Communist Party manifesto

called upon the people to "mobilize and arm-to turn each street, each

We will fight to the last drop of blood for the defense of Malaya." But the Malayan masses did not fight. They ignored the summons of the Stalinists to fight in defense of the hated British oppressor. Malaya was not, could not be their country while that oppressor was on their backs. They could not see any difference between their present slavedrivers and the would-be Japanese

slave-drivers. The British imperialist rulers are so much in fear of any movement which would mobilize and arm the natives, be it even in defense of imperialism, that they have officially banned the Communist Party of Malaya. Only 3 months ago, two members of that party were sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for alleged "anti-British" activities. Nevertheless the Daily Worker of February 8 unashamedly boasts that "Today the Communist Party of Malaya, in spite of official ban, stands at the head of the people's resistance, as even the governor has been forced to recognize."

Despite the infamous role of the Malayan Stalinists, the Malayan people do believe in resistance. But it is not resistance to one kind of an imperialism in defense of another that they believe in. In their own way the natives of Singapore are showing how they feel toward their present imperialist masters. Sensing the failing power of British might, the inhabitants of Singapore have refused to labor any more for the hated white bosses. Harold Guard, United Press correspondent in Singapore, reports the following in the New

York Times of February 8: "I am permitted also to mention what is called here the 'Asiatic labor problem.' On the initial trip of newspaper correspondent to the front two weeks ago our train was operated by soldiers and sailors. For two weeks I have been without a servant. Australian Cameraman Clifford Bottomely and myself have been doing our own cooking, washing and ironing during years ago! curfew hours."

Another dispatch to the New York is no other alternative but concrete Times reported lack of waiters at the and immediate support to the democ-Raffles Hotel, which is Singapore's racies, both in the international and most famous hostelry. The New York the national camp " .Times adds to that "that these references indicate that the Asiatic popuzil must give full and unqualified lace has fled from Singapore in large support to Vargas, the dictator who numbers, presumably in fear of Japanese air attacks."

No matter how much the New York Times will try to squirm and "interpret," the fact is that there have been no reports in the press to give credence to such a rationalization. If anything, the contrary is the case

British Run Away

If we take the example of Kwala Lumpur, here is what the London Times of January 13 has to say of its evacuation by the British:

"As opposed to the native

Walter Reuther, UAW Official, Proves The Case for a Workers Government

By MAX SHACHTMAN

The recent conference in Detroit of the United Automobile Workers Union (CIO), attended by more than 160 delegates of the General Motors workers, attracted considerable attention in the press because of the speeches delivered there by UAW President R. J. Thomas and the director of the General Motors Division of the union, Walter P. Reuther, author of the plan for converting the auto industry to war production.

Of the many interesting and significant statements made by the two labor spokesmen, one in particular deserves to be lifted out of the obscurity to which the reporters and editors of the press doomed it. It occurs in the speech of Reuther and merits careful reading. Arguing against the contention of the auto-

Six Brazilian Communist Party

members, jailed seven years ago by

the government of Julio Vargas, Bra-

zilian dictator, have, according to the

Daily Worker of February 9, come

out in ardent support of their jailer.

and sent from the island of Fernando

Noronha, these dupes of Stalinist

politics address Dictator Vargas as

tional liberation wish your Excel-

lency, upon whom rests the res-

sponsibility of the foreign policy

of our country, to know and trans-

mit to our sister republics (!) our

affirmation of solidarity with the

great North American democracy."

men AGAINST the United States

and its imperialist hold on Brazil

which caused Vargas, the stooge of

Roosevelt, to place them in jail seven

Furthermore, they say: "... there

That is to say, the people of Bra-

But it was the activities of these

"We who have worked for na-

follows:

In a telegram addressed to Vargas

Brazilian Stalinists Lick

Their Own Jailers' Boots

sits on their neck.

control.

presidency."

harder!

have been attacked."

mobile industrialists that the lagging of war production was not their fault but the government's, Reuther declares:

"General Motors and the industry now are taking the position that they aren't responsible. They say that the government made the decisions and that they merely went along with the government's program, but the thing that they failed to realize is that they were the government.

"They had Mr. Knudsen down there, surrounded by hundreds of dollar-a-year men, who spent all of their time looking around to see how they could protect their own individual interests - how they could maintain the status quo and superimpose a defense economy on the existing economy. And so when

And: "There must be no tempo-

rizing with those who openly or

covertly conspire against the val-

iant resistance of the people who

That is to say, Vargas must, in

their opinion, become an even more

harsh and ruthless dictator in Bra-

zil against those who institute move-

ments for democratic liberties or na-

tional independence from American

men "played an important role in

the armed, popular movement of

1930 which brought about the victory

of the Liberal Alliance under Pres-

tes and the rise of Vargas to the

casting them into jail. How will he

react to their present efforts to

crawl and grovel at his feet; to offer

him advice on how to maintain his

Vargas rewarded their efforts by

The Daily Worker says that these

they say the government was sponsible, they are merely saying that the dollar-a-year men from industry, who were running the government, were representing industry instead of the needs of the nation." (New York Times, February 8.)

For the moment we want to leave to Messrs. Reuther AND Knudsen and any one else who is working to convince labor that this is its war, the dubious honor of fighting over who is better qualified to organize and conduct an imperialist war. We are interested here in another aspect of Reuther's remarks to the GM conference of his union.

A Responsible Spokesman

Reuther is a highly-placed spokesman for a most important part of the organized labor movement of this country. We assume that he is also a responsible spokesman, one who is not given to making wild-eyed statements on the platform of the labor movement, or statement's he is not prepared to follow up.

If that is so, just think of the charges for which Reuther took responsibility in that part of his speech we quoted:

He says that for the whole past period, at least since Knudsen was put in charge of organizing war production by Roosevelt, the government has been in the hands of one of the most powerful and most reactionary industrial oligarchies in the country - "General Motors and the industry"-or more exactly, that this oligarchy was itself the government.

What else can be the meaning of Reuther's words, unless the English language means something different to him than it does to a couple of hundred million other people who speak it? He says:

"General Motors and the industry .failed to realize ... that they were the government." And futher:

"... the dollar-a-year men from industry ... were running the government.

No Tribute to Intelligence

dictatorship? Probably in the same Now, Mr. Reuther is an important manner that all dictators act toward and authoritative leader of the contemptible stooges and belly-American working class. He even crawlers. Accept their advice-he's lays some claim to industrial and already doing that in practice-and political statesmanship, if on no kick them back into jail all the other ground than the plan he presented for the war-production con-Stalinist groveling and Stalinist version of the auto industry. But the

remarks he made at the GM conference are not a tribute to his political intelligence or his qualities as a leader of labor.

Why?

the government."

Because, among other things, Mr. Reuther was among all the other labor leaders who sold the union movement the idea of backing Roosevelt for President as a "friend of labor" and of keeping the same union movement out of independent labor political action. After helping elect a second Roosevelt government, Reuther is compelled to acknowledge that the Administration in Washington, at least throughout the whole past period of the war crisis, has not been a friend-much less a representative-of labor's interests; but that it was "the dollar-a-year men from industry, who were running

To anyone who takes his own words seriously, this is a positively blatant confession of political bankruptcy. In uttering these words, Reuthere is as much as saying: "When I advised labor to back Roosevelt, I didn't begin to know what I was talking about, because in the showdown it turned out that the Roosevelt government was nothing but a tool of big business."

Reuther says that what "they"meaning General Motors and the auto magnates-"failed to realize is that they were the government."

Not Quite As Fatheaded

We doubt it. Knudsen, Sloan, Wilson, Chrysler et al. are not quite as fatheaded as Reuther wants to believe, or wants others to believe. THEY never make a mistake about which government is whose government! It would be a thousand times closer to the truth if Reuther were to say: "It was we-I and my fellow labor leaders-who failed to realize that the Roosevelt government is the government of General Motors and the industry, and of capital in general. And that proves we weren't as bright as we could have been.' (As the reader sees, we are assuming for a moment that all that troubled our labor leaders was their lack of foresight and not a lack of loyalty

to the class interests of labor.) Now what does Reuther propose to do as a consequence of this utterly ruthless and accurate indictment of the Roosevelt government-i.e., the General Motors government - and Bliss Workers, Attention!

The E. W. Bliss Co. reported that for 1941 it earned a net profit of \$2,-051,206 after making provisions for federal income taxes and excess profits taxes and \$800,000 for reserve and contingency.

Page 3

This \$800,000 must really be chalked up as profit since it merely means that the company is putting that money aside. In 1940 the company

made \$1,510,799, thus increasing its profits by approximately 27 per cent. When the contingency and reserve figures are added into the profit, as they should be, then the increase from 1940 to 1941 mounts to 47 per cent.

this confession of his, Reuther's, own political boner? After all, nothing serious has changed by the replacement of Knudsen with Nelson, for only a few minutes before Reuther spoke, President R. J. Thomas declared that the set-up in Washington remained essentially the same. And unless Reuther meant what he said, and meant it significantly, he had no business making the statement he did.

But after Reuther let loose a roaring declaration, he lapsed into timid silence. Should labor organize politically to work for its own government, instead of a government of General Motors and its associates? Should labor have a political party of its own, or continue to vote for a party of General Motors which establishes a government of General Motors? Is this fresh lesson in politics to be ignored as have all previous lessons?

It is high time that labor had done with all this treacherous and futile nonsense of "nonpartisan politics" and "reward your friends and punish your enemies." The latest fruit of that policy, according to no less a statesman than Mr. Reuther is a government (it merits repetition!) of "General Motors and the industry." That policy should have been buried along with horse-and-buggy unionism-and even before then.

Labor needs an independent Labor Party-and a Workers' Government!

Wage Raises Blocked--

(Continued from page 1)

the conference of over 160 delegates to the General Motors division of the CIO union in Detroit.

Even R. J. Thomas, president of the CIO auto union, talked in tough, plain language, fitting into the mood of the ranks who are fed up with the present run-around they are getting everywhere.

-Capitalism Plans for the Post-War Period A Brilliant Example of Utter Futility

A brilliant example of the utter of the best in manpower have been flung controls over all groups and

ning Board.

doesn't.

uselessness of all capitalist plans for drafted, also for the same purely de- economic segments." But at the same the post-war period is contained in structive business. Already the labor time Dr. Hansen says: the widely heralded publication, "Af-

In the first place Dr. Hansen bases

"No country need be impover-

ished if its productive resources

(both capital and human) are in-

tact. The productive resources of

this country will be on a consid-

erably higher plane when this war

Every person with only normal

reasoning ability will be unable to

accept Dr. Hansen's basic proposi-

tion. The idea that total war can be

waged in this day and age and leave

the productive resources not only in-

is over than ever before."

his plan on the proposition that:

relaxation of corporate taxes. And how, then, is the government to get money? Simple, my dear Watson. The high rate of taxes on individual incomes would be retained. The broad base of taxation would also be retained. Which means that Dr. Hansen proposes to tax every working stiff until his eyes pop out of his head This again shows how capitalist economists are caught in a vicious circle.

By Susan Green-

1

village and each rubber tree into a fortress-for the defense of our land.



CHICAGO DISTRIBUTIONS

In the past several weeks Chicago has been efficiently carrying out distributions of LABOR ACTION before factory gates, in special community areas and at public meetings.

An average of 1100 copies have been distributed each week. On the occasion of the special war number of LABOR ACTION, following upon America's official entry into the imperialist war, 1,700 copies were distributed.

At one large plant 500 copies are regularly given out. On the most recent occasion, the distributors reported that a score of workers lined up waiting to receive the paper before boarding the street cars to go home

Distributions of 300 copies have been made weekly in another factory area, but beginning this week, this distribution will be transferred to another large factory for regular distributions, beginning with a special distribution on the first occasion of 800 copies.

A distribution is made each week at a unionized factory made up predominantly of Negro workers.

A quantity is also regularly given out to a group of Negro barber shops and beauty parlors on the South Side

Whenever a good occasion arises, meetings on the University of Chicago campus Last week, LABOR ACTION was the only publication handed out to a few hundred listeners at a meeting addressed by Norman Thomas and Mayhard Kreuger. Occasional distributions are also made at the "U Co-op" where worker-students congregate. However, these are incidental to the main distributions at the factory gates.

ters of the city, the residential areas on the outskirts where the British officials and businessmen live were completely deserted. Little had been destroyed in the residency and administrative buildings. Unfinished whiskey, a woman's dress half-ironed . . . these were common sights"

This is more likely than the "interpretation" of the New York Times. For the native masses of Singapore there is no escape. British evacuation ships are only for the families of British businessmen and officials. And it is likely, too, that in Singapore the British rulers will repeat their performance of Penang.

"Penang," said Sir Charles Brook, rajah of Sarawak, in an interview with the Sydney Daily Telegraph. was a terrible case. The reason the scorched earth policy wasn't applied was because the merchants, the rubber planters and the tin mine owners didn't like to see their mines and estates going up in flames. Most significant of all is that police had been left behind with arms and instructions not to resist the invaders, but instead to use their arms to maintain law and order."

Always "Law and Order"

In this last sentence is summed up the imperialist character of the war. However bitter is the struggle between Japanese imperialism and British, Dutch and American imperialism, none of the contending imperialists ever lose sight of those whom they victimize and exploit. For these there is always "law and order." In the changing fortunes of the war the colonial masses must never be given the arms with which they can gain their liberation from all imperialism.

Malaya, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines may fall to Japan. That worries the British less than if the colonials would struggle for their own independence. a special distribution is made at For these areas may always be reconquered from the Japanese. But from aroused colonials ...

> That is the specter which haunts the British imperialists-in fact, the imperialists of all the nations. It is a specter which will exist so long as exploitation and misery exist; so long as capitalism and imperialism exist. The specter can only be remoyed by the victory of the workers and colonial peoples everywhere.

power of the workers in the factories ter the War-Full Employment," isis being used to exhaustion. sued by the National Resources Plan-

Drain on Resources

treachery know no bounds!

This is only preliminary. Senator Working people who are dividing Taft expects the war to last at least their worried thoughts between their five years. Senator Pepper thinks it present troubles and those to come may be ten years. Before the war is will find little to console them here. over, the drain on the productive re-The publication was prepared and sources of the country will be multiwritten by Dr. Alvin H. Hansen, proplied many times. Any plan that fessor of economics at Harvard and does not start with the proposition special economic adviser to the board that the war will leave the economy of governors of the Federal Reserve of the country drained, twisted and System. You can hardly expect a disorganized for peacetime produccapitalist economist, even of such tion deserves to be thrown out of note, to make sense. Dr. Hansen court.

But let us suppose the fantastic: that the resources of the country will be left intact by the war. SO WHAT? Does capitalism go into tailspins because of lack of productive resources? Quite the contrary is the case!

Industrial crises have been marked by great abundance of productive resources, both capital and human-BUT UNUSED RESOURCES. That is the socialist indictment against capitalist anarchy. People starve in the midst of plenty because capitalism is geared to production for private piofit.

tact but on a "considerably higher Apparently Dr. Hansen is worried plane," is too ludicrous to need arabout the anarchy of capitalist progument. Already upward of 150 bilduction and even hopes to stop it belion dollars have been appropriated cause, according to Dr. Hansen's plan, for the business of pure and simple the government will retain "its fardestruction. Already several millions

Chicago Lecture:

The Negro People and the Unions

What Is the Stake of the Negro Worker In the Trade Union Movement?

Guest Speaker: TOM JORDAN

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CENTER 5120 SOUTH PARKWAY, ROOM 6

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at 8:00 P. M. Auspices: CHICAGO LABOR ACTION FORUM

ADMISSION FREE

We do not want the govern ment to run the whole show. We do not want 'a totalitarian state. We want freedom of enterprise."

Here, in a nutshell, is the contradiction all capitalist economists find themselves in. They make plans for totalitarian control-which is the only way post-war capitalism can try to pull itself together. Then they become panic stricken. "Good heavens," they proclaim, beating their chests, "we must have freedom of enterprise too."

"Positiveness and Vigor"

This is the "positiveness and vigor" with which capitalist economists like Dr. Hansen are planning. Not that the workers want totalitarian "positiveness and vigor." That spells slavery. Neither do the workers want "private enterprise." That snells unemployment, misery, anarchy-as in the past. THE ONLY WAY OUT FOR THE WORKERS IS THROUGH SOCIALISM.

Bt the capitalist professors burst a blood vessel at the mere thought of socialism. So they swing like a pendulum between a future totalitarianism and the played-out system of the past. This is supposed to be post-war planning.

If Dr. Hansen's plan is scrutinized for the practical measures it proposes, it is found, according to the press accounts, that they are the good oldfashioned ones known as "priming the pump" or government spending. There is to be a huge program of public works, for highway construction, reforestation and flood control. Dr. Hansen also plans a social program for public health, cultural and recreational facilities, old age pensions, and so on-in fact a veritable paradise of good things.

If a socialist society were to plan for public expenditures, that would be the normal way, because all resources would be owned in common. But when a capitalist government proposes to go on a spending binge, the question always is: "Where will the money come from?" **Capitalists and Taxes**

Dr. Hansen very well understands the capitalists' aversion to paying high taxes and he very much respects their sacred right to undiminished profits. He says:

"It must be recognized that there are certain limits on how far profits can be encroached upon" So he proposes that there be a

According to Dr. Hansen's own figures, there will be 57,000,000 to 59,-000,000 employable people in the post-war period. So many of them will be jobless that it will be necessary to institute this extensive "pump priming" program to keep them from starving. Yet, according to Dr. Hansen's plans, these people, themselves needing help, will be the ones taxed to pay for his "humanitarian plan." These capitalist economists - with their grandiose but futile plans-dare not face the fact that all future progress lies on the road to socialism. When all they can produce is a plan for a public debt mounting into the stratosphere, to be lessenned by taxes

on the impoverished people, it means that their system of private enterprise has definitely failed.

February New International Is **Off the Press**

The New International, monthly magazine of revolutionary Marxism, announces that its February issue is now off the press and available for

purchase This issue, containing a richly varied table of contents, includes:

Notes of the Month: Labor Unity, Negroes in the War, the Truman Report.

Davies' War Mission, by Max Shachtman.

The Dilemma of Partisan Review, by Irving Howe. Labor in the War, by Jack Wilson. What Is Imperialism, by Gregory

Zinoviev (Part 2). The Crisis in the Right-Center Bloc, by Leon Trotsky (Part 2). Duranty Confesses, by M. Sh. A review of his latest book.

Dos Passos' Crumbling Ground, by I.H. A review of his latest book on American history.

"Some people say we should give up the class struggle. I don't know much about the class struggle. All I am interested in is better economic conditions," etc., etc.

Pressure from Ranks

Thomas' speech doesn't mean that the CIO top leadership suddenly has decided to go all-out in struggling for labor's just demands. It shows, rather, how the leadership is being forced to respond to the pressure of the ranks, and put up some kind of a fight for the CIO demands. The Thomas speech assumes special importance in view of the fact that he was one of the six men at the White House conference last Friday.

The major argument of Henderson and the President against granting labor and wage increases was such an insulting one to the intelligence of workers, that apparently none of the top AFL or CIO leaders fell for it. It was the stock argument of all reactionaries at all times against wage increases.

"If you increase wages, prices will go up, and inflation will result," claimed Henderson in his letter to the War Labor Board.

But labor knows that big industry is falling over itself in the huge profits pouring in from war orders. All labor is asking today is that part of those profits be turned into wage benefits. This could be done easily, without in the slightest increasing prices generally.

Big business always tries to increase all prices, every time it is forced to pay a wage increase, thereby trying to pass off the cost on the consumer. But the Roosevelt regime could prevent that easily, simply by telling the corporations they couldn't raise prices, and that labor's wage demands should be granted by taking them out of the profit.

Instead, we have the brazen attemps of the administration to assure big industry that its war profits will be safeguarded, while labor pays the burden of the war on the battlefield, in the factory and at the store.

EDITORIAL PAGE

Editorials

LABOR ACTION'S PLATFORM

Against Both Capitalist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labo. and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF!

- 1. Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
- 2. Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars the minimum wage; time and a half for overtime! Rehire the jobless millions by a six-hour shift!
- 3. Wage increases which meet rising costs! No sales tax on consumer goods; no taxes on wages! Freeze rents and food and clothing prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living!
- 4. No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
- 5. Maintain and increase all government social services!

SOAK THE RICH-LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- 6. A government levy. on capital to cover the costs of the imperialist war! Confiscate all war profits!
- 7. Conscript all war industries under workers' controll
- 8. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"-the 3 per cent of the people who own 96. per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- 9. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces!
- 10. \$60 a month minimum for draftees.

SMASH JIM CROW!

- 11. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy, or by employers in industry, must be made a criminal offense!
- 12. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes!

BE PREPARED!

- 13... For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilante and fascist attacks!
- 14. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
 - For Peace through Socialism! For immediate independence of all colonies! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism. For a League of Socialist Nations!

Labor Action's Tax Program: **Capital Levy on Accumulated Wealth**

LABOR ACTION's four-point tax program:

· · · · · · · · · · · · ·

LABOR ACTION

- 1. A 100 per cent tax on all war profits.
- 2. A capital levy on accumulated wealth. 3. A stiff tax on undivided corporate profits.
- 4. A 100 per cent tax on all personal incomes above \$20,000.

This week we discuss our second proposal: A capital levy on accumulated wealth.

.

Up until the present time all taxes which have been levied in the United States have been based upon some form of income, profits, inheritance or sale of commodities (excise taxes). There is obviously a limit to the amount of money which can be received from World War I. To meet this staggering expense, it is necessary to tap new, hitherto unused sources of income. For this purpose LABOR ACTION proposes a capital levy.

present taxes do, a capital levy would tax accumulated wealth and fortune. In other words, a capital levy would tax not only what capitalists EARN but also what they HAVE. Such a tax is necessary because at

This is the second of a series of articles explaining the present time the wealthy are able to utilize all kinds of legal loopholes such as tax exempt securities, family corporations, individual income tax returns for members of a family, gifts to charities, deduction for non-commercial investments, etc., to avoid reporting real incomes and paying large income taxes.

In the book "America's Sixty Families" by Ferdinand Lundberg, statistics are presented which show that wealthy families report annual incomes amounting to less than 2 per cent of their actual wealth. Thus, for example, the Rockefeller family reported a total income for the year 1924 (the last year public figures were available) of \$18,000,000, on which they paid an income tax of only \$8,000,000, although their total family fortune was estimated to be more than two billion dollars.

If there were a 40 per cent capital levy in effect, the Rockefellers would have to pay \$800,000,000, 40 per cent of their total wealth, instead of only \$8,000,000.

The chief advantages of the capital levy are its fairness, based upon ability to pay, and its revenue producing possibilities. The capital levy is the fairest possible tax because it taxes only those who can afford it, the wealthy, without touching the great majority of the population. If America adopted the proposal of the British Trades Union Congress, only fortunes of more than \$25,000 would be subject to the capital levy. Since only a handful of wealthy capitalists own that much wealth, most people would be exempt from the capital levy.

WOULD TAX FINANCIAL OLIGARCHY

Most of the money raised by the capital levy would come from that small financial oligarchy known as "America's Sixty Families" who monopolize most of

the nation's wealth. This tiny group of parasites do no work other than "coupon clipping" Most of them inherited their vast estates to begin with and then spend the rest of their lives increasing their vast wealth through dividends, interest, rent, royalties, bonuses and commissions.

Lundberg's book estimates that such families as the Rockefellers, Morgans, du Ponts, Mellons and Fords have fortunes of over one billion dollars each. The total accumulated wealth of America's Sixty Families is estimated at twelve billion dollars. In addition, there are 12.000 families of lesser wealth in the U.S. with fortunes of over one million dollars each. The cash, stocks and bonds which make up these vasts sums are now lying idle in bank vaults. We propose to transfer it to the government by the only possible tax which can do so, namely: a capital levy.

Some years ago an English parliamentary committee estimated that a capital levy in England would produce fifteen billion dollars of revenue. It is a fair assumption that a capital levy in the United States, based upon rates of five to 60 per cent tax on fortunes above \$25,000, would produce twice as much, since America's national income and population are approximately twice those of England.

A capital levy in America would produce the tremendous sum of thirty billion dollars, three times the amount requested by President Roosevelt for new taxes for the coming years and twice as much as the total federal revenue will be next year

That is Point Two of our tax program: A capital levy on accumulated wealth. Tax the rich; make them pay for their war!

Why They

Greece . . .

Died in

American Labor in the Last World War

Sikeston and The Poll Tax

The connection between the lynching of Cleo Wright in Sikeston, Mo., and the statement of President Roosevelt opposing the use of Farm Security Administration funds to help sharecroppers pay their poll taxes may not be readily observable.

The Southern system of Jim Crowism, of segregation, of cheap labor and open shopism is based on several factors. Among them are the policy of "divide and rule"imposition of anti-Negro prejudices into the white workers which prevent them from uniting with their Negro brothers to fight for better living conditions.

Another factor is the disfranchisement of the Negro population, and a large section of the poor whites, through the polltax. While about 70 per cent of the Northern population votes, only about 25 per cent of the South votes.

This strong weapon of the Southern planters and bosses—the poll-tax—is sup- hands of Mussolini. ported by the Democratic Administration in

cident, this little circus of the economyminded congressmen (who've just voted themselves pensions for life!) shadow-boxing with Eleanor Roosevelt's dancer protegee-on the front page, is obscuring the really important problems in Washington.

Here we have a situation where three congressional committees-the Tolan, Truman and Vinson committees-publish reports of the way in which the dollar-a-year men are utilizing their key position to aid the large corporations in their vast profiteering; how the entire war program is nothing but a vast capitalist grab-bag.

But these reports are buried in the capitalist press while for day after day they play up the case of . . . Mayris Chaney.

Ethiopia Is Not Yet Free!

Last week the British government signed a two years' agreement covering the status of Ethiopia since its "liberation" from the

Were the people of Ethiopia consulted was, "Earning power has not kept

Cost of Living and Wages Had a Race - - the Former Won

By SYLVIA MERRILL

If you are one of those who are earning more this year than you were last, and wondering why you have less left at the end of the week. a glance at what happened to real wages in the last war will clear up many things.

To begin with, the war affected certain trades much more than oth-Shipyard workers, munition ers. workers and others directly involved in war production received wage increases. But for the bulk of labor the increases they received meant little or nothing because the cost of living rose much more quickly than their wages.

John B. Andrews, a labor legislation expert, in his book "Labor Problems and Labor Legislation," says: "We are forced to conclude that all the wage increases of the war (World War I) hardly changed the situation, as wages in most cases little more than kept pace with the cost of living and only very rarely exceeded

All through the war the great cry pace with the rising cost of living." The cost of living had been steadily rising for 25 years up to 1914, and wages, i.e., wages measured by what they could buy, had been falling. John B. Andrews says: "The decline amounted to about 10 or 15 per cent over the whole period and was more rapid from 1900 to 1914 than during the previous decade." So we see that before the last war was declared wages actually were worth far less than their dollar and cents figure (and that was low enough). But with the declaration of war there began a sky-rocketing that had no end. We already see that taking place in this

ing Conditions by Don D. Lescohier, we read that "The rise (in the cost of living) in the five years 1915-20 was two and one half times that of 1894-1914, that is, the annual increase in wage earners' cost of living during the price inflation of the war period was about ten times as rapid as during the previous 20 years."

Let us try to get a picture of what happened to real wages in the period of the last war. In order to get a rounded picture we must not begin with 1917, the year the U.S. declared war on Germany, but rather 1915, when the effect of European war orders began to be felt by the American industrial machine.

The first half of 1915 was still part of the era of the 1914-15 depression. There was unemployment and slack. But the second half of the year showed an upturn and so did the cost of living.

If John Doe was working after a period of "recession" and thought he would pay off some of the debts, or buy some badly needed clothes, he found, if he read the statistics (and he knew, even if he did read them)

in 1918 heard reports from various people and committees who had figured out substantial budgets and rates of wages necessary to maintain workers in "health and reasonable comport."

In an executive session, held by the War Labor Board in Washington in July, 1918, it was decided that .The resultant rates (found by the committees) were so much higher in amount per hour...than those prevailing at the time, that the board feared the dislocating effect upon production of practically applying the principle during the war period.

"After prolonged discussion and consideration, it was finally decided, for - reasons of expediency, not to apply this principle in a general or arbitrary way, but only to sanction it in specific cases where wages were abnormally low and where the physical maintenance of labor for war production was being impaired."

In other words, the board decided that the principle of "health and reasonable comfort" would have to be abandoned.

This from the body set up to han-

(Continued from page 1) regarded as anathema the dictatorship which was born August 4, 1936, in the dead of the night and

was maintained in darkness ever since. As in all fascist states, the people were constantly told what was being done for them, but were not allowed to know what was being done with them; and the right to ask questions - a prerogative adored by the Greek people-was, of course, suppressed.

ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Especially among Greek troops now in training, news of the King's declaration has been welcomed as a salutary measure, and it is believed that it will produce a healthy effect. It is declared that agents of the Greek dictatorship, the Metaxas government, had been active among the armed forces, spying on democratic elements, their sole interest being perpetuation of the regime now repudiated. Some officers resigned their commissions in protest against such practices and, at the same time, drew attention to what they alleged was preference given Metaxas adherents.

For a small nation, Greece, under the dictatorship, did a most thorough job in suppression of honest news about herself. There is a touch of irony in the fact that now, when Greece is under the fascist heel, the facts of her own fascism may at last be revealed.

THE FAIREST TAX OF ALL The fundamental prinicple of the capital levy is simple. Instead of taxing only personal income, as

these sources. Even the adoption of three of LABOR ACTION's tax proposals increasing taxes on war profits, undivided profits, and personal income, would not produce sufficient revenue to pay the tremendous cost of America's imperialist war program, expected to cost 150 billion dollars, five times as much as the cost of

1 de

×

Washington, which refuses to pass any legislation to outlaw it. It is supported by the statement of President Roosevelt attacking the granting of FSA funds to sharecroppers so that they can pay their poll taxes.

This is the social fabric from which Jim Crowism and lynchings spring. It is an integral part of American capitalist society. It is part of the society which President Roosevelt supports and perpetuates.

Jim Crowism, and its lyinchings, cannot be abolished in the South without abolishing the social system, capitalism, from which it springs. That is the real lesson of Sikeston.

The Press Plays An Old Trick

While there are amusing aspects to the campaign currently conducted by some congressmen against Melvyn Douglas, movie star, and Mayris Chaney, dancer, who are being employed by the Office of Civilian Defense as "morale boosters," there are also some sinister aspects.

First, the speech of Representative Forde of California. In attacking Douglas, Forde "disclosed" that the movie star's real name was Hesselberger. There is something very obnoxious about this. If Douglas is competent or incompetent, if his job is necessary or unnecessary, or desirable or undesirable -what difference does it make that he changed his name, as almost every movie actor has? What is the point of noting his original "Jewish sounding" name ... unless the point is merely to show that Douglas' original name is Jewish. Mr. Forde is playing with fire; emphasis on "Jewish sounding" names is the first method of anti-Semites who are not yet ready to come out with the more virulent forms of anti-Semitism.

But even more important: the entire in-

in this agreement? Were they asked to express their opinion about it? No. The agreement was signed with Haile Selassie (who gets an income of ten million dollars a year from the British as part of the agreement).

But Ethiopia is not freed! Under the agreement the country is to remain occupied by British soldiers and military missions

Englishmen are to run the courts and enforce the laws of the country. Englishmen are to be police commissioners, officers and inspectors. Englishmen are to have control over railroads, transportation, wireless, air service, etc.

The slave system that still exists all over the country (similar to the slavery of ancient times) is "to be abolished as soon as possible." Which means exactly what?

The agreement proves that Ethiopiaenslaved by Italian imperialism previously ---- has simply changed slave masters. Yesterday Italians; today English. But it's the same old colonial exploitation and lack of freedom, so far as the people of the country are concerned.

How Rubber Got Us Into War

'Rubber production was moved from its native place, Brazil, for one reason only. It was that, like the production of flax, it requires a very large amount of hand labor. Nowhere in America was there such a supply of coolie labor-efficent labor working for a few cents a day-as exists on the other half of the globe.

"If there is any capitalist objection to moving the production of rubber back to the Americas, it will be on this score.

"This is no fly-by-night question to be dismissed with a word. It involves a principal reason for our getting into the war all over the world."

> Hugh S. Johnson (New York World-Telegram)

Cost of Living Jumps

In the "History of Labor in the United States," the section on Work-

The War For Democracy

"Incidentally, piled on the docks of Manila when the Japanese struck were stores of vitally important raw materials - hemp, chromite, magnesium - awaiting shipment to the United States. The stores had long remained there. There was more profit for the private industrialists to use the necessary shipping space for sugar.'

From the Washington column of John O'Donnell in the N.Y. Daily News.

that the cost of living had jumped nearly 13 per cent from December, 1915, to December, 1916.

In "Real Wages in U. S." Paul H. Douglas estimates that wages in all industries, rose an average of \$1.32 a week, or 9 per cent during 1916. Cost of living rises 16 per centwages 9 per cent.

Worker in the Same Rut

From 1916 to 1917 the cost of living went up 20 per cent. It was then nearly 13 per cent higher than in December, 1914. All the findings on wage increases show that workers were no better off because of the rise in wages. By and large they were in the same spot. From December, 1917, to Decem-

bef. 1918, the cost of living rose 31 per cent. But in most industries wages did not equal the rise. They rose 23 per cent.

Of course, those with fixed incomes, like clerical workers and government employees, were very badly hit.

The rise in the cost of living and the lagging behind of wages caused much distress and many strikes. The National War Labor Board

was set up to handle labor disputes. Its policy was to maintain the prewar standards of real wages. There was much commotion over this, since the wage disputes were to be settled on the basis of family budgets-BUT WHOSE? There were various strata

of income within labor's ranks. Besides which, the unions contended that the rates of pay before the war were too low and should not be used as a measuring rod. The board

dle labor grievances. Not too much thought has to be used to imagine how they mediated them.

Rank and File Pressure

Unlike the labor leaders who sat on the war boards, the rank and filers were putting pressure on the local union for action. The workers were not silent about the disparity between wages and the cost of living for they knew what the wages actually could buy. AFL convention reports of this period are full of protests and resolutions.

The 1918 convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor: .. There is a steady increase in the number of children under the age of 16 who are leaving school to go to work as a result of the necessity to supplement the family income due to the rise in the cost of living"

The California State Federation convention: "High cost of living has now become the high cost of halfliving ... "

The Brewery Workers Union convention in 1917: "...wage earner finds no difficulty to keep within the advice and appeal of Food Dictator Hoover for the conservation of food" because "his earning power has not kept pace with the ever-increasing cost of all necessities of life."

New York Banquet For V. R. Dunne

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, which is the defense committee functioning in behalf of the Minneapolis Local 544-CIO and Socialist Workers Party leaders convicted of "sedition," announces that a banquet will be held for V. R. Dunne, widely known Minneapolis labor leader, on Tuesday, March 3, in New York.

The banquet, admission to which will be one dollar, will be held at Wederman's Hall, 156 Third Avenue. The partial list of speakers includes V. R. Dunne, George Novack and Carlo Tresca.

The banquet for Dunne will come at the end of a tour he is conducting across the country in behalf of the convicted defendants. Dunne is speaking before labor audiences requesting support for the defendants. SECRET POLICE FORCE

Money collected to arm the country was used in good measure to hold it down, and for that purpose there was created an efficient, Germantrained secret police force, to which unlimited power was granted. To express belief in democracy, or to show one's self to be of a mold of mind other than fascist, was to court persecution. Persons of moderately liberal point of view were put under a blanket charge of communism and imprisoned or exiled.

The Boy Scouts were disbanded, and membership in a juvenile army on the lines of the Hitler Jugend was made obligatory. For a while hospitality was, in some cases, brutally denied to Jewish refugees. Even Adolph Hitler's racial policy was beginning to sprout from ground diligently tilled to bring forth a bumper crop of the familiar absurdities. School children were expressly forbidden to learn Pericles' funeral address and Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

In Next Week's Issue

LABOR ACTION promises its readers an extremely interesting and varied issue next week. Some of the articles listed below are already written, but could not appear this week because of . space limitations. Among the features of next week are:

The Murray Plan. A complete analysis of this famous plan from labor's point of view.

Singapore and the Colonial World. The balance sheet of Singapore is drawn with the lessons for the colonial world to be derived therefrom.

American Labor During the Last War. The second section of this series.

The Dutch East Indies. A special article disclosing little-known background facts.

These, as well as other features, news articles, labor reports and regular columns will make up next week's issue.

LABOR ACTION
A Paper in the Interests of Labor
Published Weekly by the
Labor Action Publishing Company
114 WEST 14th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. (3rd Floor)
Vol. 6, No. 7 February 16, 1942
Managing Editor: Irving Howe
Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a year
75 Cents for Canada, New York and Foreign
Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 15:0.
at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 8, 1879.

Chicago Meeting:

Labor and the War Speaker: MAX SHACHTMAN Friday, February 20, 8:00 p.m. At Hotel Hamilton, 18 South Dearborn Admission - 25 Cents