

A reporter for LABOR ACTION tells of two women interviewed in a Brooklyn grocery store. One the mother of two children, stated she doesn't buy any eggs at all. The best eggs at sixty-one cents a dozen she cannot afford; the others she doesn't trust for her children.

The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. reports a net profit of \$11,023,-372-after making all kinds of deductions for taxes and after socking away a reserve for "contingencies" of \$6,526,156.

The other woman interviewed by LA's reporter almost cried over the price of lettuce, which is about the only vegetable her sick husband is allowed to eat. At seventeen and nineteen cents a head she just can't buy it. The other day she tried shredded cabbage because that is so much hceaper. But her husband got ill from eating it.

The Bendix Aviation Corp.'s taxable income for the first nine months of this year totals \$77,267,814. After taxes are paid and all other fancy deductions are made, there is expected to remain \$7.34 profit on every share of its common stock—as against only \$4.52 a year ago. That looks like an increase of over 50 per cent.

The New York World-Telegram wrote the other day of an East Side mother of four children who hasn't been able to buy any butter for a whole month. She uses a cheap grade of olive oil. She can afford meat only once in a while, and then it has to be chopped meat.

War-that great leveler!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 14, 1942

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

WAGE-FREEZING THREAT IN ROOSEVELT MESSAGE

President Roosevelt this week sent to Congress a message which, beneath its cleverly worded façade, conceals a devastating assault on the living standards of the American people.

Deliberately highlighting his attack on the reactionary farm bloc, deliberately putting the emphasis of his remarks on proposals which may appear plausible to the masses of people, President Roosevelt nevertheless and by calculation slipped in his plan for wage freezing.

The message to Congress and the speech to the nation on Labor Day were clever.

Nowhere in his message or speech is the question of wages taken up frontally and directly. Roosevelt knows that working class opposition to wage freezing is unanimous and strong. Virtually all unions have declared themselves on the matter.

Instead, and in each case, wages are thrown in together with other proposals, tucked into this or that sentence. For exam-

Trotsky Killer Sentenced by **Mexican** Court

Frank Jacson, alias Jacques proved that this story was a fake and Mornard, who assassinated Leon Trotsky two years ago, has been revealed as a Russian whose real name is Turkov and who had been in the service of Stalin's GPU for many years.

This is the report made public in last week's issue of The New Leader, which announces at the same time that Trotsky's murderer was sentenced to a prison term of twenty-three years at the end of the closed trial which just concluded its sessions in Mexico. The New Leader report has not been but these seems to be no reason for questioning its accuracy.

The report puts an end to a numrounding the case of Trotsky's mur- for years back. derer. At the time of his seizure, red-handed, by the police, he sought to cover up those who had employed personal and prompted by growing

should discuss in their membership

meetings all 'questions of policy, es-

pecially the decisive question: "When

(Continued on page 4)

The MOW leaders are aware of

shall we march on Washington?"

that there had never been a Belgian diplomat in Persia named Mornard. The fraudulence of the story became increasingly transparent when "Mornard" was trapped in a dozen contradictions upon cross-examination by the investigating magistrate. However, he continued to insist that he was a Belgian and that he had no contact with the Stalinists and their Gestapo.

Among Trotsky's friends it was clear from the very outset that the whole assassination had been arranged from beginning to end by Stalin, the Kremlin criminal already responsible for the slaughter of every Russian revolutionist published or confirmed elsewhere, whom he did not bury alive in prison. It was suspected, furthermore, that "Mornard" came from one of the Slavic countries and had been

ber of doubts and uncertainties sur- an agent in the employ of the GPU

The New Leader report indicates that the court's findings have confirmed these suspicions to the hilt. him to assassinate Trotsky by in- The terrified denials of "Mornard" sisting that his action was purely are now more clearly understood, moreover, in light of the court's

ple: "If, however, the costs of production, INCLUDING LABOR, are left free to rise indiscriminately . . . "; or, "What is needed, therefore, is an over-all stabilization of prices, salaries, WAGES and profits." (Our emphasis.)

Now the whole purport of this is supposed to be an effort to control run-away prices, to avert inflation.

And in so far as the President would offer a scheme to keep prices in line, to lower profits and to prevent the cheapened dollars of inflation, we would be willing to approve.

But has he offered such a scheme? We think not. We think his message and speech are as much a deception, though in many respects more cleverly presented, as his seven-point program.

Roosevelt wants to control prices. Good. But what machinery and what standard does he propose? Presumably the same standand the same machinery as were set up after the April 27 speech.

To wit: a general price standard based on the inflated prices of this year; that is, based on a substantial and severe rise in the cost of living.

We propose a price-fixing standard based on prices as they were in June, 1940!

And further, the President evidently has in mind the same kind of price control machinery which has already proved its ineffectiveness and injustice, with this difference, that where previously many articles were exempted from the price-fixing order, all commodities are now to be included.

All items of food, clothing, shelter, etc., SHOULD be included in the price fixing regulations. But, first, these should be fixed. at prices in effect BEFORE the precipitous rise.

And, second, their administration should be turned over to those who have the greatest interest in regulating them: committees of union representatives and housewives.

No sooner had the OPA fixed prices on various commodities (with many exempted) than the same OPA began to lift the ceilings on item after item.

Despite the price control regulations of the last few months, the cost of food has been going up at the rate of 11/2 per cent a month by the President's own admission.



his real name was Jacques Mornard and that he was the son of a Belgian diplomat. Police and private inquiries soon

"political differences" with Trotsky. finding that he has a mother and a At the same time he claimed that sister in Moscow, in other words. that Stalin holds them as hostages against his silence.

Stalin's tool has been dealt with by the Mexican courts, and is out of harm's way unless the GPU succeeds in sealing his lips forever. But Mornard-Turkov's master, Stalin, is still the super-criminal at large who must one day be made to pay for his iniquities at the bar of workingclass justice.

Don't Be a Hog!

When you've finished reading this paper, don't hog it.i Pass it on to a

discontent and rumblings in the Better yet-why not buy him a ranks who suspect that they are sub? Twenty-five cents for six months as an introductory offer!

The Black Market

And Roosevelt is right: at the present rate this will mean a 15 per cent sales tax on all food purchased by wage earners-or a sizeable wage cut.

The fault lies with the President's own Administration. Prices cannot be controlled by dollar-a-year men or government committees whose ties are fundamentally and essentially with business.

It makes small difference to a man with a million in the bank if prices go up a few cents.

It makes a world of difference to the working class housewife.

There is only one way to control prices effectively: put control in the hands of those who stand to lose the most by run-away prices, of those who go to market and know what prices were and should be: working class housewives.

(Continued on page 3)

It is true that the Negro masses The March on Washington Movement (MOW) is now more than a year and a half old. During this pe-

riod, A. Phillip Randolph has been its acknowledged leader. The Negro masses have been told over and over again: "What we need is leadership. We must place all our faith in Randolph and follow him wherever he leads and whenever he calls. But we must leave it to him to signal us If and when he wants a march. We must not criticize him or disagree among ourselves but must present a unified front to the white population of the U.S."

By RIA STONE

need leadership. For without leadership and organization, their natural militancy and desire for action against their oppressors can only result in sporadic and futile outbreaks.

MOW Announces Policy Conference

Rank and File Negroes Must Be Represented to See to It That MOW Fulfills Its Purpose

But a mass movement must develop leaders who are responsible to the needs and demands of the ranks. It cannot simply depend on decrees or arbitrary decision from the top. It cannot leave all the planning to one man who, like Randolph, announces one week (in Los Angeles) that the movement never intended an actual march

Hindus and Moslems Are Friends

"In all this guarrelling (between Hindu and Moslem political leaders) there is one strikingly obvious fact, which is that the conflict is a political struggle of political leaders and is not truly religious or racial.

"Several British officials who have spent many years as district officers among the villagers, have told the writer that Hindus and Moslems get along perfectly well together; and all Indians the writer has talked to confirm that. There is a row or two on certain religious holidays, but the rest of the year Moslems and Hindus in general are the best of friends.

"It is significant that in all the recent violence there has not been a recorded instance of communal strife. The Moslems have refrained from violence and Congress supporters have respected the persons and property of Moslems.

"This basic fact is one reason for the accusation that communal trouble has been fostered and exaggerated by the British; and it is also at the root of the Congress leaders' claim that if the British would go they could quickly settle any differences with the Moslems."

(Herbert L. Matthews, writing from New Delhi, New York Times, September 8.)

on Washington, and the next week (in St. Louis and New York) denies that a real March on Washington has been abandoned.

Whom does Randolph hope to fool or confuse by these vacillations and maneuvers-the Negro masses or the powers that be? Every time he "postpones" or renounces the March on Washington, he plays into the hands of the powers that be. The ruling class rejoices whenever the leadership shows itself to be sensitive to pressure from above rather than to the desire for action from the militant masses below. These vacillations and maneuvers weaken the mass movement and confuse the Negro masses; they don't fool the ruling class.

Ranks Should Decide

Randolph' said recently in answer to such criticisms, which are becoming increasingly numerous: "Naturally, all sorts of misinterpretations will be made on all that happens in connection with the March on Washington Movement, but this movement knows what it wants and where it is going and how it expects to get there." But how are the ranks in the MOW to know where the movement is headed unless matters of policy are discussed in their membership meetings?

If these meetings are used only for rubber-stamping decisions handed down from the top and for entertainment and agitation, the MOW will not be a mass movement. The relation between leaders and members cannot be simply that of blind and uncritical acceptance. Such a relationship creates a false and arbitrary unity and does not lead to strength in organization, nor does it develop leadership among the Negroes themselves. The members of the MOW themselves want to and

The "Black Market"-the bootlegging of rationed and price-ceilinged goods-has steadily increased. Its development has already reached a stage where, according to District Attorney Frank S. Hogan of New York, there is a danger of a return to the "lush days of prohibition-a period of hi-jacking, open corruption and gang murders."

The Black Market has invaded big fields (for example, steel), where the producing capitalist is involved. But it is the growing Black Market in articles of consumption - foodstuffs, furniture, gasoline, wearing apparel, and so forth-that is of immediate concern to the masses. It is the daily lives of working people-men and women and children-that are immediately and directly involved by the cruder and greedy merchant capitalists of varying sizes and importance.

What are the causes of the development of the Black Market?'

1. A small section of the population (bourgeoisie, upper middle class, etc.) have high or substantial incomes.

(a) They are able to obtain or commandeer a larger part of the supply of rationed and price-ceilinged goods because of their ability and readiness to pay high prices.

(b) For the masses there results a decrease (1) in the quantity and (2) the quality of goods available

(c) There results, despite government price ceilings on numerous items of consumption, an increase in prices of mass consumption goods.

A Disease of the Profit System

These results are achieved in various devious

cut-but the original prices remain.

product-the regulations then permit a change in

3. "Upgrading" quality of goods-for example, the selling of "good" meat as "choice," etc., recently exposed in the meat packing industry.

continued and new, higher-priced items are intro-

These things happen daily. Why?

"ALL THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR"

The aspect of the Black Market under consideration here is that related to the merchant capitalist. The attitude or philosophy of this section of the bourgeoisie is to "charge all that the traffic will bear." As a group they obtain their margins or profits on the pennies or nickels side, depending on volume circulation or sale of goods. But if opportunity is provided to turn an extra pennyby sacrificing volume, why not?

So, espeially when goods are so scarce, this element of the bourgeoisie decides to slough off the "lower class" customers and cater only to the "higher class" ones. The expedience of charging considerably higher prices serves, this purpose.

By Harry Allen

The social outlook or philosophy of this capitalist group is that of the big bourgeoisie, who already have the ownership and control of the major resources of the means of life, guaranteeing them huge profits and income at all times. The merchant capitalist thinks-and tries to act -like the landlords and the bankers (who, because they own his property, really determine his destiny and daily life)-and not like the butches, the baker and candlestick maker, upon whom he really depends for his better sales.

Fundamentally, therefore, the Black Market's source actually is in:

1. The disparity of incomes between the bourgeoisie, the middle class and the mass of workers and poor people.

2. The profit system (capitalism), of which profiteering is only an exaggeration of what it already is.

Above all, the real Black Market is the system of capitalism itself-which exploits the masses; and then adds to their exploitation and misery by monopoly prices. The real Black Market thieves and bootleggers are first of all the great monopo-(Continued on page 3)

and circuitous ways by unblushing merchant capitalists-manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers:

1. Standards or quality or size of articles are

2. A slight change in the size or form of the pricing as if for new items on the market.

4. The lower or lowest priced products are disduced.

Page 2

San Pedro Shipyard Local 9 **Faces Fight with Company On Staggered Week Notice**

ticle appears in print the workers in the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Drydock yard may be working under the staggered work week. This will depend on how effectively the compromisers and Stalinists can beat down the militancy of the rank and file of Local 9.

The Los Angeles yard, in a brazen attempt to flaunt the written and signed contract with Local 9, recently set up notices throughout its yard announcing the establishment of the staggered work week starting September 7.

On August 26, the swing shift, at its meeting finally and conclusively rejected the staggered work week and called on the union officials to so inform the company. The next day the copper shop department meeting voiced its opposition to working for straight time on Sunday. The welders' meeting took a stand alongside of the copper shop and the swing shift. The ship fitters, with the Stalinists relving on the large number of conservatives, beat down the militants' proposals and came out for a confused and impossible compromise.

The only supporters of the company were the union leadership and the Stalinists. The union leadership. caught between the pressure of the company and the militant demands of the membership, were hopelessly confused. The only answer they could find was to appeal to the membership to sacrifice like the men in the Army are sacrificing. But this argument carried very little weight with the rank and file because all know that it is the workers, both in the unions and in the Army, who are doing the sacrificing and that the companies' sacrifice has not yet begun.

Stalinists Aid Company

Stalin's confidence men made a really slick proposal, namely, that the union negotiate the staggered week on the basis of double time. One speaker said, in answering this point: "The company will laugh at you for making this childish proposal when their whole purpose in advancing the staggered week is to do away with double time for good."

In their attempts to break the unions and smash their conditions, the big shots find their most dependable allies in the representatives of the Communist Party. These sell-out artists give a kind of progressive sugarcoating to the proposals of the bosses and treacherously try to pass them off as good union policy.

The company argues that its objective in putting in the staggered week is to increase production. But it is common knowledge that the company could increase production by must be carried through MILIincreasing the number of men work- TANTLY.

SAN PEDRO-By the time this ar- ing the swing and graveyard shifts. The staggered week, as it is proposed, will keep the same number of men, work them the same number of hours and days in an eight-week period.

> The company, emboldened by the. recent retreats of the union, is now proposing the installation of the staggered week in direct violation of the signed contract. Local 9's contract clearly defines the workweek and establishes the methods whereby changes may be negotiated. But this dictatorial disregard of the union contract is an insult to the union, and the union must see to it that the company observes its written contract in every respect.

The employers have been delivering one blow after another at Local 9. First, Bethlehem established the 10-hour day, then double time was abolished - and now the staggered week.

Not satisfied with breaking the hour standards of the unions, they have been cutting wages through "stabilization." The eight cents granted the West Coast shipyard workers was a nickel short of WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO BRING WAGES UP TO THE 1941 LEVEL. A 13 cent increase, as of April 1, 1942, would have been necessary merely to maintain wages as they were the previous year. But we got eight cents-a wage cut.

Certain militants warned that price freezing was due for a quick thaw. The thaw has come and with it the ceilings have been lifted on hundreds of necessities, especially UNDER STABILIZATION foods. THE WORKERS RECEIVE A WAGE CUT AND THEIR WAGES GO DOWN EACH WEEK AS PRICES GO UP.

But the big boys are not content with all this. They are planning a campaign against the UNION HIR-ING HALL. The rumor persists throughout the yards that some kind of back door negotiations are going on with the objective of destroying this stronghold of unionism on the West Coast.

The time has come to call a halt. Local 9, as well as the entire trade union movement, under the pressure confused and conservative eleof ments, has been allowing gain after gain of the union movement to go by the board. All this in the name of "equality of sacrifice." The workers have already sacrificed plenty in sky-high taxes, in wage chiseling, The step started in Local 9 in etc. opposition to the staggered week is

a step in the right direction, but it

LABOR ACTION

Is This a War Between Ideologies? Are the Allies Fighting Fascism?

By WILLIAM BRAD

The most brazen lie in the entire catalog of Allied war propaganda is that the present war is an ideological war between democracy and fascism, between two ways of living, the democratic and Hitleristic. That is not what the war is about.

> Britain and the United States assisted Hitler to power in the first place. In the grand diplomatic game of balance of power, which Britain played in pre-war Europe to keep herself the dominant European power, Hitler was subsidized by British capitalists and by the Bank of England as a balance to France. It was Britain which wanted a strong government, a militarily powerful Germany as a buffer against Soviet Russia. It was Britain which signed the naval agreement with Hitler which in effect gave up the military limitations clauses of the Versailles treaty.

This was not just the policy of the Chamberlain or the Baldwin administrations. This was the policy of British imperialism. Britain wanted Hitler because a Hitler Germany would crush the working class and thereby safeguard Europe from a

"Mission to Dominica"... "Before he married Mrs. Mar-

jorie Post Close Hutton Davies, the General Foods millionairess, and satisfied her ambitions to become a diplomat's wife, Davies represented President Trujillo of the Dominican Republic as well as domestic industries. From Trujillo, Davies is reputed to have received a single fee of \$480,000 for reducing payments on the Dominican Republic debt to the United States. Truiillo once settled a boundary dispute with Haiti by the simple expedient of slaughtering a few thousand Haitians. Davies sent him congratulations." ("The Pressure Boys," by Kenneth Crawford.)

socialist revolution. A strong Germany pre-occupied with Russia in the East would not present a challenge to Britain's vast empire. Such were the calculations of the British "democrats."

Shades of Hamilton Fish!

Fought German Revolution

In 1919 and again in 1923, the German workers were prepared for revolution, for establishing of a socialist Germany through the overthrow of the "capitalist" Junkers rulers. Both times Britain and the U.S. intervened on behalf of their

fellow capitalists in Germany to smash the revolution. This Davis Plan, fostered by the U.S., was in effect a counter-revolutionary subsidy to the weakened German rulers. The revived German capitalists, however, were still no match for the workers. It took them ten years to finally develop the instrument which could smash the workers' movement. That instrument was fascism.

The German capitalists, saved by the U.S. and Britain from revolution, rebuilt their industrial and financial machinery. The whole nation was, however, limited in the expansion of its production by the fetters imposed by the Versailles Treaty. The German capitalist class, accumulating huge surpluses of capital, were stifled within their national boundaries. They began to seek the only solution possible for any capitalist class, imperialistic expansion, a search for colonies and markets.

To accomplish this, the Versailles Treaty had to be broken and markets and colonies grabbed from other imperialistic powers. For a war such as this would entail the entire German nation had to be harnessed, "organized," "coordinated." The living standards of the German people had to be cut so that they could bear the cost of the rearmament and the war when it came. Labor had to be intensified, exploitation increased. In other words, the working class organizations, the trade unions and the political parties had to be wiped out. Above all, the revolutionaries had to be jailed or killed.

War for Colonies

Thus, 'encouraged and subsidized at every step by the other imperialist powers (for their own reasons) the German capitalist class, after bringing Hitler to power, prepared for a war of conquest. THE ONLY INSTRUMENT WHICH COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE PRES-ENT SLAUGHTER, THE GERMAN PROLETARIAT, WAS DISARMED AND DISORGANIZED BY THIS UNHOLY INTERNATIONAL ALLI-ANCE.

It is not that the British and American states made a mistake (from their point of view) in supporting Hitler to power. They needed Hitler against Russia in the East and to maintain their own balance of control in Europe. Any other policy would have brought on the socialist revolution in which they would

have lost everything. It is not Hitler alone, or the German ruling class alone, that is responsible for the war. It is the responsibility of the exploiting capitalists everywhere.

Today the Allies seek Hitler's defeat because he threatens their world empires. It is a war for

colonies on Hitler's part, against those who have them. England and the U.S. are defending their markets, their investments. To protect this vast loot they will fight Hitler.

But the war, for them, is a military struggle. They seek to overwhelm Hitler by superiority of arms. The Allies do not want to and are incapable of destroying Hitlerism, the totalitarian regime. The plans of the Allies call for the victory over the German armies. And what then? A super-Versailles which will start the same thing over again, bring a new Hitler to power; a new balance of power; a new war-or military occupation of Europe by Allied troops and establishment of an international police regime, i.e., a permanent military dictatorship. These are the Allied alternatives to Hitler's totalitarian-organized Europe.

The Allies cannot destroy Hitlerism or fascism because these are products of capitalist society. There are powerful fascist' groups in the U.S. and Britain, as there were in France. In the acute crisis of the war and post-war period these groups will seek to establish totalitarian regimes in these countries. Already the militarization of the U.S. and Britain is overtaking civilian life and liberties.

What is more, the methods and ideology of totalitarianism are not unknown in the Allied camp; for example, the colonial practices of the U.S. in Puerto Rico and of Britain in India on the one hand, and the activities of U.S. subsidized dictators Vargas and Batista on the other.

It is possible that Hitler will be defeated by the Allies on the field of battle, but that will not put an end to Hitlerism or to imperialism or to war. These are deeply rooted in the capitalist system and can only be ended with it.

But, it is argued, it will take arms to defeat Hitler and only the United Nations have arms. Let us use these arms now and later, after Hitler's defeat, we will again begin the fight against capitalism. Meanwhile, we are asked to give up this fight.

A Disastrous Policy

Such a policy can only lead to disaster, because it leads the working class into the ranks of imperialism . without opposition. This is Judasgoat policy. If there is opposition to

Wanted! Wanted!

Copies of the July August and September, 1941, New International for purposes of binding. We will appreciate/ your sending these copies to: The New International, 114 West 14th Street, New York City.

Undisturbed In Shanghai capitalism it cannot be turned off A dispatch in the New York Post, and on like a faucet. ABOVE ALL, THOSE WHO ARE AGAINST CAP-

ITALISM CANNOT TAKE RE-

SPONSIBILITY FOR ITS WARS.

Those who follow this Judas policy

find themselves lined up with the

capitalist class against the workers

against strikes, against union organ-

ization drives, against higher wage

Arms are needed against Hitler, as

against ruling tyrants everywhere.

And those arms exist and are in the

hands of the German workers. Hit-

ler and the German capitalist class

which gave him life will be de-

stroyed by the German workers and

youth in the German armies when

they turn these arms against their

PRESS

ACTION

Circulation: LABOR ACTION is

now printing and circulating around

20,000 copies each week, the largest

regular circulation in its entire his-

tory! We aim to raise this circulation

to 25,000 during the approaching fall

and winter season. This 5,000 in-

crease depends upon the work of

be a beauty! We mean the new

subscription leaflet (in two colors)

that LABOR ACTION is having

printed for distribution to all its

ACTION'S introductory offer of 25

cents for a six-month subscription

and will be stapled to all copies of

the paper. Watch the mails for your

new subscriptions have been re-

ceived during the past TWO weeks

West Virginia 2

New Jersey 2

New York City was waked from

its slumber and is getting plenty of

25 cent subscriptions, with Los An-

geles and Buffalo following close

New York City

Los Angeles

St. Louis

New Subscriptions: The following

18

12

2

53

This leaflet will describe LABOR

New Subscription Leaflet: It will

our various literature agents.

agents.

batch of leaflets!

by our office:

Buffalo

Akron .

Chicago

Total

behind.

demands.

main enemy.

printed last week, reports that in Shanghai, China, "business as usual goes on to an extent inconceivable to anyone who hasn't been there." Here is illustrated in one concise sentence the fact that imperialists of different countries can live together for a whole at least, on the basis of common exploitation of the same colonial slaves.

Life Goes on

Shanghai and the areas around it have been in Japanese hands for a long time. The Japanese control everything, except for the French concession. The British and American sections of the city were taken over with the declaration of war last December. Yet the bulk of the 1,400 Americans and 8.000 British remain in the city, carrying on their businesses and administrative functions as always, except for Japanese general control and regulation.

The foreign community in Shanghai is peculiar. There isn't another like it in the world. It is composed of business men, agents of large American and British corporations and banks like Standard Oil, Royal Dutch Shell, Chase National. In Shanghai all the many chains of imperialism are brought together as to a central switchboard.

Here center the offices of the foreign corporations which have Chinese investments. Here was a large diplomatic colony from every nation-to see to it that these corporations had the protection of the imperialist state. A large section of the city was divided into outright concessions to the foreigners. Shanghai was an imperialist melting pot. Exploiters of all nations made it their headquarters.

Not Much Change

The war has not changed this picture much except that the Japanese have replaced the British as the dominant group. But the life of the average Shanghai foreigner remains pretty much the same. This gang of parasites continue their "way of life" without change. They continue to pocket their profits as before.

14

5

The Post 'reports: "Department stores, liquor stores, haberdashers, textile mills-all operate normally with American or British proprietors or managers on hand daily - and Jap supervisors to help them."

Even the large corporations continue to function "normally." The American owned telephone system, the street cars and other utilities are still managed by Americans. Profits still flow into American coffers.

The Chinese natives, who make up the overwhelming number of the three and a quarter million inhabitants of Shanghai, must be kept "in order" today, as in times past, however. For this purpose there existed a substantial police force in all the foreign concessions. This police force was officered by American, British and French officers. Today "the police still have American and British inspectors and sergeants but the heads of the service have been displaced by Japanese. The ousted (police) officials have been given comfortable pensions...." Thus the foreign police force, which is today only a supplement to the Japanese army, continues to function with many of its old personnel. The easy living of these parasites, the cocktail parties, the dances and parties on top of luxurious hotels. the easy wealth acquired without labor, the separation into a separate caste which did not mix with other sections of the population-all this is continued, even during the war. Imperialist habits do not change easily. The attitude of the State Department in Washington has been not to disturb the situation. Washington has not expressed any disapproval. And indeed why should it? Washington expects one day to recapture these areas from Japan and at that time it will reestablish American imperialist rule. It will hand back to the American corporations and their representatives whatever they may have lost to the Japanese. Meanwhile it keeps its imperial outposts where it can.

Jhe Readers of Labor Action Jake the Floor

Leaflet Asks Subs For LABOR ACTION Dear Brothers:

As you know, we've been plugging LABOR ACTION here in Los Angeles and San Pedro week in and week out to the point where among shipyard workers alone we now have several thousand regular readers.

Well, we figured that among all those readers there must be quite a number who would subscribe if it were put up to them. So we put on a little leaflet drive, distributing a different leaflet each week for four weeks, asking the shipyard worker readers to subscribe. The leaflets were attractively mimeographed, with a subscription box on the bottom.

And it has proved effective. We've been getting subs for LABOR AC-TION daily. If the same were to be done in other cities, the results would most surely be as good, because LABOR ACTION is one paper the workers like.

In case others are interested and would like to do something like it, here is the text of one of the leaflets as suggested to us by a worker:

"BROTHER:

"If you are one of the shipyard workers who reads LABOR ACTION as eagerly as I do, this letter is addressed to you.

"For months now, the LABOR AC-TION girls have been bringing the paper to us on the job and at meettings, day and night. They have done us a service by getting us acquainted with the paper, by putting it in our hands week after week. "It's about time we came across with some support to this paper-in the way, at least, of sending in our own subscriptions. You fellows know that a paper like this is not financed or distributed by big shots. It depends for its support on working men like ourselves .who read it and like it.

"LABOR ACTION is running a six-month, two-bit subscription offer. One of the LABOR ACTION people picked up my sub the other

day and will pick up yours if you send in your name and address. "Fraternally, A WELDER.

"L.A. Yard. "P.S.-It might be an idea to help spread the distribution of the paper by taking some home for your friends and neighbors who would be interested." Fraternally,

P. G.

(The Los Angeles comrades have a real idea here. Subs have been coming in packets every day. But a lot more can be done. So why not try the Los Angeles method!-Editor.)

Two Sit-Downs In Electro-Motive Dear Editor:

On Friday, August 28, a union (UAW) committeeman and a foreman had a fracas over a grievance. Before the argument was over they were pushing each other around. The company (Electro-Motive) punished the union man by laying him off for a week.

When the men in the plant saw that the union wasn't successful in getting satisfaction for the committeeman they decided to take action themselves. Monday morning at 10:30 the welders and some others "sat down." Their demand was the immediate reinstatement of the committeeman, Wilson. An hour later they were informed by the local president that it was settled to their satisfaction.

At 1:30 they "sat down," again, The demand this time was for full pay for Wilson for the time he was out. Before an hour was gone they were again informed that the case was settled.

It was only the next day that they found out that the company did not retreat and that the case was sent to the WLB. If the union would have taken a firm attitude toward the company it would have won. The men would support the officials if they would have to sit there all

week.

The sit-downs occurred on the day shift. All the old-timers are on that shift and they must know from experience that the only way to get results is by militant action. It's

time that the weak-kneed union leadership made the same discovery. The Electro-Motive division of General Motors Corp. (part of the Morgan industrial and financial empire) has taken advantage of the supine policy of the UAW on overtime and instituted a type of swing shift that gyps the men out of one full day's pay every two weeks.

Before the new shift was inaugurated the men worked thirteen days off also. This occurs once every seven weeks. In this way the men get one day off every week, but it elim-

inates the payment of time and a half and twice in every sevenweek period eliminates the payment of double time. Now for thirteen working days the men only get one double time day or

fourteen days' pay. Previously they got fifteen days' pay for every thirteen days worked.

This swing shift has not been instituted in all departments yet. But the men are boiling. Rank and file opposition to it may yet force the company to retreat from its skullduggery. This is a wonderful opportunity for the union to show its strength and force the company to abolish the swing shift.

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Goodyear Locks Out Tire Workers Fighting to Keep Six-Hour Day

By TONY CARLYLE

AKRON-Labor's struggle to hold its gains has been concentrated in Akron in the past few weeks on the six-hour versus the eight-hour day. The six-hour day is one of the most important achievements ever won by labor in the rubber industry and the workers are not going to give it up without a struggle.

The issue reached a head last week-end at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., resulting in a three-day lockout. The contract between the United Rubber Workers of America and Goodyear calls for four sixhour shifts but since last May the company has been scheduling three eight-hour shifts.

Many workers in the truck tire division reported for work Saturday, August 29, at noon, the time they would ordinarily report if six-hour shifts had been scheduled, in an effort to force the company to live up to the contract. Consequently, when they reported the next day at 2:00 p.m., the regular eight-hour starting time, many of their clock cards had been pulled and they were not admitted to the factory.

The company kept them locked out for three days, until the regional government conciliator had been called in on the case. The men went back to work on a six-hour basis pending further negotiations. The reactionary Akron Beacon Journal, of course, laid blame for the work stoppage at the door of the workers by calling it a "wild-cat strike.'

This is not the first time the government has been called in on this issue. For several weeks most of the tire builders have been quitting at the end of six hours instead of working the full eight-hour shift. The government conciliator in a previous meeting with labor and management representatives from the major rubber companies in Akron, ruled that six hours should be worked until he declared a labor shortage in the community. No such declaration has been made as yet. Strain of Pace Great

Goodyear, as well as the other rubber companies, has been trying to restore the eight-hour day for years. Now they are using the excuse of the national emergency and labor shortage to gain what they were unable to get in peacetime. But the workers are very zealously guarding their six-hour day.

Accompanying the six-hour day, which was won after a long, hard fight, was an increase in wages so that the workers have been making in six hours what they formerly made in eight.

Also accompanying the six-hour day was a terrific speed-up in the tire-building process which has taken a heavy toll in the health and lives of the workers. It is now impossible for them to keep up the pace they have become accustomed to for eight hours.

Many of the tire builders who transferred to other departments at the time of the slump in tire production before and immediately after Pearl Harbor refuse to return to building tires. They would make more money, but the strain of the work has become too great.

For these reasons the workers do not want to go back to eight hours. The union rightfully wants to retain the six-hour day in order to spread employment, since there is no labor shortage in Akron at the present time. They have pointed out to the company repeatedly that enough men could be hired if the employment qualifications were relaxed.

The union has, however, agreed that when a labor shortage does actually exist in Akron it will consent to eight-hour shifts for the duration of the war, provided the company will agree to go back to six hours when the war is over. Even this the reactionary bosses of Goodyear will not agree to.

It is plain to see from this that once labor gives up the six-hour day, it can regain it only after a longer and harder fight than before. Longer and harder because the postwar crisis will make the capitalists more reactionary and more desperate. They will have to fight too hard to hold on to their ill-gotten gains.

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LABOR ACTION

Of Special Interest **To Women**

-By Susan Green

The capitalist press has again been giving out on the subject of women workers. There is a hue and cry for 5,000,000 more women in war plants. Between you and me, thousands of women are being turned away from jobs for one reason or another. Between you and me, this is especially true if the color of their skin is deeper than a summer tan. However, there is no getting away from the fact that as men go off to war to the tune of 10,000,000 or more, women will have to take their places.

As a preparedness measure, Chairman McNutt of the War Manpower Commission has appointed a women's policy committee consisting of twelve women. They are reputed to be "leaders of labor, industry and public activities." There is no need to give the list.

Needless to say, there is no rank and file worker among them-no woman from the bench, no woman from the machine, no woman whose face is turned toward her fellow working women and whose mind is on their problems.

Every one of these "leaders of labor, industry and public activities" has the same "qualification"-she is not known as a militant champion for labor above all else. Her eyes are focussed on fulfilling the demands of the war machine-otherwise she would not have been chosen. Like all the committees in Washington, the purpose of this one also is to tie the worker-in this case the woman worker-behind the war chariot.

According to the figures of Mr. McNutt, if 5,000,000 women are added to the labor force, there will be 18,000,-000 women in industry by the end of 1943. They will be "plowed under" by the bosses and the war machine-UNLESS THEY PROTECT THEMSELVES THROUGH MILITANT UNION ORGANIZATION AND FEARLESS ACTION ON THEIR OWN BEHALF.

On September 8, Governor Lehman and Mayor La Guardia were among the speakers dedicating the completion of a few buildings of what is known as the Fort Greene Houses Project, financed by the New York City Housing Authority with state assistance. The usual blahblah was forthcoming in abundance, you can be sure. Equally sure can you be of the fact that the true import of the Fort Greene Houses Project was not touched.

This project was a gauge-though a very stingy one -of what could be done for the house-starved population. Here was a housing project which for the sum of \$20,363,000-ONLY ABOUT ONE-FIFTH THE COST OF AN UP-TO-THE-MINUTE BATTLESHIP AND MERE CHICKEN-FEED THESE DAYS-could have provided modern homes for some 3,501 families or for about 13,133 men, women and children. A community building for recreation was part of the plan. The project was to cover twenty-three city blocks near the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Some 710 old buildings-many of them old-law tenements-were cleared away for the project.

The war with its priorities and its stoppage of all civilian "baubles," has definitely cramped the style of the Fort Greene Houses project. For, from being a plan for the permanent housing of families, it has now degenerated into "defense housing," and, of course, a community building had to go along with other "luxuries."

Because of the stubborn opposition of landlords waxing rich from high rentals of fire-trap dwellings and because the peacetime needs of the population is about the last thing to which a profit-making system is dedicated, government housing projects before the war only scratched the surface of the stupendous need for housing.

A socialist making a dedication speech at the Fort Greene Houses project would say: "You must consider

Roosevelt's Message to Congress Contains Threat of Wage Freezing

(Continued from page 1)

President Roosevelt did not propose this!

To continue: Roosevelt asked Congress to change the provisions of the Price Control Act which prohibit ceilings on farm prices below 110 per cent of parity. That was given greatest space and attention in his speech.

The provisions he refers to were legislated under the pressure of the powerful farm lobby which represents the rich farmer, NOT the poor farmer. And it is true: any kind of price control which doesn't put an effective limit on farm products (that is, food) is so much nonsense.

But has he actually proposed a sensible ceiling (from the workers' viewpoint) on farm prices. He has not!

Roosevelt asks legislation that will permit him to fix "prices at parity, or at levels of a recent date, whichever is higher."

What is "parity"? It is a formula which arbitrarily selects a period in the past when prices were highest and fixes that as the normal or "parity" price. Roosevelt adds that if the price at a "recent date" be higher than this arbitrarily selected period, that this be chosen as the farm price norm.

As against the insistence of the farm bloc on, 110 per cent of parity (which by virtue of various features in the Price Control Act actually works out to 116 per cent), Roosevelt's proposal is a step in the right direction. BUT IT IS A FEEBLE STEP, LACKING VITAL MEANING TO THE WORKER-CONSUMER.

If farm prices are to be worked out satisfactorily, they should be worked out by committees of workers (unions) and farmers, setting an adequate price through collaboration and joint investigation.

But it is the weakness of the farm price proposal, coupled with the attention deliberately given it, that makes the whole message and speech so dangerously suspect.

Roosevelt makes a big to-do about his "parity" proposal, challenges Congress to enact his proposals else he will take matters into his own hands (we shall comment on this aspect of the question at a later time), diverts attention that way, gives the appearance that he is trying to benefit labor by stopping the inflationary gap, and quietly and surreptitiously slips in his wage freezing intentions.

If proof be needed, we cite the congressional reaction (again omitting the indignation of some congressmen over Roosevelt's ultimatism).

On the day after Roosevelt's speech, virtually all newspapers carried the news that wage freezing is in the offing. The New York Times, for example, headlined: "Action to Avert Inflation Is Started in the Senate," and right under it, added: "Wage Limits Seen."

Indignant as some of the congressmen appear to be over Roosevelt's usurpation of congressional

rights, none of them, so far as we could see, denied Roosevelt the power to freeze wages without congressional order, considering that as already part of his powers.

It should be added that the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, Edward A. O'Neal, immediately stressed "pay curb as need."

Thus, while Congress will haggle over farm prices and while Roosevelt may make a halting move in that direction, the one thing that appears certain is a wage-freezing order.

Roosevelt rarely tackles an issue against which there is much opposition head-on. Before his speech he allowed the strongest rumors to circulate. Every paper and commentator carried the information that Roosevelt was going to demand wage freezing and an "economic czar" (against both of which the unions have expressed their opposition.)

Then came his speech with that angle played down so as to win for his proposals the widest popular support. But neither the congressmen nor the newspapers were misled. They all seem to be of the opinion that Roosevelt has decided upon wage freezing but is holding it up in order to force concessions to his farm proposals.

In fact, a limited kind of wage freezing already exists: in the shape of the WLB Little Steel formula, which has been applied in case after case.

Roosevelt's scheme may be more drastic. However, even assuming that it goes no further than the WLB formula, it is still objectionable in the extreme.

It is a scheme devised with the intention of maintaining given standards of living. It says, in effect, that if you, John Worker, lived in a shack, ate meat only once a week, you must continue to live in that shack and continue eating meat only once a week. If your shack becomes more 'expensive or the price of meat goes up, you will be allowed an increase equal to that rise, and no

Despite all the talk about "higher wages," the average income for a working class FAMILY is about \$30 a week, and for millions it is less!

We repeat what we have already said a hundred times: labor's living standard is too low. IT MUST GO UP!

But while Roosevelt's wage freezing formula may be no worse (and that's bad enough) than the WLB formula, its actual operation will mean a DEPRESSED living standard.

Roosevelt intends to couple a wage freezing order with a plan to remove purchasing power by taxation, forced savings, and other means.

Labor today, after the lean years of crisis and unemployment, is spending more on food and clothing. Roosevelt proposes to limit that. In his speech, again not so that it stood out, Roosevelt made it clear that he means to put such limitations on purchasing power as will cut into the living standards of the people.

Only a fool will say that this affects the rich as well as the poor. What will the rich give up, regardless of how heavily they are taxed: food, clothing and other essentials? Hardly, Only the tiniest fraction of their income goes for that pur-

Roosevelt didn't specify what taxes he has in mind. But they are obvious enough in the various proposals that have been coming from

the Treasury and the congressional financ committees. They include taxes through payroll deductions, steeper taxes on the lower incomes, fewer exemptions, and possibly a sales tax.

These are propositions which cut into the very heart of labor's living standard.

Yes, Roosevelt made some reference to stabilizing profits. But he has said this before, too, and profits continue to pile up. Despite the higher taxes of last year, net profits went up for most of the big businesses.

And suppose the new taxes do lower profits a bit. What of it? They mean less for those who are already wealthy. It is merely "less" than the bloated incomes the profiteers now receive.

Suppose a profiteer gets a half million dollars instead of a million. What of it! He has no more right to the half million, sucked out of production for war, than to the million. And it's substantial enough to guarantee him a "fairly decent" standard of living. And, further, it should be remembered that most of these gentlemen have sizeable fortunes stowed away in savings and investments which are non-taxable.

We propose a 100 per cent war profits tax! We propose a levy on accumulated wealth!

Roosevelt didn't make much of it in his speech, but in his reference to his seven-point program he indicated that he was still for a \$25,000 limit on income.

This is one issue on which we agree with the President. Not that we think \$25,000 just compensation for most of those whom it would affect. We favor compensation in accord with work and skill. The \$25,000 incomes go primarily to those who do little work, and have less skill. There is no reason on earth why one man should receive \$25,000 for clipping coupons or doing the arduous and "skilled" work of negotiating a fat government contract, while another gets \$30 or \$40 or \$50 a week for long hours over a work bench.

However, a \$25,000 limit would be a step in the right direction. A small step perhaps, but a good one. Roosevelt did nothing about it the last time he proposed it, and Congress certainly did less. There is little reason to believe that he or Congress will do more now.

But we favor it, and propose that a \$25,000 ceiling be put on all incomes immediately!

Whatever his attacks on the farm bloc or business may be, the fact remains that Roosevelt and Congress both are piling the burden of war and war expenditure on labor.

However much taxes may cut into the bloated incomes, they do infinitely more damage, the way they are now devised, to the meager incomes.

However much the "stabilization" scheme may affect profits, it affects the living standards of the people more.

Labor must show that it understands the issues, that it sees the inflationary danger where it actually is-in run-away prices and soaring profits-and that it stands ready to resist further inroads on its standard of living.

Let our basic approach be this: We will not allow the burden of war to be loaded upon our thoulders: we stand opposed to wage freezing; we will not allow our standard of living to be cut; WE DEMAND A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIV-ING!

Things Crazy And Not So Crazy----

-By Gertrude Shaw

In his speech before the International Students' A sembly on September 3, President Roosevelt used man fine-sounding words. For instance, he spoke of the "hope for a new life that can be lived in freedom, it justice and decency."

The hope for a new life that can be lived in freedom in justice and decency is not crazy. What is crazy is t suppose that such a life can come through an imperialis war. THAT IS MADNESS.

There are many ways of proving that to expect shining new world at the end of the war, is to have bad case of bats in the belfry. One way of proving the is to put Harold L. Ickes, Mr. Roosevelt's own Secretary of the Interior, on the stand.

In a recent article in Collier's magazine, Mr. Ickes made no bones about the whys and the wherefores .o. the war. "Germany herself is practically without of resources," writes Mr. Ickes. Further, as a source of oi "We can ignore Europe in the main." Therefore, "HIT-LER REACHES FOR THE WORLD'S OIL," blazes the headline over Mr. Ickes' article.

The four main oil areas outside the United States, Mr. Ickes authoritatively tells us, are Central and South America, Russia, the Far East and the Near East. A glance at this enumeration reveals that the United Nations were "oil-logged"-the Axis nations were "oil starved."

So Germany, Italy and Japan reach for the "world's oil"-which means the oil resources held before the war by the United Nations. ISN'T IT MENTAL AND MORAL DEPRAVITY TO PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO HELL-OVER PETROLEUM!

To be sure, in this day and age petroleum is indis pensable to all nations and all peoples. It is used for heat in homes and factories. It is used for motive power on land, on sea and in the air. It is used to run machine in the factory and on the farm. It must be hed for lubrication. It is burned to generate electricity. It has many other basic uses. Without it modern life is impossible.

So what! Does that make it less criminal to kill millions of human beings, to annihilate cities, to destroy hundreds of billions of dollars of wealthfor oil!

There is a way-a sane and sensible way-whereby mankind can peacefully share oil and all the resources of the world needed for modern life. That is the way of the working people emancipated from domestic and foreign bosses, producing and exchanging raw and finished material for human use, according to human needs. THAT IS THE WAY OF THE ENLIGHTENED WORKING PEOPLE - OPPOSED TO THE LUNACY OF IMPERIALIST CONQUEST.

Is the present war being fought for this sane method of international exchange? Will victory for the United Nations lead to the kind of world to which Mr. Roosevelt pays lip service? Hear Mr. Ickes on the subject.

Mr. Ickes does not pussyfoot. He calls this war a "STRUGGLE FOR MASTERY OF THE WORLD"not a struggle for a new world in which imperialist competition will be no more. To Mr. Ickes the future of the world is a matter of "WHO CONTROLS ITS OIL RESOURCES"-nothing more humane than that.

Mr. Roosevelt's picture of life "without fear ofthe horrors of war" cannot be realized either on the basis of the United States winning world mastery or on the basis of Germany winning world mastery -through control of oil and other resources. Whichever one is the victor, its mastery will before long be challenged by the vanquished. This war will lay the basis for the next. The crazy whirligig will go on endlessly — until the international working

not for the peacetime needs of people."

In her column in the Ladies Home Journal a reader asked Mrs. Roosevelt how come she and her husbandin addition to the White House-have other houses, estates, camps, apartments-with servants to matchwhen everybody is supposed to be sacrificing. A good question.

Mrs. Roosevelt's reply is-in its way-even better. She protests that the Roosevelts do not own the White House.

Ordinary mortals lease a place for a year, and call it home. Many, many who haven't the financial standing to lease a flat, rent from month to month-and call it home. The Roosevelts went to the White House for a minimum of four years, and are staying twelve. But presumably they must have a backlog of personal housing-even as a capitalist yearns for a backlog of orders.

She also tried to save face by claiming there is no market for real estate today, implying they would sell some of their backlog if they could. That may be true. However, neither is there a market-today or any other day-let us say for the tumble-down shack inhabited by the sharecropper and family. WOULD THAT PER-HAPS PLACE THE ROOSEVELTS AND THE SHARE-CROPPER ON THE SAME SOCIAL LEVEL?

There came to Washington, representing Russia at the International Students' Assembly, the fabulous Lt. Liudmila Pavlichenko, 26-year-old girl sniper in the Red Army-credited with killing 309 Germans. For this feat she is acclaimed a great heroine in the arsenal and citadel of "democracy."

Hówever, this girl is peculiarly symbolic of the unrelieved brutality that reigns in both the Nazi and "democratic" camps in this war. In former wars it was deemed part and parcel of the sad vicissitude of war itself either to kill the enemy or to be killed by him. It was even with a measure of regret that a soldier killed his fellow man. Today, however, the Nazi propaganda . machine denies to the people of the United Nations the status of human beings. The propaganda machine of the United Nations returns the compliment.

Apparently Lt. Pavlichenko has taken her government's word for it that the Germans are not human beings. "The only feeling I have," she said, "is the great satisfaction a hunter feels who has killed a beast of prey or a poisonous snake."

Not only does Lt. Pavlichenko personify the brutality of all the warring countries in this conflict. She is proof par excellence of the degeneracy of the Stalinist bureaucracy and of the complete disappearance of all Socialist thought from the minds of those who mold public opinion in Russia.

In the Russia of Lenin and Trotsky, the people understood that the soldiers in all the imperialist armies were human beings victimized by their imperialist masters, serving as cannon fodder. In the Russia of Lenin and Trotsky, the people were taught to fraternize with the soldier-worker in the enemy army, as the only way to bring about a people's peace.

But Stalin teaches the people to be unthinking killers, and instead of the satisfaction of a Socialist goal, he gives them the brutal satisfaction of the hunter of his fellow men.

the Fort Greene Houses and the nearby Navy Yard together. Together they are a monument to the fact that capitalist society can go all-out for war needs-but A Disease of the Profit System - -

(Continued from page 1)

lies, which are in a position to set the prices. Moreover, as the patent controllers of new techniques, inventions, etc., they prevent such improvements from being used in production, where they would bring better goods for the masses at lower prices.

The other Black Market, the scavenger Black Market, is an outgrowth of the imperialist war which brings an opportunity for the cruder vultures of capitalism to operate. In the desire for extra profits, they will defy such laws as hinder their profits; and will risk such penalties as are involved-at present light and comparatively inconsequential.

The legal procedure for prosecution at the same time is so involved, cumbersome and long-drawnout as not to phase these obvious profit-hunters.

GOVERNMENT WON'T STOP BLACK MARKET

The cold truth is that the capitalist class and the government-the latter with its many agencies and thousands of government bureaucrat investigators of Black Market practices-will not seriously stamp out the Black Market-any more than the government of capitalism can be expected to stamp out capitalism itself. So far as any remedies are possible, and there are some, it is the masses who will have to endeavor to invoke the proposals and fight for their adoption.

The control of food supplies particularly (and consumption articles generally) must be taken out of the hands of the food (and other) monopolies and the middlemen brokers-out of the hands of boss control. Their concern is never with giving the masses full value for their money or labor.

The masses obviously cannot afford to pay Black Market prices, even with wage increases



Act of March 8, 1879.

-since the latter are more than lost today through various taxes and higher prices. The burdens of the imperialist war (abroad-in the blood shed onthe battlefields: at home-in every way which concerns their pocketbooks) are being foisted on the masses. The lack of consumer goods today in several fields only makes it more imperative to devise and adopt protective measures for the working people. Government "investigating committees"-of which there are already an overflow, developing a tremendous and costly bureaucracy -are not the answer.

FOR COMMITTEES. FROM MASSES

But committees of the masses-these are possible. Committees made up from the trade unions, women's auxiliaries of labor unions, from groups of housewives, consumer cooperatives and also representation from the employees of the large food and related consumption corporations, and even from the small retail shopkeepers. Such broad, active committees are most concerned and in the best position seriously to investigate the problem of prices in consumer goods.

Such committees would really be interested to seek out and find food and other consumer goods lying idle (i.e., unsold, awaiting an even more profitable market) in warehouses, granaries, etc.

Such broad committees-once they achieve certain strength-would not tolerate food rotting away for lack of picking or harvesting, or insufficient profits for the big farmers or middlemen, who face labor shortages because they refuse to pay agricultural laborers a living wage. Such committees would DEMAND that all goods be made available for mass use.

Such committees would seriously aim to LOWER PRICES and, equally important, assure EQUAL RATIONING.

Such committees can also be formed on a broader mass basis-BLOCK COMMITTEES of housewives, small storekeepers, etc.-cooperating with the major committees. Incorporating larger numbers into the consideration of immediate and elementary problems, such block committees could meet virtually overnight and work out their proposals and demands on the government authorities and employers.

Such broad committees would have sufficient authority and strength, considering their wide representation from labor organizations, etc., to hold large mass meetings and demonstrations where the masses of workers and their families -especially those workers engaged in producing the consumer goods in question-could be made intimately acquainted with the price and rationing problems, and measures for common action and remedy worked out.

In addition, such committees would endeavor to work out ways and means for an alliance with the poor farmers to ensure that agricultural products get to the cities; and are sold or distributed to the masses at prices and on terms agreed upon between representatives of the farmers' groups and organizations of the workers.

In the First World War, especially in the smaller cities, the farmers came in at announced intervals to sell directly to the consumers. Today fears are being voiced by the large chain merchandisers that such direct marketing may again interfere with their ability to set prices at obviously higher levels.

But all the foregoing is just another way of stating that only the mass control and direction of their needs by the people can assure to the working people the receipt of the minimum necessities of life. The means outlined-these broad committees, the organization of the exploited peoples-can help to put a dent in Black Market prices and practices; and, more important, can expose and curb to some extent the big profit aims of big business.

In the efforts of these working sections of society to achieve some of their immediate needs and aims, they will come better to realize that Black Markets and profiteering and exploitation -and the imperialist war itself-are rooted in the economic order of capitalism; and that only the abolition of the latter by the action of the masses can solve their problems in a fundamental man-

For it must be understood that distribution is always ultimately controlled by those who own and control production. Today the bosses own. Tomorrow, in the Workers State, the workers would own production and would therefore be in a position to control and direct distribution in the interests of the working masses.

classes establish sanity by overthrowing all the master-minded imperialist rulers of the world.

Is there perhaps somebody-still wet behind the ears -with the idiotic notion that Mr. Ickes wants world mastery for the United States so that it can become the good Samaritan and distribute oil and other raw materials equally among all nations? A reading of Mr. Ickes article would quickly dispel such a fantastic notion.

Mr. Ickes knows that control of oil resources eventually means control of world markets. He has his eye cocked for "ACCESSIBILITY OF FOREIGN MAR-KETS," for "EXPANDING FOREIGN TRADE,"-which is exactly why Hitler wants world domination through control of oil and everything else controllable!

That idealistic picture of a shining new world at the end of the war is Hollywood stuff. The material realities of the delirious war dance of world imperialism cannot be mistaken. THAT CRAZY BUSINESS HAP-PENED ONCE BEFORE.

Some workers-who do not understand the pivotal position the working class holds to make a really better world-reason, unfortunately without benefit of reason, along the following lines: "Well, the world being the rotten thing it is, if American imperialists win the war, American industry will get orders and at least we will have jobs-rather than the German workers."

Yes-if they live that long! Yes-but when and for how long! And why, for heaven's sake, should the American working class be satisfied with a state of misery for hundreds of millions of fellow workers in Europe and in the colonial countries!

This is as crazy as anything the mad hatter ever conceived. For-at this stage of technological advancement and international communication-it is possible for the working people of the whole world to have economic security, work for all, plenty of the goods of life, permanent peace-AND MASTERY OF THEIR OWN DESTINIES.

Yes, sanity is possible on this earth. Not, however, through the aberrations of an imperialist war-but, on the contrary, through the united struggle of the international working classes against international imperialism-THROUGH SOCIALISM.



EDITORIAL PAGE

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A

Editorials 'Free' Labor

"Free Labor Will Win the War." This was the slogan offered to labor by the AFL and the CIO on Labor Day of this year. Murray and Green both urged that any and all sacrifices should be made by free American labor.

On the very same day we got a taste of just what is happening to free American labor under the war economy of Roosevelt. Paul. V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, issued an order freezing non-ferrous metal and lumber workers to their jobs in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico and Texas.

Under this decree a metal or lumber worker cannot quit his present job unless he gets a "certificate of separation" from the United States Employment Service. This certificate will be granted to a worker at the discretion of the employment service and only provided they think a change of job would benefit the war effort. The worker himself has nothing to say in the matter. Government spokesmen admitted that workers "would find it difficult to get separation certificates permitting them to take up other occupations or even to transfer from one company to another in the same.

This step is a blow at free American labor-its power to change its job; its right to improve its standard of living by moving about; its right to move about the country without some sort of "passport."

line of work."

Let there be no mistake about it—this is only the START of this policy of chaining labor to the job it now holds! Roosevelt is beginning with two industries; he will extend it to all other important industries as time goes by. Unless action is taken now to stop this move, labor will find itself "frozen" to every job in the country.

Coolie Wages

Here's something to make the labor-hating bosses and the politicians who serve them eat their lies about wages.

There are 7,500,000 American workers who receive 40 cents an hour-OR LESS. Yes, 7,500,000 --- or 19 per cent of all American workers — are living "right on the edge of the minimum standard of health and decency or below it."

These are the words of L. Metcalf Walling of the United States Department of Labor. He ought to know.

Only one-fifth, or 1,500,000, of this group of shamefully underpaid workers earn between 30 and 40 cents an hour. The rest - 6,000,000 - are paid LESS. Many are on the coolie basis of 15 cents an hour-AND LESS.

Figuring on a weekly basis of 40 hours, a worker earning 15 cents an hour is the master of every bit of \$6.00 at the end of the week. Making Mr. Walling's deduction for the rise in the cost of living, \$6.00 is the same as \$4.50 in buying power.

This is not quite as bad as the wages of the colonial slaves in the East—but not too far from it.

Duping the Draftee

Among the most vicious attempts of the boss propagandists is the one aimed at arousing the soldier 'against his brother or sister working in a factory.

The newspapers in particular play this tune loudly: "Look, you men in uniform, here you are making a mere fifty bucks a month, and those crooks in the factories are trying to make fifty bucks a week." And every time a group of workers asks for a raise they get a teary sermon about the men on Bataan.

The propagandists go to great length to prove that the men in the Army resent high wages in the factories, and get fighting mad whenever a worker asks for a raise. We doubt it; we doubt it for the good and sufficient reason that the men in the Army (including those who suffered at Bataan) are composed overwhelmingly of workers. To the extent that it is true, however, the unions have a job on their hands. It is up to the unions to counteract this nefarious propaganda which doesn't stem from a tearful concern over the income of the soldier (consider how long it took to get the soldiers a raise), but arises instead from a calculated effort to depress wages. IT IS TO THE INTEREST OF THE SOL-

DIER TO SIDE WITH THE WORKER FIGHTING FOR A WAGE INCREASE! THE WORKER DEMANDING A WAGE INCREASE IS FIGHTING THE SOLDIER'S BATTLE ON THE FACTORY FRONT!

The union men seeking higher wages are defending the SOLDIER'S standard of living. Otherwise, when the men in the Army come home, they will find wages at coolie levels; they will find themselves working for the same fifty-a-month; they will find, especially when there will be three men to every job with the cessation

Workers Party Organizes Full-Time, Two Weeks School

The most ambitious educational enterprise ever undertaken in the history of the Trotskyist movement was successfully completed in New York the other day with the termination of a two-weeks, full-time national training school organized by the national committee of the Workers Party.

A total of thirty-one students attended the school and took the series of eight courses which were divided into four for each of the two weeks.

The fact that the school was organized during the war was reflected in the composition of the student body. With an increasing number of male party members now serving with the armed forces, and the need for educated and trained female party militants becoming more urgent by the hour, so to speak, it was only natural that the majority of the students should be women comrades, 18 out of 31, to be exact.

National in Scope

Other statistics, accurately compiled in a student registration, are. of interest. The great majority of the students came from centers outside of New York, which contributed only about one-third of the total number. The student body was truly national in scope, comrades coming to the school from centers as far away as California, and from two centers in the South, as well as from centers on the Atlantic seaboard.

A sign of the growing importance of woman labor in industry was seen in the fact that although there were more women in attendance than men, the majority was nevertheless composed of industrial workers; non-workers made up less than seven per cent of the total. A majority of the students was of course organized

and active in the trade union movement.

Figures on student age reflected the fact that the Workers Party militants are mainly young. While ages ranged from 18 to 39, the average age of the student body was approximately 26 years. Length of membership in the working class revolutionary movement ranged from less than a year, in some cases, to as high as three or four years and in one case as long as eight years.

Seminars Supplement Classes

Courses given at the school occupied the students a full day in and a full day out for two solid weeks. Time was divided between lectures by the instructor, periods of study in assigned reading and special seminars in the evening on subjects not specifically or not elaborately enough dealt with in the day sessions.

Sessions-with one lecture a day. six days a week, for each subject -were devoted to a course on the ABC of Marxian economics, the economic development and structure of American capitalism, imperialism, the Marxian theory of the state, trade union theory and practice, history and principles of the Trotskyist movement, theory and practice of party organization, and a series of lectures on the program and policies of the Workers Party.

In addition, there were evening seminars on the theory of the permanent revolution, the functioning of the revolutionary press, the Negro problem in the United States-the Negro question had also been dealt with in the courses on trade unionism and on imperialism-and other subjects.

Mimeographed Outlines

The studies of the comrades were greatly facilitated by the advance

MOW Policy Conference --

(Continued from page 1)

being used or sold out by the leaders. That is why Randolph has announced a national policy conference to be held at the end of September in Detroit. Randolph has stated that any member of the local divisions of the MOW can attend the national conference and have a voice and vote.

Masses Want March

The local divisions of the MOW, at special meetings called for this purpose, should see to it that a substantial delegation from the ranks is sent to the Detroit conference, since the central theme of the conference is to be the question of a march on Washington. Otherwise the only ones who will be able to attend the conference from various cities will be the middle-class and professional leaders - the only ones who can afford the time and expense of the trip on their own. It is at such a decisive turn in the direction of this movement that the ranks of the MOW should have an opportunity to register by official vote the real sentiment of the masses at home-and that is that the MARCH ON WASHINGTON MOVE-MENT SHOULD DECIDE TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON. Randolph poses the central question thus: "Should Negroes march on Washington and when?" This ambiguous posing of the question is typical of Randolph's attempt to face two ways. He implies, on the one hand, that a national march is unquestionably planned; while, on the other hand, he reserves to himself the privilege of withdrawing of the Negro masses to march, Ran-

if the pressure from the Administration becomes too hot, or if the Administration grants him a conference.

Randolph appears interested in threatening a march on Washington Detroit conference should declare only in order to obtain a conference themselves unambiguously for a with the President. Yet Randolph March on Washington, and then and admitted that "the President and the there set the date. government have failed us." The Negro masses should reject Randolph's intention to threaten a march make plans in preparation for the only if another executive order from national march. These plans should the President is not obtained. include, not only local marches on

Why does Randolph change his city halls, but also a series of marches and picketing of Jim Crow plants mind so often about a real mass March on Washington? Is it because in various cities. Such actions in St. he realizes that such a demonstra-Louis, Akron and Cleveland have of Negro strength and dete

preparation of mimeographed course outlines, so that each daily session of each course was accompanied by a synoptic outline which ended by indicating the supplementary reading material recommended for further studies in the subject.

The amplitude of the outlines lines may be judged from the fact that for the seven courses for which they were prepared (the course on party program and policies was not provided with an outline) the mimeographed material runs to well over 200 single-spaced pages. The outlines are to be used as standard material, henceforth, in the educational work of party branches.

Instructors at the schools included Harry Allen, David Coolidge, Emanuel Garrett, editor of LABOR AC-TION; Albert Gates, who acted as school director; J. R. Johnson and Max Shachtman.

The students and the school management wish to take this occasion to express their appreciation to the comrades of the Workers Party in New York who so generously loaned books of the type and in the amount necessary to make up an excellent school library, and who supplied the students, with equal generosity, with comradely homes for the two-week period they spent here.

The National Training School of the Workers Party was the first two-weeks, full-time school ever organized by the Fourth Internationalist movement. The enthusiasm of all who attended it, the general satisfaction expressed by all the students, the results which everybody felt had been achieved -all these showed that the school was truly a milestone in the development of the Workers Party. We look forward to another Training School for other students as soon as it can be organized!

We have now begun the fourth year of the Second World War. If you still remember, it all supposedly began when the troops of German imperialism marched into that obscure corridor created by the First World War-the Polish Corridor. But everyone understands that this petty. event, in and of itself, did not cause this war, let alone its subsequent spreading to every continent, every corner and every remote area of the world.

FOURTH YEAR:

By Henry Judd-

And the World

War Goes On!

Huge armies now wrestle with one another over barren and bitterly hot waste and in the African deserts; naval forces of great powers do battle around obscure islands in the South Pacific, where the cannibalistic natives are awe-stricken by the infinitely more ferocious appetites and murderous instincts of the "civilized" American and Japanese forces; convoys battle through in the Arctic waters off Murmansk and struggle up the Volga to Stalingrad; great forces train and prepare for NEXT YEAR'S battles, when the probable effort to open up the second front will be made in Northern France.

The entire world is at war: engaged in a planetary, global struggle that has boiled down to a life-and-death clash between two great camps of imperialism, both built on power politics and policies. The United Nations, headed by the English-American-Russian triumvirate, fights the Axis, headed by the German-Italian-Japanese triumvirate, for mastery of the world.

APPROACH INTERNATIONAL STALEMATE

After the completion of three full years of war, and with our entrance upon the fourth blooddrenched year, it is necessary for us to draw certain conclusions both as to where we stand and where we are going. An innumerable flock of questions-how much longer will the war last? Who will win it? Who is winning now? What will happen before it is over? What will happen when it is over? These and other questions concern every American worker. Roosevelt-in his Labor Day message-has given us HIS answer: Sacrifice, prepare for worse, expect worse and perhaps it will end (some day or other). But he speaks from the narrow, class view of the American ruling class. We must speak from the viewpoint of the working class. We have two main conclusions to offer:

(1) The global, imperialist war is tending to become (if it has not already become) an international stalemate, with both of the battling camps incapable of knocking out the other, putting its knee in the other's stomach and dictating the terms of a peace.

Both camps are too evenly matched (the deficiencies of one-for example, in manpower-are matched by the deficiencies of the other-for example, in trained soldiery). Each time Hitler's forces solve a problem they are confronted by a dozen other problems; each time the Allies hold tight on one front they must rush to hold another front.

This game of give-and-take, push-and-pull proceeds all over the world. Here the Allies lick Rommel in Libya; there Hitler takes Stalingrad in Russia; here the Italians get licked in the Mediterranean; there the Japanese push a few inches closer to Australia, or India. What does the whole thing add up to from the standpoint of imperialism, or world control by one combination of big powers? Zero, ZERO! The war goes on and Hitler (who promised to avoid another winter on the Russian front) tells his people to prepare themselves for the horrors of a second winter! The rulers, all ruling classes alike, have no solution to the problems they have created through their system In three years of war we now realize (or should) that no one great power (Germany or America, for instance) can gain, by itself, mastery of the entire world and dictate its terms of exploitation and order. There can be no one great, super-imperialism maintaining a stranglehold of world domination and so-called peace. The greatest challenger for this role yet, Germany, has proved the impossibility of this oft-talked-of imperialist Utopia by its failure to really organize. dominate and control the continent of Europe, let alone the world! This is our first main conclusion: the war is approaching an international stalemate which is accompanied by a further deterioration and exhaustion of all powers involved; that the imperialists cannot bring peace in any manner or form but must continue to drag mankind along the bloody road; that not a single one of the present . combatants (either singly or collectively) can win the war in the sense of imposing peace and order by superior armed force and violence.

dolph has conceded and declared from sponsorship of such a march that IF a national March on Washington is decided upon, preparation for the national mobilization will take the form of a series of local marches on city halls. Good. That means that, first, the ranks at the

At 40 cents an hour a worker gets the of war production, that they must once munificent sum of \$16 a week—if he is again struggle for all those working condilucky enough to work a full week. At what tions and wages which the men in the level of existence can he afford to live?

With the rise in prices what it is, Mr. Walling estimates that the 40 cents an respect. It is up to them, and them prihour is reduced to 30 cents in actual purchasing power. The worker's \$16, therefore, is equal to \$12 in terms of rent, food, clothing, amusement — a veritable war- be going into the Army. They must turn lord!

But don't think that all of the 7,500,000 get these "lordly privileges" that accrue to the earner of 40 cents an hour.

unions are now seeking to defend.

The unions have been negligent in this marily, to put the issue in its proper light. They must explain it to their own memberships, increasing numbers of which will the draftee's anger where it properly belongs: against the profiteers and swindlers. Above all, they must try to reach the draftee with the union point of view on wages. mination to fight for democracy at home will make the Negro masses move toward a constant stream of militant actions in which the vacillating leadership of Randolph and the other MOW leaders today will be supplanted by more determined leaders?

The Negro masses have a healthy distrust of the imperialist war. Randolph knows this. But any leader, like Randolph, who supports the "war for democracy" abroad is forced, in one way or another, consciously or not," to sell out the struggle at home in the interests of "national unity." Randolph does it today by "postponing" a MARCH ON WASHINGTON. Tomorrow, as the war pressure grows stronger, he will sell out the Negro masses even more crassly.

Let's Set the Date! In the face of the determination

SATURDAY

IRVING PLAZA

15th STREET AT IRVING PLACE

TICKETS — 75 CENTS

• OCTOBER 10, 9 p.m.

WATCH THIS SPACE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

had positive effects; orga national scale they will be powerful instruments, not only for organizing toward a national March on Washington, but for getting jobs for thousands of Negro workers.

Next, they should then and there

The MOW in various cities can easily and effectively register Negro workers who want jobs in industry. Mass action through a series of ultimatums and marches on Jim Crow plants will get jobs for a large number of these workers.

This is the kind of actions which the MOW must carry out if it is to an effective mass movement. These are the kinds of actions which can be taken if the dominant elements within the MOW committees are Negro workers. For it is the Negro workers, unlike the Negro middle class and professional elements which dominate the MOW today, who know the desperate need of jobs in industry for the Negro masses

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

(2) Our more important conclusion is this: that only the working class, supported by the poor farmers and lowest middle class elements, can break the stalemate and drag itself out of this deadlock. It is, obviously, the great masses of people (workers, farmers and middle classes) who are the victims of the deadlock we have described. They will do the interminable and useless fighting (be it a second front, an eighth front, a millionth front); they will be drowned in the savage bloodlettings of the Nazis; they will sacrifice everything in the war economy schemes of FDR and Churchill. The rulers call the tune, but it is the working class that pays the piper!

This point-that only the revolutionary working class can break the iron ring forged by imperialism-answers the question of how long the war will last. It will last just so long as the workers allow it to last, and not one second longer! It will last until the proletariat takes the deadlock into its own two hands and smashes it to bits with the iron bar of socialist action for peace and fraternization of all the warring forces!

If this does not happen, then-if we accept as scientific and accurate the first conclusion stated above-then the war can last into the indefinite future, with all the grim consequences that such a tragedy would have.

But we would be foolish indeed to think that this stalemate can continue indefinitely. Imperialism is already breaking at one of its weakest links, the great sub-continent of India, whose 400,000,000 have launched themselves unhesitatingly on the correct road. Let there be no mistake about itthe events in India already sound the approaching end of the Second World War!

WORKERS PARTY PLATFORM

Against Both Imperialist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labor 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 measurest
- 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 cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- 7. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
- 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. Sixty dollars 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 political, social and economic 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!
- 15. 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!

AUSPICES LABOR ACTION

• DANSE • LE JAZZ HOT DIVERTISSEMENT DE L'ART