## What the Smith-Connally Bill Means To Labor Movement

#### By MIKE STEVENS

Under the smokescreen of "national defense," both the House and Senate have passed the drastic and reactionary Smith-Connally anti-strike bill. It remains for the President to sign it and thus make it law, or to veto it.

The mine workers' struggle and threat of another strike is only a pretext for passing this bill. Smith and Connally, and others of their ilk, have been trying to pass such a bill for years. It was easy for them to pass this one because of the war situation and the fact that the labor leaders have already given up the right to strike. The leaders of labor sat on the War Labor Board and took part in its logical evolution from an advisory agency to a monster with compulsory, although no statutory, powers.

The text of the anti-strike bill falls into four parts:

#### 1. FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE WLB

At the CIO convention in Boston, November 9, 1942, Philip Murray proudly reported that "Under the leadership of the President, a national labor policy based on free and voluntary participation and leadership by labor and management was formulated and found expression through the work of the WLB." The creators of the anti-strike bill, the same gentlemen who have been attempting for many years to destroy the labor movement, also have complete confidence in the WLB. In their anti-strike bill they implement the power of the WLB by giving it real teeth. And thus the WLB, which was produced with the aid of Phillip Murray and the other labor leaders, has now become a Frankenstein's monster that will attempt to devour whatever remnants of free collective bargaining still exist.

Workers in virtually all industries come under the jurisdiction of the WLB and the penalties of the anti-strike bill, not only where there is a war contract, but any place where workers are employed, even if that particular establishment is NOT engaged in any kind of war work whatsoever, as long as "... the plant is equipped to manufacture..." war products at some future date. This takes in about everything, and it reveals that the basic interest of the sponsors of the bill is NOT their concern with the "interruption of war production," but the abolishing of the right to organize and enforce collective bargaining through the right to strike.

Only a few weeks ago, R. J. Thomas said that "In hundreds of plants today where the United Automobile Workers have forsworn their right to strike, collective bargaining has completely broken down. Whereas before the war, labor problems might be solved in a half-hour negotiation between management and union committeemen, today we find that many managements—thinking that labor's hands are tied—absolutely refuse to negotiate in good faith."

Imagine what will happen if the Connally bill becomes law. The bosses will be able to drag out negotiations or grievances for long extended periods, and then turn over the case to the WLB to toy around with for another year (as they did in the rubber dispute). Workers can be subpoenaed to appear before the WLB with all the union records and documents, so that the manufacturers' representatives on the board can find out the financial and numerical strength of the union and any other information they want. In the meantime, the cost of living will be rising, militant workers will be fired, and everything that R. J. Thomas said will be one thousand times truer and more aggravated.

If the situation becomes serious and the workers want to strike, they are permitted under the shackles of this anti-strike bill to—write a letter to the WLB! The reason for the letter is "in order that the President may be apprised of labor disputes which threaten seriously to interrupt war production and in order that employees may have an opportunity to express themselves, free from restraint or coercion, as to whether they will permit such interruptions in wartime."

#### 2. PENALTIES AND FINES

If the workers refuse to follow this procedure, either before or during this period, and go on strike, the union is "liable for damages resulting from such failure or refusal to any person injured thereby and to the United States if so injured." The district courts of the United States will determine the damages under the judicial code.

At the end of the thirty days, an election will be held by the National Labor Relations Board, and the workers will vote "whether they will permit any such interruption of war production."

If the international office of the union has permitted the local to go through with the strike vote and the workers have not caved in under all of this pressure, and they vote to strike, what then? This is the joker. The government takes the plant over, and anybody who even TALKS strike may be fined \$5,000 or imprisoned for one year, or both.

The section on "interference with government operation of plants" must be quoted at length in order to appreciate fully the wording and flavor of this completely reactionary clause, which is the real heart of the bill:

"Whenever any plant, mine or facility is in the possession of the United States, it shall be unlawful for any person (1) to coerce, instigate, induce, conspire with, or encourage any person, to interfere, by lockout, strike, slowdown, or other interruption, with the operation of such plant, mine or facility, or (2) to aid in any such lockout, strike, slowdown, or other interruption interfering with the operation of such plant, mine or facility by giving direction or guidance in the conduct of such interruption, or by providing funds for the conduct or direction thereof or for the payment of strike, unemployment, or other benefits to those participating therein....

JUNE 21, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

LABOR ACTION

ONE CENT

# Workers, Fight Political Reaction! BUILD A LABOR PARTY

### **Democracy on the Home Front**



**Recent Events in Miners' Strugale** 

### Congressional Anti-Labor Bill Must Be Fought With Independent Political Action

#### By ALBERT GATES

The viciously anti-labor Smith-Connally bill, passed by the Senate and the House, is now resting on the President's desk, awaiting his signature to make it a law of the land—or his veto, which would send it back to the reactionary legislative halls of Washington. It is only now that a storm is brewing in labor and liberal circles over the passage of this "fascist bill," as William Green, president of the AFL, described it.

While the bill was passing through Congress, too many of these labor leaders and liberals were busy denouncing John L. Lewis and the coal miners for their gallant struggle in the interests of all American labor against the oppressive conduct of the WLB and the coal operators. Had they understood the real meaning of the Smith-Connally bill earlier, the fight against it would have started some time ago Not that the liberals could have accomplished much; but certainly the organized labor movement was in a position to wage war against the designs of the congressional lackeys of big business and their allies, the Southern Bourbons.

See page two for the story on the conference of Detroit's Labor's Non-Partisan League and the resolution calling for the organization of a Labor Party adopted by the delegates.

Starting late, the labor leaders have a difficult struggle ahead of them. But their difficulty is caused not merely because their fight has begun so late, but also because their weapons cannot help a great deal. The labor leaders do not rely upon the independent and organized strength of labor. They are relying upon "pressure" on the President; they are living in hopes that the political interests of Roosevelt and his administration will direct him to veto the bill.

"Any person who wilfully violates any provision of this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for not more than one year, or both."

#### 3. POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Under the anti-strike bill, a union or corporation that makes any financial contribution to a political organization is liable to a \$5,000 fine, and each officer can be fined \$1,000 and imprisoned for one year.

Although this section includes corporations, it is intended essentially for trade unions. Corporations are headed by wealthy men who can very easily contribute thousands of dollars from their own pockets without drawing (directly) from corporation funds.

At first glance, this section of the bill seems irrelevant to the rest of the bill, but that is not true. The creators of the bill hope to make the unions impotent, kill the solidarity of the workers, and thus force the workers to seek reactionary outlets in their dilemma to better their conditions. The original draft even put the unions under the direct supervision of their resident state, in an attempt to stop workers from building large labor organizations that could carry on class action on a national scale.

(Continued on page 2)

# What Is WLB Up To Now?

#### By DAVID COOLIDGE

The "decison" on the settlement of the coal strike which is expected from the War Labor Board has not yet been announced as the time approaches for LABOR ACTION to go to press. This is too bad. We would have liked to comment this week on what the board has to say and the "award" it makes, if any. But despite the fact that LABOR ACTION goes to press before the WLB thunders forth again, there are a few significant happenings that require comment.

The first is the "fines" that Custodian Ickes threatened to levy against the miners. It is generally known that Ickes is Secretary of the Interior, Solid Fuels Administrator and

Custodian of the Mines by directive of the President, following his "seizure" of the mines and making of them "United States property." it seems that he does have the authority to levy fines! We don't know whether or not he has the power to collect the fines. What needs to be

We have commented in previous issues of this paper on the stronke role of Mr. Ickes. He is mine custodian and the mines are "United States property," but Mr. Ickes has no authority to deal with his new "employees" in the matter of wages and other matters involved in the present dispute! In all questions of contractual relations and wages, Ickes must take a back seat while the WLB takes over and does nothing that the miners can accept or agree with.

Although Mr. Ickes has no say in the matter of contracts and wages,

thority to levy fines! We don't know whether or not he has the power to collect the fines. What needs to be exposed is the manner in which Ickes handled this business of fines. There is a clause in the UMWA contract which says that if the miners go on strike during the life of the contract they shall be subject to a fine of \$1.00 a day for the days each miner is on strike in violation of the contract.

#### Facts About the Contract

After the men had gone back to work following the first "truce" some operators attempted to levy fines for such "violations," Ickes was against this, and so advised these operators. (Continued on page 4) Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins has joined Green and Murray in a denunciation of the bill and in requesting a presidential veto. Dean Alfange, erstwhile gubernatorial candidate of the American Labor Party, also denounced the bill as anti-democratic. In that, he merely echoed the position taken by the ALP. But a real ferment is to be found in the ranks of labor where the workers are fully aware of the repressive nature of the bill.

The so-called liberal press, in characteristic fashion, blows hot and cold on the issue. While PM has attacked the bill from the start, the New York Post is opposed to it merely because it would bar political contributions by labor unions. This is particularly anti-democratic because, while the Post doesn't give a fig about the other fascistic measures of the bill, it is concerned with money contributions since it is already hawking the fourth term for Roosevelt and would like to see the labor unions help to pay for his campaign!

(Continued on page 4 in editorial column)



#### By HENRY COLEMAN, Campaign Director

	4th Week: une 6-12 Returns	Pct. of Total Quota Achieved
DETROIT		410
Buffalo		172
Los Angeles	31	144
Chicago		133
Cleveland		114
New York		103
Akron		81
Sierraville		80
National Office	4	66
Philadelphia		40
Reading		40
St. Louis and Missouri.		30
WEEKLY TOTAL	182	
GRAND TOTAL	1131	113.1

ALL RECORDS SMASHED! WHAT A WEEK! WE ARE OVER THE TOP WITH 131 SUBS TO SPARE!

And look at Detroit. 410 per cent! The eightyeight subs that Detroit sent in the past week did the trick for us, but the rest of the country came through in a big way, too. Ninety-four subs, exclusive of Detroit's eighty-eight, is good enough by itself. One more word on Detroit: we are being asked "How do they do it? What's their secret method? Why doesn't Detroit write a step-by-step explanation of their system?" We have it on good authority that their system is very simple: they have people ON THE SPOT where subs can be obtained, and **they are not afraid to ASK for subs**—anyone, anywhere, any time. That's the way it works. And how!

New York boosted its returns this week as we predicted, and reached its quota for the drive of 300 subs —with ten subs extra. New York's LOCAL drive has officially ended, because it got started a week earlier than the rest of the country.

Los Angeles TRIPLED its returns; Philadelphia is coming through in good shape—too bad Philadelphia got to work so late in the drive. Buffalo, Chicago and Cleveland are over their quotas. JUST ONE MORE WEEK TO GO! The drive ends June 19th. We want the last week of the drive to be a good one, and from the way the subs are coming in, we think it WILL be good. Any subs mailed to us DURING THE WEEK will be credited. Next issue will tells the whole story of the drive, with complete figures for each locality.

And finally: every single one of our sub-getters and distributors must now concentrate on our PREPAID SUB CARDS. Buy them from us at twenty-five cents each and sell them to your friends! The guy at the next machine will buy one for a quarter, put his own name and address on it, and drop it in the mail box. His sub will be entered when we get the card.

BUY A FEW PREPAID SUB CARDS **NOW!** CARRY A COUPLE OF THEM AROUND WITH YOU ALL THE TIME! A TWENTY-FIVE CENT SUB CARD CAN BE SOLD IN A MINUTE AND WILL GIVE SIX MONTHS OF LABOR NEWS AND EDUCATION — THE KIND YOU CAN'T FIND IN THE NEWSPAPERS. USE THE SUB BLANK!

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### NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

# **Detroit LNPL Meeting Takes Progressive Actions**

#### By GEORGE BAKER

DETROIT, June 12-The Wayne County Labor's Non - Partisan League convention held here this week-end called for the immediate launching of an Independent Labor Party.

It recommended to the Michigan State CIO convention, which will be held at the end of this month, "to establish a committee to work on a full-time basis to obtain and coordinate the active participation of the AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, independent unions, farmers' unions and political workers' organizations, Negro organizations for the establishment of a Labor Party."

The call for the constituent convention to launch the Labor Party should be issued within ninety days days after the adjournment of the CIO state convention, according to the resolution.

The decision also provides that

On Tuesday, June 1, a new con-

tract to be negotiated was presented

at the membership meeting of North

This contract, similar to the pres-

ent one, is typical of those negotiated

by the official bureaucracy and par-

ticularly the Stalinist leadership of

the union movement: not a clause,

not a word, not a punctuation mark

to show any evidence of a fight to

raise wages in the direction of soar-

ing prices. In accord with this, the

right to strike is relegated to the lim-

Frozen at an average wage of

eighty or eighty-five cents an hour,

North American employees are find-

ing it increasingly difficult to meet

the ceilingless prices and ceaseless

taxes. The recent stabilization agree-

ment, which has meant not more

(and often less) than a nickel raise

an hour in most cases, shows us ex-

actly where matters stand. Aircraft

paid group in defense industries.

bo of pre-war luxuries.

American, Local 887, Los Angeles.

By ILLIA EDDER

"pending formation of a Labor Party, we propose to organize on a residential basis through ward and precinct committees and labor political clubs in support of candidates selected by labor in all elections both primary and general throughout the state."

Many of the 300 delegates from sixty CIO local unions, represent-League here. ing about 160,000 workers, came to the county convention instructed by their members to support immediate action for a Labor Party. Recently the Wayne County subcouncil of the General Motors Local went on record for the prompt organization of a Labor Party. The Executive Council of Labor's Non-Partisan League also adopted a resolution for the launching of a Labor' Party.

Stalinist Sabotage

**Proposed North American** 

**Contract Would Hurt Union** 

The Stalinists, who control the Wayne County CIO Council administration and have for a long

time tried to scuttle Labor's Non-Partisan League, boycotted the convention and did not send delegates from the locals which they control. John Brophy, national director of industrial union councils of the CIO, had to intervene a few months ago to prevent the Stalinists from dissolving the

At the county convention, delegate after delegate reported that the apathy of the workers on Election Day was caused primarily by the fact that they saw no point in voting for the old party candidates. Henderson of Local 163, UAW-CIO, declared that "never before have we seen a greater need for a Labor Party-not ninety days from nowbut now!" When other speakers stated that they were for a Labor Party but this was not the timewhich was the only opposition argument against the resolution-the delegate from Local 238 replied: "I'm getting sick and tired of the saying that this is not the time. I have been hearing this for five years!"

The delegate from Local 157 reported that the "sentiment in the shops is the best yet for an Independent Labor Party." President Carey of Chrysler Local 7 told the convention that "Labor hasn't a damn thing to lose" and everything to gain by organizing a Labor Party now.

Local 212 and secretary of the resolutions committee, which proposed the pro-Labor Party decision, called for the "defeat of company unionism in the political field." He declared

### Local 9 Needs Democratic **Open Forum at the Yards**

SAN PEDRO - The workers' noontime forum at Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Drydock, installed in the copper shop a few weeks ago as a union-building program, was threatened from two sides last week as.

workers are still among the lowest stand to unleash a barrage against the United Mine Workers and Instead of the right to strike, or against those CIO unionists in Deeven to threaten strike to meet their troit and Akron who struck in prodemands, the workers must resort to test against the War Labor Board. filing grievances on their job classi-From the other side, W. S. Pollard, fications and ingrading. Days and administrative director of Local 9, weeks elapse before the grievances has ordered the forum discontinued, go through the second and third with the joint labor - management steps of procedure. And then, if no program again having the official satisfactory adjustment has been sanction of the union, on the basis made—as is often the case—a few of one union speaker/ per week. more weeks and even months go by

Parties cannot solve our problems.... and pave the way for cohesion of an We are going to have unprecedented independent party" like the British unemployment after the war." He Labor Party AFTER the elections. concluded by stating: "Let's strike out for ourselves!" Party resolution, many of the speak-

The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority.

#### Other Resolutions Adopted

LABOR ACTION

The convention also adopted UNANIMOUSLY a resolution in solidarity with the coal miners and went on record as "condemning the autocratic and provocative position of Secretary Ickes in levying a fine against the miners and urge that the action be rescinded immediately in the interest of bringing a speedy solution to the present controversy between the miners and the coal operators."

At the Friday evening session, Dean Alfange, candidate of the American Labor Party for Governor of New York in the last election, made an uninspiring speech for the New Deal. He stated that the "strategy for 1944" is to create political units such as in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts and New York, "to insure the election of a liberal President in 1944

Pitched battles have taken place

here between the "zoot suiters" and

Navy personnel. Navy men have been

jumping any Mexican boys ("zoot

suiters") they see. This has aggra-

vated the situation, and there is no

doubt that the clashes have a defi-

nite anti-Mexican tone, with all the

ugly brutality that race riots bring.

men, sometimes led by petty officers,

have made raids on Mexican dis-

tricts, beating up "zoot suiters"

wherever they found them. "Zoot suiters" have ganged up on Navy

men, and have sent some to hos-

Of course, the newspapers have

had a field day. They have built it

up and encouraged the fight on

both sides. In fact, the newspapers

went so far out of line that Mayor

Bowron of Los Angeles accused the

press of aggravating the situation.

The Navy has now declared cer-

pitals.

Groups of a hundred or more Navy

### 'Zoot Suit'-A Case of Race Discrimination on Rampage

LOS ANGELES, June 10-A delega- ist press that really got the fight tion from the CIO, the American rolling. Civil Liberties Union and Latin-Before this is over, many Navy American youth representatives told men and zoot suiters will be in United States Attorney Charles. H. Carr that they believed sheriffs' dep-

hospitals-as a result of a newspaper (and largely, though not exuties, police and military leaders clusively, a Hearst newspaper) were in a conspiracy to give the campaign! "zoot suiters a good pushing around" As the CIO pointed out to United and that the officials should be prose-

States Attorney Carr, the whole affair has had every aspect of a conspiracy by military and police officials. The forays by the Navy men, moving through the city in organized groups, gives every indication of a planned attack.

During the debate on the Labor

ers lauded President Roosevelt, while

a few criticized him for silence on

the Smith-Connally anti-strike bill;

his support of anti-labor adminis-

trators of various government boards

and his signing of the recent tax bill.

The convention unanimously adopt-

ed a resolution denouncing the tax

bill and calling upon Congress to

impose a \$25,000 limit on salaries. A

resolution calling for the removal of

Lou Maxon, assistant to Prentiss M.

Brown, head of the OPA, in view of

the scandalous violation of the food

ration program by the company

which he controls-Lou Maxon, Inc.

The convention called for the

immediate application of the "four

freedoms"; for full equality of Ne-

groes; against Jim Crow in the

armed forces: for the release from

prison of Gandhi and Nehru: and

for the censure of Russia for the

murder of Ehrlich and Alter "as a

violation of the four freedoms."

-was also adopted.

### **Women Textile** Workers Win **Two-Week Strike**

COOLEMME, N. C .- The one hundred and two women textile workers who have been on a two-week strike at the Erwin plant returned victoriously to work this past week.

The Erwin company, operating a large chain of mills throughout the South, decided that the conservative policy of the Textile Workers of America made it impossible for the union to stand in its way if it decided to "stretch out" the work. The

### **Resolution on Labor Party Adopted by Detroit LNPL**

Whereas, the recent history of the labor movement constitutes adequate proof of the statement that it is impossible for labor to depend upon either the Democratic or Republican parties for the expression of its aims or the carrying out of its program, and

Whereas, union members are becoming more and more reluctant to participate in election campaigns for the support of old-line politicians, or the candidates of the two major political parties, and

Whereas, the greatest showing of labor political strength, of rank and file participation in elections, and of the possibility of direct labor representation in government, was in the Vote Labor campaign in Detroit, in 1937, and

Whereas, labor is now, and will be from now, engaged in a life and death struggle with employers and other sinister influences whose aim is to establish the dictatorship of the few over the divided and disorganized workers, and

Whereas, labor is sick and tired of depending upon so-called "friends" in public office who are, in fact, in almost all instances, better friends of employers and reactionaries than they are of labor, and

Whereas, the unionists of other countries, especially in Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, have made great strides forward on the political front through their Labor Parties, and

Whereas, the Republican and Democratic Parties have, demonstrated their inability and unwillingness to solve the basic social problems of the workers of the nation, and

Whereas, Labor must have its own political party to successfully cope with the problems of unemployment and the social disorder that will exist in America in the post-war period,

Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League go on record in favor of the immediate establishment of an Independent Party of Labor and Working Farmers, and

Be it further resolved, that this convention recommend to the Michigan State CIO convention the formation of a Labor Party and call upon the state convention to issue a call for a constitutional convention for the formation of a Labor Party within ninety days after adjournment of this convention, and

Be it further resolved, that the State CIO convention be asked to establish a committee to work on a full-time basis to obtain and coordinate the active participation of the AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, Independent Unions, Farmers' Unions and Political Workers' Organizations, Negro Organizations for the establishment of a Labor Party.

Be it further resolved, that Labor's Non-Partisan League prepare adequate material on the Labor Party question to be distributed to the delegates of the State CIO convention, and

Be it further resolved, that pending formation of a Labor Party we propose to organize on a residential basis through Ward and Precinct Committees and Labor Political Clubs in support of candidates selected by Labor in all elections both primary and general throughout the state.

Be it finally resolved, that the secretary of Labor's Non-Partisan League be instructed to call a delegate body meeting of Labor's Non-Partisan League within a period of thirty days following the adjournment of the Michigan CIO convention to determine the future course of action of the League.

### **Akron Labor Has Learned To Peg Stalinists as Finks**

AKRON, June 6-With the Akron rubber workers back on their jobs, since their strike was broken by presidential decree, the past week has been a period of assimilating the lessons learned during the strike it-

One of the factors overlooked by

### **Connally Bill-**(Continued from page 1)

the strikers during the heat of the struggle in Akron was the fact that they were not joined by Local 101, URWA, of the United States Rubber Co. in Detroit, one of the "Big Four" rubber companies. These workers are as directly concerned with the gypping three-cent decision of the War Labor Board as are the workers at Goodrich, Firestone and Goodyear in Akron. The more the unionists look into the matter, the more they find that the behavior of Local 101 can be traced directly back to the same people and policies responsible for the disgraceful scabbery at Goodyear in Akron.

union into their own hands. They must oust the Stalinist clique which is piloting the union into a suicidal tailspin. Non-union members must sign up to make North American a union shop, an important demand in the new contract. The union must revoke the no-strike pledge in order to regain its only weapon with which

inflation and a higher cost of living!

Stalinist speakers monopolized the

The copper shop forum was started when W. E. Bluhm and Dennis Stake resigned as union representatives on the labor management program. Stake has since left the vard to take a union job, and Bluhm was attempting to utilize these noon-day meetings to aid his Communist Party friends in a new drive to take over Local 9.

pledge that ties its hands, and be-

cause official representatives of both the CIO and AFL continue to sit on the WLB while thousands of union workers are striking against the board.

Bluhm and the rest of the Stalinist speakers realize that this sort of talk is not very popular with their audience, composed mainly of serious union members concerned with building Local 9 into a strong, fighting union. Goodwin, a recent importation from Hollywood, prefaced one of his nostrike, do-nothing speeches with the statement: "I know not many of you agree with what I am going to say."

The prize specimen, though, was a fellow claiming to have once been educational director of the Allis-Chalmers UAW Local, who spent his

it can fight a winning battle against that the "Democratic and Republican cuted.

Emil Mazey, president of Briggs

Page 2

there is still no assurance of a substantial gain-or any gain whatever! The most unfortunate aspect of the scrapping of the right to strike is the separation of a united membership into individuals, each struggling alone to secure higher pay and an adjustment of grievances. This disunity is a demoralizing factor in union building and negates the basic principle of trade unionism: "In Unity There Is Strength."

until the West Coast Aircraft Com-

mittee or the War Labor Board ren-

ders a decision. After all this ex-

haustive procedure and run-around,

Many of the militants of the rank and file have become disgusted with the union, particularly with the Stalinist misleadership. The newcomers to the trade union movement see none of the advantages of a union shop. With the present policies of the UAW on the West Coast, it is easy to understand the apathy of the union membership, their failure to attend meetings. The results of the Douglas election-forty-four per cent voting no union-are a warning to the unionists in the aircraft industry that they may wake up some fine morning and find themselves all members of one great big company union.

The rank and file must take the

At first, however, the Stalinists were cautious, and a variety of speakers were given the floor. Even Pollard appeared to give it his benediction. But when the mine workers again walked out of the pits, Bluhm could no longer restrain himself.

John L. Lewis of course came in for an attack that even the reactionary Los Angeles Times could not excel. The Times calls Lewis a "traitor" because of his attitude to the mine owners, but it takes a Bluhm to argue that Lewis is a traitor to the mine workers.

"Because the mine workers went on strike," said Bluhm, "Congress will pass bills that will place labor in the worst position it has been in in its history." What Bluhm and his kind would like to forget is the fact that right now labor is in a precarious position because of the no-strike

time lauding the "responsible leadership" of Harold Christoffel, a notorious Stalinist figure in the UAW. "In 1939, in peacetime," said this union - builder, "Christoffel led a strike at Allis - Chalmers, but now that there is a war on he lets the grievances pile up while he respects the no-strike pledge."

There was a war on in 1939, too, as some people remember, but at that time Stalin was allied with Hitler, instead of Churchill and Roosevelt.

These men, Bluhm, Lopez, Goodwin, Johnson and their kind, want to take over Local 9. Every member of Local 9 who desires a genuinely democratic, strongly organized and fighting union must stand against them. No Communist Party - dominated union can meet those needs. The forum needs to be placed under the active direction and super-

vision of responsible union members in the yard, who can see that it is kept on the right track of educating the membership in the proper functions and purposes of the union.

tain areas "out of bounds." The city council has passed an ordinance against zoot suits. The Governor has sent in a five-man committee. A committee headed by Carey McWilliams. former director of the state division of immigration, has been formed to investigate. The Mexican consul general has asked for an investigation.

It is unlikely that any of these committees will dare undertake a real investigation. The war and the social unrest and economic instability it causes in the Mexican districts are the fundamental causes behind the resentment of the Mexican boys. Discrimination, social and economic, have led these boys to "gang up" into their own little societies. Some of them have adopted the garb of the "hepcats" as their show of defiance against a society that has made them outcasts.

These "gangs" have existed in Los Angeles for quite some time. Fights with Navy and Army men have taken place several times in the last few months. But it was the capital-

stretch-out policy was to begin with the battery fillers. Thirty-five women were to be eliminated of the one hundred and two workers and the remaining sixty-seven were to do the work normally done by all. The workers were so aroused by this move that four men workers picked up the efficiency (stretch-out) expert and threw him out of the mill bodily. The company immediately fired the four men and the one hundred and

two women walked out on strike. For the two following weeks, a repetition of what is happening daily throughout the country was met by the strikers. The TWUA, the WLB and the company said the strike was unauthorized and that the workers must go back before the case could be considered, etc., etc.

The miserable role of the leaders of the TWUA helped prolong the strike because the company felt that the workers were helpless and were bound to give in. But the workers stuck to their guns, and not the labor leaders, nor the WLB, nor the company fazed them. Such solidarity cannot help but win-and win it did.

Behind this clause is the fear that the workers will organize their own political party and clean out the jackals that are attempting to turn the workers of America into slave labor

#### 4. TERMINATION OF BILL AND END OF WAR

The anti-strike bill is supposed to cease to be in effect six months after the war is over The memories of the last war are all too fresh for us to fall for this gag. The phony arguments that have been raised for the passage of this bill will be raised all over again in a little different form when the war is over.

The creators of the anti-strike bill hope that the end of the war will find labor much weaker than it is now. If they want to stop strikes now, even in places where there is no war production, they certainly will howl about the "emergency situation" that will exist with the change-over to consumer goods production after the war.

In other words, Detroit Local 101 did not directly join the big strike movement because its leadership is shot through with Stalinists, or people who allow themselves to be led around by the nose by these Kremlin agents!

Those conversant with the inner politics of the URWA recall the strong CP-line delegation sent by-Local 101 at the last international union convention. They represented the largest single CP-controlled local in the international.

They were no doubt contacted by the Akron CP stooges to keep the lid on at all costs in Detroit. They did just that, passing out handbills to the U.S. Rubber workers, denouncing the Akron strike as a John L. Lewis movement and as sabotage of the war effort-the same line as that used by the Akron Stalinists and N. H. Eagle, District 1 international representative.

Eagle has long been considered a close fellow-traveller of the CP by those who are acquainted with the affairs of the Akron District-District No. 1 of the URWA. No one has yet been found in the URWA leadership, not even Tommy Burns or Dalrymple, who can get the jump on Eagle in distorting an issue.

Typically characteristic of Eagle's statements is the one he issued before the big strike to the Beacon Journal, agreeing with it that the twenty-four-hour holiday proposed by the Akron Industrial Union Council for June 2 was a political move by pro-Lewis forces out to show the membership that "rough stuff" against the WLB was needed.

All in all, the rubber workers are living and learning. From living through a strike involving the economic security of 50,000 people, they have learned that the outcome depends in good measure on preventing reactionary forces inside the labor movement from stabbing these 50,000 in the back. The Stalinists' total and absolute willingness to sacrifice the American labor movement to the whims of the Kremlin's war needs is now well recognized by a great number of Akron workers.

# Jhe Readers of Labor Action Jake the Floor people. Therefore this committee of the Stalinists to push for incen- election campaign, in which slight

#### Wants Facts on Legion Known

#### **Dear** Friends:

Now that we know who are the parents and who are the god-parents of the American Legion, let us follow the example. Let us organize immediately a soldiers' entertaining committee, which body should prepare also to act as a reception committee when the soldiers will be returning

home. The material in the article on the American Legion in the last issue of LABOR ACTION should be told to every soldier. This entertaining committee should see to it that every American boy in the armed forces knows the truth about the Legion. Also, there is the incident in Los Angeles with "zoot suiters," where a soldier was attacked and another robbed, and where sailors in the nearby base raided Los Angeles in order to clean up the "zoot suiters." No doubt in such a raid a lot of people suffered, especially the colored

should see to it that if any raid is to occur it should be directed against the proper people: bankers, politi-

cians, Ku Klux Klan engineers. This body should be also ready with proposals to the returning soldiers how to organize to get what they'll need, especially in the field of economics; that is, how and where to get something to eat.

S. K. (Scranton, Pa.)

#### Wants Coolidge **Article Reprinted** Dear Editor:

#### At the last longshoremen's meeting in San Pedro, Henry Schmidt, Stalinist member of the Maritime Industry Board, came out for "incentive pay." That this means a speedup was the reaction of every longshoreman. Schmidt said, of course, that if the membership didn't go for

it, why, he wouldn't push it. But, as LABOR ACTION has pointed out, it is a national policy company in the very midst of the

tive pay ("piecerate"). So we long- raises were granted to a few classes shoremen can expect to hear more for incentive pay from Bridges, Schmidt & Co.

I wish LABOR ACTION would find it possible to reprint Coolidge's excellent article exposing the fallacy of incentive pay.

B. R. (San Pedro, June 10.)

### **CIO Wins NLRB Pullman Election**

#### Dear Editor: A few weeks ago the United Steel Workers, CIO, won an NLRB elec-

tion at the Pullman-Standard Car Co. here in Chicago by a vote of 1,057 to 399 for the company union. The company, which has a well established anti-labor record, tried every trick in the bag. Superintendent Geddes interfered openly. The company union suddenly came to life and issued propaganda regularly. They signed a new contract with the

of workers.

But the men here have had plenty of experience with the branch office representatives of the company union. The boys voted for the CIO because they want wages raised to what they are in other shipyards and machine shops so that we can meet the rising prices. We voted as we did because we want strict seniority and vacations and better working conditions. Now we have to see to it that these are written into the CIO contract.

#### Pullman Worker.

### Free Competition . . .

The loud mouths have always made much of the "freedom of, contract" and economic liberty that wage workers supposedly enjoy under a free enterprise system. A man with labor power to sell will and sell to the highest bidder. In peacetime the bosses always "viewed with alarm" any restriction of the freedom of the labor market (such as government minimum wage laws or trade union basic wage rates, etc.).

Freedom of competition and the natural workings of supply and demand were the ideal-the American Way. A laborer was free to work when he pleased, where he pleased, how he pleased and on what terms he pleased. He was free to leave his employer when he saw fit, and to attach himself to anyone willing to hire him or, if he preferred, to set himself up in business and employ others.

Of courses the ten million unemployed which capitalism carefully maintained as an effective gag against labor becoming too vociferous in its "free" bargaining for wages; and the idea of a steel worker or a shipyard worker picking up dirt cheap in some hockshop a sec-

could always follow his own sweet ond-hand blast furnace or assembly line on the installment plan, were but mere details. Now the hypocritical thieves and industrial tyrants who for years have been endeavoring to make their vic-

> sing a different tune when the demand for labor is greater than the supply. Free competition ain't so hot when BOSSES have to outbid each other and pay more to get needed labor. So they scream for job freezing, wage freezing, etc., and the government dutifully obliges.

> > for capitalism!"

As for labor? Chain it, fingerprint it, "mug" it, put a numbered tag around its neck, hold a draft deferment over its head, tie its hands with a no-strike law, gag its voice and press, hound its militants with the help of the labor fakers

tims believe themselves free men

and Stalinist stoolpigeons. "After all, ain't this labah's wah? ... So kwitcherbellyaken and Hooray

Joe Stevens.

**Before and After** Dear Editor:

A Study of a Political Chameleon

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**Generoso Pope -- From Fascist to Democrat** 



#### POLISH WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST NAZI OPPRESSORS

Recently we reported on the strike wave in Belgian coal mines and heavy industry. The radio now reports that there have been several strikes in Austria during the month of May. Since the end of last year there has been a decisive upswing of militant workers' action all over Europe. The following is an account of a strike in Poland, as reported by the Polish Labor Group:

There are a great number of factories in Radom (Poland) and the surrounding areas, operating under Nazi management and for the Nazi-war needs. These factories employ many Polish workers. One day in January, 1943, the Polish workers did not report for work. The Nazi police immediately set to work. The workers were rounded up and sent under escort to the factories. Several clashes took place, and the Nazi police used machine guns. The strike lasted several days, until the Gestapo finally broke it with much violence. Many of the Polish workers, fearing reprisals, fled from the district.'

This is all the news that has reached this country about the strike but how much heroism, how much effort and strain are contained in those few words. A strike in the hell which Hitler has made out of Europe; a strike among the most downtrodden, the most degraded of all of Hitler's slaves, deserves much more than a few lines. It is a monument to the spirit of the Polish, the European working class-and it is proof that labor can be temporarily defeated, but not permanently vanquished.

On January 16, Nazi posters informed the inhabitants of Radom to be overcome.

#### ONE OUT OF MANY INSTANCES

tion from the Muenchner Neueste Nachrichten of April 13: "The 47vear-old Oskar Uebel had been condemned by the Special Court of Vienna to ten years of hard labor. The attorney general had opposed this sentence as too mild, and a Special Court, after a second trial, con-

Here is one typical condemna- demned Uebel to death. The court stated that Uebel had continually listened in his apartment, with a number of young men, in thirty or forty cases to foreign broadcasts. He talked about the news with the others in an anti-German sense. He had organized the listening, and the subsequent spreading of the news."

any kind. The conservatives of Eu-

rope, meaning simply those who de-

sire to save the cracking founda-

tions of European (i.e., capitalist-E.)

civilization, are more afraid of chaos

than communism" (of the Stalinist

She then goes on to say that Stalin

will probably be one of the pillars

of conservatism in Europe. "He

wants order more than revolution."

variety-E.")

#### THE TIMES HAS JITTERS ABOUT THE REVOLUTION

The commentators in the boss press have recently become increasingly jittery about the prospects of revolutionary outbreaks in Europe. Reason for us to become optimistic: after all, they have much better information than we have. For once, there is no reason not to believe them.

1

12

Says Anne O'Hare McCormick in the New York Times: "It has been taken for granted that revolutions will meet or follow the arrival of the Allied armies in the occupied counthat the entire Polish population was to be deported in reprisal for the strike. Only workers engaged in German industry would remain in Radom, and those would be placed under sterner discipline by the Nazi police. The homes vacated by the deported Poles would be taken over by German colonists. The punishment is designed to fit the crimethere is no greater crime in Hitler's Europe than to strike, because there is no weapon more dangerous to the Nazis. But the Gestapo has to admit its own powerlessness. The workers who had just struck are the only ones to remain...because they are needed. They can shoot leaders, they can imprison militants, but

they cannot destroy the working class, because they need its labor power. Out of this class, new leaders and new militants will be born. Hitler's struggle against European labor is bloody and ruthless. It creates new marytrs every day but its outcome is decided in advance.

The Nazi papers list an increasing number of condemnations for listening to foreign broadcasts. The Ger-

man workers know that many of these broadcasts contain lies as big as those of Dr. Goebbels, but they are so hungry for news from the outside world that they risk everything in order to get information. It is significant that, while in the first two years of the war these condemnations were mostly meted out against individuals listening in, they now often indicate that a number of people have gathered the news and spread it around. This is a clear indication that slowly some loose forms of organization are starting up again, that the terrible isolation is tending

Generoso Pope is the publisher of the two largest Italian daily newspapers in the United States, Il Progresso and Il Corriere. Pope's papers were described by the late Carlo Tresca as "the main source of fascist propaganda in the United States.'

By MIKE STEVENS

And yet, the New Leader, organ of the Social-Democratic Federation. published an article by Pope; Chairman Flynn of the Democratic Party has praised him; and, on May 9, Vice-President Wallace went out of his way to address a letter to Pope, congratulating him for the great job he is doing in pushing war bonds.

#### Endorsed Mussolini Tyranny

Pope's policy appeared on the front page of Il Progresso the day he took it over, November 2, 1928: ... a sincere, open and unequivocal attachment to our Italian Fatherland and to him who with such energy and love revived its destiny." From that day on, Il Progresso upheld and endorsed the tyranny and barbaric violence used by the fascist regime in enslaving the Italian masses. Every single policy by Mussolini was praised and the news was consistently colored to favor fascism.

He is a Tammany big-wig and a member of the Democratic National Committee. Through the large circulation of his newspapers, Pope was able to exert a lot of influence on the Italian vote in this country.

If Pope were deprived of his newspapers, or his citizenship, and placed in an internment camp, he would be of no value to the capitalist class or clerics of Italy in making probable deals with the United States should they decide to chuck out Mussolini. Pope is therefore desperately seeking "democratic cloaks" to hide his past activity. He has placed expensive advertisements in many newspapers, and a recent contest on "Why the Italian people should join the United Nations," with \$2,000 in prizes, was conducted by him. He was on an "I Am an American Day" committee and many other similar ventures. Carlo Tresca, up to the time of his murder, systematically exposed every move along these lines by Pope, and stood in the

The Friends of Freedom, evidently wishing to keep their own skirts clean, refused a financial contribution from Pope. But the New Leader lacked these scruples. They gave him a much bigger cloak than he could have hoped for in his most optimistic moments! - a "socialist" paper publishing his "views" on "democracy against fascism." The editors of the New Leader invited Generoso Pope to write an article for their paper, and printed it in the May 15 issue.

way of everyone who attempted to

whitewash him.

They are getting jittery and in Pope's article in the New Leader the backs of their minds they are beginning to worry if, after all, in calls for help for "... the various unspite of Uncle Joe's offers of service, derground groups which have for years been battling courageously will take ... the fear is that the re- yet become the midwife of world against the monstrous totalitarian regime of fascism. Mussolini's Fascist Party has labored with all

means at its disposal to corrupt the Pallance. During his stay he had Pope and Roosevelt meaning and destroy the love of democracy, freedom, liberty and social justice among the Italian people. No one can tell the exact extent to which fascism succeeded in demoralizing the idea of democracy in Italy. One thing is clear, the poisonous influence and hold of fascism will have to be counteracted by the force of education as well as the force of arms."

#### A Look at the Record

But let us look at the record-for here we fine a completely opposite picture-the real Pope. Let us look at what he wrote when he didn't fear internment or the loss of his New York City contracts for sand and gravel, on which he became immensely wealthy.

When Mussolini invaded Ethiopia, he delegated the Fascist Party of Italy the task of collecting gold. to help finance the war. Generoso' Pope, on behalf of the Fascist Party, collected tens of thousands of dollars in gold and sent it to Mussolini. His papers of that period are full of pictures and stories of his efforts to collect gold. Pope told the Italians in the United States that the money would be used for hospitals, but subsequent congratulatory telegrams from II Duce revealed that the money went directly to the war treasury.

Il Progresso on November 19, 1935, quoted a speech by Pope made at a meeting in behalf of the war against the "Ethiopian aggressors." "Mr. Consul and friends: First I wish you to shout with me 'Down with the enemies of our country!' We can be sure that Italy will triumph under the guidance of the Duce and will be greater and more feared in the future.... Long live Italy, long live the King, long live Mussolini.'

On a similar occasion, January 24, 1936, he is quoted as saying: "We are proud to be sons of that Italy led by Benito Mussolini."

On June 13, 1936, a monster fascist meeting was held at Madison Square Garden to celebrate the founding of the Fascist Empire with the defeat of Ethiopia. Generoso Pope, the main speaker, was so eloquent in his praise of Mussolini that the fascists many times stood up and yelled "Duce, Duce, Duce!" Pope heaped praise upon praise on "... the leadership of the greatest man in the world, Benito Mussolini.... Today Italy can boast of such a military and political success which has dazzled the world, superior even to our expectations.... Because it is guided by an exceptional leader, Benito Mussolini, who has in a few years made her stride forward. He has made her attain great international prestige, has brought her triumphantly toward the imperial glory of ancient Rome.... Let us send a message of devotion and cheer to

conferences with Mussolini, King Victor Emanuel, Count Revel, the Minister of Finance, and Count Ciano, who personally decorated Pope. Il Progresso wrote during that period that the Queen, upon receiving Mrs. Pope, "congratulated her on her husband's great work of Italian propaganda in America." Pope would like to forget a photograph taken at that time, where he and fascist leaders are reviewing a parade and Pope has his arm outstretched in fascist salute.

Pope has not only been decorated three times into Mussolini's fascist order, but he holds the rank of Grand Officer, which is a higher rank in the fascist knightly hierarchy than that held by Mussolini's own consul general in New York.

A Major Goffredo Pantaleoni, who joined the Fascist Party in Italy in 1925, was sent to this country and conducted fascist propaganda for Mussolini at \$10,000 a year. A couple of years ago he broke with fascism and confessed that throughout all these years he was aided in his fascist activity by Generoso Pope.

On October 24, 1936, the fourteenth anniversary of Mussolini's march on Rome, Generoso Pope sent the following message to "Il Grido della Stripe," a vicious, anti-Semitic ultrafascist sheet printed in New York by Domenico Trombetta: "Today, which marks the fourteenth year of the fascist era and the completion of its first imperial year, it is possible to better understand the fruitful and concrete work done by Il Grido." This friend of Generoso Pope was one of the earliest organizers, and leaders of fascist clubs and storm troops in this country, and his name is anathema among all anti-fascists. In a future article we will take up Pope's friend and the paper Pope praises. Suffice it to say at this time that in May, 1943, Trombetta was arrested by the United States government for failing to register as an agent of a foreign government.

The entire staffs on Pope's papers were members of the National Fascist Newspaper Guild of Rome. They were all fascists by admission or by activity, and were the spearhead of many fascist organizations and endeavors. Angelo Flavio Guidi, a member of the OVRA (Italian Gestapo), worked in the editorial offices of Il Progresso and Il Corriere from 1929 to the eve of Pearl Harbor. He is now in Rome in charge of fascist short-wave propaganda beamed to this country. V. Gomito, another of Pope's editorial staff, is now in Japan, also in charge of short-wave radio broadcasting. Panciatichi, Gioffre and Mauro, from Pope's editorial staff, are in U.S. internment camps. V. Rossini, president of the

In the national elections Pope always campaigned for Roosevelt-except the last time. Roosevelt had made his "stab in the back" speech against Mussolini, and the fascistcontrolled press went into an all-out attack against Roosevelt. But Pope wanted to be sure before he leaped. Although a member of the Democratic National Committee, he remained aloof and did not write one word in his papers for Roosevelt.

But, as the campaign continued, he could see the handwriting on the wall for Mussolini's future and the role that might be played by an influential Italo - American in post-war Italy. And it was not profitable to break away from the Democratic Party, through which he was able to control the price of sand and gravel in Manhattan and the Bronx. When the price of a cubic yard of sand was \$2.00 in Queens, it cost \$3.85 in Pope's territory.

The evening before the election, Pope appeared on the same platform with Roosevelt in Brooklyn. Former Chairman Flynn has since said that he considers Pope the biggest vote- Pope."

# Sparks in the News

headline.

#### By EVERETT WESTON

A letter (as reported in the New York Daily News) to the Military Service Publishing Co. from the FBI: "We understand you have recently published a book called 'Principles of War,' by a German army officer by the name of von Clausewitz. We have no record of this German in our files, and we want to know how he got into this country and where he is now. He is not registered as an enemy alien...."

Von Clausewitz, one of the three or four greatest strategists of all history, died November 16, 1831. -LA-

Frank Walker, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, on the 1944 campaign: "I'd rather not discuss candidates at this time." -LA-

"The time has come when all of us-farmers, workers, managers and investors-must realize that we cannot improve our living standards in a period of total war. On the contrary, we must all CUT our standards of living for the duration."-Roosevelt.

"Railways More Than Doubled Net gomery Ward."-The Nation.



Pope's papers were the medium through which vast publicity was given to the great network of fascist clubs and associations in this country, which were carrying on the boldest forms of fascist propaganda. Yet, to this day, Pope has

getter among the Italians, and al-

though Flynn must have been aware

of Pope's role during the last elec-

tion, he did not want to lose him in

the future. Pope was a member of

the Electoral College, visited the

White House and talked with FDR.

not spoken against any of these organizations and even claims that no fascist organizations exist in this country.

Il Mondo, well known Italian liberal monthly, in its April issue has a warning about "democrats" of Mr. Pope's type that should be read by the New Leader before it whitewashes a few more of this type: "We hope that no anti-fascist, alive, or even murdered, shall ever fall into the hands of such a loyal and sincere believer in the democratic principles. as one who until recently was in the wake of the fascist consul and of the generous gold-sand-man, Mr.

Income, Report for Two Months This

Year Shows." - New York Times

-LA-

long antipathy to de Gaulle. This

antipathy has never been explained

officially; unofficially he is pictured

as an impossible person, a hysterical

figure who is altogether too friendly

with Russia. Most incredible objec-

tion: de Gaulle would be a tool in

British efforts to dominate the Euro-

pean continent.... Giraud does not

conceal his dependence on Murphy

and the United States (at Casablanca

a memorandum supposedly prepared

by Giraud for submission to de

Gaulle turned out to be resting in

Bob Murphy's coat pocket)."-Time.

-LA-

tigation of private banking in 1933

brought out the fact that Morgan

partners held 167 directorships in 89

corporations with total assets of \$20,-

000,000,000. These included many of

the largest concerns in the country:

railroads. General Electric, General

Motors, Kennecott Copper and Mont-

In Memoriam: "The Pecora inves-

"Washington has not abandoned its

tries. But as the day of the invasion approaches, the fear is not of the form that these expected uprisings volts will be formless, that there will be no organized movement of

this war for world domination will revolution.

Europacus.

the King-Emperor Victor Emanuel ... to the magnificent Duce, who has created the Empire of Italy." On a trip to Italy in 1937, Generoso Pope and his wife were met at Naples by the fascist leader, Signor

Italian Association, was employed on Il Corriere. The editor in chief and foreign policy expert of Il Progresso was Italo Falbo, correspondent of the official fascist news agency, Stefani.

notorious fascist National United

# New Taxes On Labor -- More Due To Come

#### By GERTRUDE SHAW

That organized labor has not raised a howl against the Pay-as-You-Go Tax Bill that the President has just signed and made law is another sad commentary on the subservience of labor leaders. For this tax law puts a fast one over on labor, if anything ever did.

The outstanding feature of the bill, as far as labor is concerned, is that taxes are to be paid on a given payroll period-that is, by the week. semi-monthly or monthly, as the case may be. The obvious conclusion from this is that while a worker is employed, he will be paying taxes

#### Labor Gets It in the Neck

Formerly taxes were reported and paid on the yearly period. A worker paid on the basis of his annual employment. So that, if his yearly income was not taxable, he didn't pay a tax.

Now the government has decided that it is not interested in the worker's unemployed periods-BUT ONLY IN HIS PAYROLL PERIODS. Regardless of the fact that his unemployed periods may drag down his yearly pay below the taxable level, he still will have the pay-as-you-go tax on the wages he earned. This is the latest injustice that has been perpetrated against the workers by the President and Congress.

It is true that the bill provides for a yearly accounting on March 15, when a report will be made to show whether the taxpayer owes the government money or whether the government owes the taxpayer money.

If the taxpayer owes the government money, it will have to be paid on March 15-without any ifs, ands or buts. However, if the worker's yearly income has fallen below the rate of his pay-roll periods and thegovernment therefore owes him

money, he will receive-not a refund-but a CREDIT. So the worker gets it in the neck-and no doubt about it.

Another angle to the pay-as-yougo way of collecting taxes is that it is by no means just a war measure. To the boss politicians the idea of getting money out of workers while they are at work-without worrying about the periods of unemployment -is too good for only temporary use.

Every post-war plan thus far publicized by the promoters of American imperialism involves the continuance of heavy taxation. To police the world will require lots of money. The workers will be expected to pay as they work, regardless of what may happen to them when they cannot find work.

#### Forgiving the Bosses

Much is being made of the provision in the new tax bill, which forgives the entire 1942 taxes to lowbracket taxpavers. Thus a worker owing \$50 for the 1942 taxes will not have to pay it. A worker owing \$66.67 will be credited with \$50. But-

Taxpayers paying OVER that amount will be forgiven SEVEN-TY-FIVE PER CENT OF THE 1942 or 1943 taxes, whichever is smaller.

It is not the workers as a class who will benefit by this seventy-five per cent forgiveness. The big boys of industry with salaries running into hundreds of thousands will pocket the benefits of this provision. The big corporations whose war profits mark a new high in "the rewards of private enterprise" will harvest the seventy-five per cent forgiveness. Billions upon billions of blood money

will remain untaxed under the new bill.

And here is something else to

N. K. C.

ponder over. No matter how much money is accumulated in the voluminous bags of the big boys, that money can never-no never-cause "inflation." But should the workers ask for an increase in wages to keep up with living costs, immediately the bosses and their politicians go into convenient paroxysms about "inflation" - because the workers will have too much money!

#### FDR's About-Face

No story on the new tax bill is complete without telling about the President's about-face on the point of forgiveness. At first he held with Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau that the government could not afford to cancel any taxes. The President opposed the Ruml Plan. Then, after all, he signed the bill forgiving seventy-five per cent of the taxes, thus making a present of billions to those who can most afford to pay taxes.

Already the effects of this handsome present to the big boys are being felt. The President, needless to say, still wants more money to wage the most costly war in history. In his last message to Congress he asked for \$16,000,000,000 additional taxes. The new bill provides only \$3,000,-000,000 additional. The President is going to deliver another tax message to Congress in which he will make certain recommendations.

The outstanding one will be for compulsory savings. That means you, little man. Out of your wages, which cannot now cover the high cost of living, you will pay as you go-and you will also be compelled to "save" as you go!

Another pet of Congress to raise money is the sales tax. The President is now blowing cold on a sales tax. He says it will hit the poor too hard. This is undoubtedly true. But the President has been known to

brush aside such truths before. Odds are heavy that a sales tax too is just around the corner.

#### A Tax Plan for Labor

All along the financial burden of the expensive and cruel luxury of war has been loaded on the working people. All along the leaders of labor have followed a compliant policy The result is that the government makes presents to the richwhile concocting new tricks for extracting money from the workers. LABOR ACTION calls on organized labor to demand a tax policy that will soak the rich.

Let all war profits be confiscated! Not a cent of blood money should be allowed to remain in the hands of the big boys!

Let the government tax the capital piles of the big corporations! Let the government expropriate the accumulated fortunes of America's Sixty Families-the three per cent of the people who own ninetysix per cent of the national wealth!

Here is a tax program for labor to press immediately - or the workers will be squeezed dry by the war while the rich get away with their juicy war profits.

### JUNE N.I. OFF THE PRESS

The June issue of The New International is off the press and ready for sale. It is an exceedingly interesting issue, containing important articles, discussion material and special features. Following is the table of contents:

> Once Again, the Miners' Strike, by A. G. Stalin Dissolves the Comintern, by Sam Adams. What Is Incentive Pay?, by Walter Wiess. A New Stage for World Labor-II, by Pierre Bellosi. Russia's Foreign Policy in the War, by Reva Craine. What Are the Prospects for Socialism?, by Paul Temple. Real and False Issues on the National Question, by Albert Gates

> The First Manifesto of the Comintern, by Lenin, Trotsky, et al.

Book Reviews, by Sylvia Merrill and Susan Green.

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# Editorials Labor Party--

#### (Continued from page 1)

Any way you look at it, the Smith-Connally bill is the most vicious piece of antilabor legislation to pass the House and Senate in many years. Arrayed behind the bill is a powerful, reactionary bloc of industrialists, politicians, the Southern Bourbons who sponsored the bill, and a host of big business.

Tear away the veil of pretenses and the weasel words, and the object of the bill is clear: to destroy the powerful union movement and to render labor impotent to fight in defense of its basis interests!

The yellow boss press knows its stuff. It 1944. has been fighting for this bill from the day it was introduced and it knows how to emphasize the importance of this bill to big business. Its criticisms of the President and the Administration are not on account of their "pro-labor" policy, but on the grounds that they have not been fighting the union movement and the workers with "proper weapons."

The Smith-Connally bill is a "proper weapon" because it can tie the labor movement hand and foot by "legal" means, by legislative action. Any attempts made by labor to break the restrictions imposed by the provisions of the bill can be met by fines and imprisonment!

All the real threats and penalties of the bill are clearly directed against the working class. That the capitalist press understands this is obvious from the fact that all the material published by it has stressed the penalties that may be employed to deand its allies!

means of taking revenge upon the labor movement because of the miners' strike and the militant conduct of John L. Lewis. This is, of course, pure rubbish. The reactionary congressional bloc and their big business associates have been trying to pass such a bill for years. They have succeeded now because this is the most reactionary Congress in history. From the very opening of this Congress, it has been flooded with similar anti-labor bills, some more drastic, some less so.

The point to be brought home, however, is that there weren't enough struggles, like the one Lewis and the miners waged, to defeat such a bill. It is only because of the conduct of the officialdom of the AFL and CIO that the bill passed so easily. Had

hoping that his political ambitions will redound to their benefit, they are really weakening the fight of the labor movement.

We have mentioned the fact that pressure from all sides is being exerted on the President. Roosevelt is in a dilemma for only one reason: a presidential election is due in 1944 and he plans to run for a fourth term. His problem is to satisfy all forces in order to insure his nomination professional labor-baiters and flunkeys of and then his election. There are, then, two reasons for his hesitation. He is afraid that if he signs the bill he will lose the labor vote. And he is afraid that by making the bill a law, labor's dissatisfaction will be so great as to interfere with war production. In either case, it would mean his defeat in

> This brings us to the political heart of the present situation, for the Smith-Connally bill forces the question of labor political action to the forefront. Up to now, the labor chiefs have tied the union organizations to one or another of the boss political parties. The results have always hurt the workers because they have been compelled to rely upon the political flunkeys of the capitalist parties. By their own experiences, thousands upon thousands of rank and file unionists know that in every crisis, great or small, the professional politicians have acted against the best interests of labor.

The great political need of the workers today is an Independent Labor Party based upon the trade union movement. Only such a party, free from any entanglements with the Republican or Democratic Parties, can offer any political hope for labor. All that the workers have gained from the official policy of supporting one of the boss stroy the militancy of the labor movement parties or another, either because one was a "friend of labor," or under the theory of It has been charged that the bill is a "rewarding your friends and punishing your enemies," is a stab in the back.

The action of the conference of Labor's Non-Partisan League in Detroit (a report of which is published elsewhere in these columns) is symptomatic of the feelings of American labor. They are getting fed up with the political run-around from the Democratic Party with its share of reactionaries, labor-baiters and Southern Bourbons who dictate the actions of the party in Congress. They know that there is nothing to expect from the Republican Party of big business.

Great possibilities are offered to the labor movement in the creation of such a party. It would give the workers a powerful weapon on the political field to supplement their weapon of trade unionism. Unified politically as well as economically, American labor can advance the position and power of this country's exploited millions.

# Miners Fight For Contract; WLB Still Blocks the Way --

#### (Continued from page 1)

When the second walk-out came on May 31 the miners had no contract with the operators or anyone else. Therefore they could not violate this or any other contract. Neither the government or the operators asked that the contract be extended. And vet t is because they were on strike during these five days that the miners were fined.

According to Ickes, it would be unjust for the operators to fine the miners for strikng during a period in which the contract had been extended, but it was not unjust for the government to fine the miners for a walk-out at a time when the government had not asked for an extension of the contract, and when no contract, in fact, existed. Ickes perhaps would argue that the contract remains in operation automatically so long as the mines are "United States property." This is an excellent examplle of the manner in which government bosses and bureaucrats interrupt and make "laws" to fit the occasion. Ickes was floored by the WLB and he tried a come-back, not against the WLB, but against the miners! Ickes, a government bureaucrat, is

on a rampage, using his administrative post as a springboard.

Later he modified his order levying the fines. The miners owners were to be permitted to act as they saw fit. Operators in Pennsylvania and West Virginia employing 225,000 miners have already agreed to wave the fines. This means that few if any miners will be faced with the fines, since the order did not apply to the anthracite and captive workers.

#### A Behind-the-Scenes Fight

It is clear from all that is going on that the real battle from the side of the government and the operators is taking place behind the scenes. The WLB and Ickes maneuver with each other and against each other. The operators sit tight, grant nothing, still hoping that the government will pull them out of the ditch. That this is the situation is well illustrated by the latest move from the operators. The Central Pennsylvania Coal Producers Association, which had agreed to portal-to-portal pay of \$1.30 a day, has now withdrawn from this agreement.

These operators say that they asked the UMWA to concur in an ex-

### Miners Supported by Detroit LNPL

Whereas, the coal miners of the nation are engaged in a bitter struggle with coal operators of the nation in an effort to establish decent wages and working conditions, and

Whereas, the uncompromising position of the coal operators has resulted in the miners following their traditional policies of refusing to trespass on the property of the coal operators without a contract, and,

Whereas, this present controversy has been aggravated by the action of Secretary of Interior Ickes in levying a fine of one dollar per day on the miners for failure to work without a contract, and

Whereas, a pattern has already been established by an agreement reached between the United Mine Workers of America and a group of operators in the state of Pennsylvania which if carried out in the balance of the coal industry would settle the present controversy between the miners and the operators;

Therefore be it resolved, that this county convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League go on record condemning the autocratic and provocative position of Secretary Ickes in levying a fine against the miners and urge that the action be rescinded immediately in the interest of bringing a speedy solution to the present controversy between the miners and the coal operators, and

Be it further resolved, that the War Labor Board and other governmental agencies engaged in the negotiations between the United Mine Workers and the coal operators be urged to follow the pattern already established in the Pennsylvania coal fields as a basis for ending the present dispute, and

Be it finally resolved, that copies of this resolution to sent to President Roosevelt, Secretary of Interior Ickes, James F. Byrnes, Office of War Mobilization, William Davis, chairman of War Labor Board, Madame Perkins, secretary of Labor, Philip Murray, President of CIO, and John L. Lewis, president of UMWA.



tension of this agreement beyond the one-year term which would expire April 1, 1944. This the UMWA would not agree to. We are of the opinion that pressure was put on these operators to try and get out of the agreement they had made for \$1.30 portalto-portal pay. If this agreement had been signed it would have set the standard for the rest of the country and by now the strike would have been settled.

There is strong evidence for the belief that the WLB and other New Deal government bosses do not want this strike settled in this manner. That is, they don't want the operators and miners to come to agreement through collective bargaining processes between themselves and without the "aid" and intervention of the WLB:

The WLB has clearly demonstrated that it is against genuine collective bargaining between employers and labor. Its whole handling of the mine strike has been an attempt to establish itself, a government board, as perpetual and decisive arbitrator. If the WLB can get away with this procedure, genuine collective bargaining will be a thing of the past. Hold the Ranks

The actions of the WLB and Ickes in this strike give a clear indication of what is in store for labor if the unions do not arouse themselves from the dangerous slumber into which they have been lulled by the AFL-CIO leadership. An attempt is being made at the regimentation of labor by the government and under its direct supervision. The role of policeman will either be assigned to the WLB or this board will attempt to usurp such authority. What is more than tragic in this situation is the fact that leading officials of the AFL and the CIO have remained on the WLB throughout the mine dispute. Not only have they stayed there, but they have been part and parcel of the most outrageous unanimous decisions against the miners and their union.

All the miners need remember is what we have said again and again: they have an impregnable position, they are right, they can win. They must hold their ranks!

### 'India in Revolt'

If you haven't yet ordered and read Henry Judd's magnificent pamphlet, "India in Revolt," do so immediately. Order your copy from the Workers Party, 114 West 14th Street,

The recent decision of the War Labor Board ordering equalization of pay for Negroes in Texas is undoubtedly a victory for the Negroes, but it was won by their determined struggle for their elementary, rights. An examination of the order, however, shows that the WLB had in mind the international boosting of the United Nations, and the covering up of the skeleton of American race prejudice.

Several Aspects of

The WLB Decision

THE NEGRO

By W. F. CARLTON

The board describes the decision as being in line with the President's Executive Order 8802, with the request of the union, etc., "with prophetic Americanism" (whatever that may mean) "and with the cause of the United Nations." Then follows a real attack on Nazism for its racial doctries: "Economic and political discrimination on account of race or creed is in line with the Nazi program.'

The order then goes on to describe America in the days of its infant weakness as "the haven of heretics and the oppressed of all races." This, if you please, of the greatest slave-holding nation of modern times. The Negro is told that his freedom in America gives him an "equal opportunity to work and fight for our common country." America needs the Negro and the Negro "needs the equal opportunity to work and fight." Then comes a revealing passage; "The Negro is necessary for winning the war, and, at the same time, as a test of our sincerity in the cause for which we are fighting."

Follows the climax, which must be quoted in full: "More hundreds of millions of colored people are involved in the outcome of this war than the combined populations of the Axis powers. Under Hitler and his master race, their movement is backward to slavery and despair. In America, the colored people have the freedom to struggle for freedom, With the victory of the democracies, the human destiny is toward freedom, hope, equality of opportunity and the gradual fulfillment for all people of the noblest aspirations of the brothers of men and the sons of God, without regard to color or creed, religion or race, in the world neighborhood of human brotherhood."

#### DIRECTED AT PEOPLES OF FAR EAST

It is not enough to say: "Baloney!" This passage is obviously directed straight to the peoples of the Far East. We believe that this order has played, and will play, a prominent part in the nightly broadcasts directed to the peoples in the East, and will occupy an equally prominent position in the official propaganda magazines edited by the Office of War Information for distribution in Asia.

The United Nations are feeling the pressure of the Far Eastern peoples on this, one of the rotten spots in American "democracy." When Madama Chiang Kai-shek was dined in Hollywood, she insisted that a Negro sit at her table. Madam wanted to signify that as far as China was concerned, the Negro question did not exist.

In India, American persecution of Negroes is a lively political topic. The Japanese see to that. Whenever a lynching takes place, the Japanese merely reprint reports of it from the American press or radio, and broadcast it throughout the Far East. Big liars, as all imperialists must be, the Japanese propaganda department has no cause to be on this question. It merely repeats the facts.

#### IT IS TIME NEGROES SPOKE OUT

Today Germany and Japan are not only waging verbal propaganda against British and American hypocrisy on the race question. It is reliably reported that the Germans and the Japanese have torpedoed ships, shot the white men on board, and not only allowed the Indians and Javanese sailors to go free, but have given them brandy and biscuits to help them on their way. They thus endeavor to demonstrate that they are the true friends of the colored peoples.

they been more determined, had they threatened to invoke the power of the united strength of the labor movement against the bill-they MIGHT have prevented its passage.

But it is only now, when the bill is on the President's desk, that the leaders of the union movement have become alarmed. How do they fight the bill? By relying upon the personal intervention of the President, LABOR PARTY!

DEFEAT THE ANTI-LABOR, ANTI-STRIKE SMITH-CONNALLY BILL!

UNITE THE FORCES OF LABOR ON THE POLITICAL FIELD!

FORWARD TO AN INDEPENDENT

12. The right of free speech, free press and

13. The right of soldiers to vote in all elec-

14. The right of all youth, male or female,

15. For adequate dependency allowances

tions from the soldier's pay.

to vote at the age of eighteen. Old

enough to fight; old enough to work;

paid by the government with NO deduc-

free assembly for the men in the armed

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

old enough to vote!

TO THE DRAFTEES!

forces.

tions.

If you have never known it before, you now know that cottage cheese is a good pinch-hitter for other proteins. Especially in hot weather is it a handy item to have around for salads and so on.

Last summer you could get a pound container of cottage scheese for eleven or twelve cents-and, according to the label, it was mixed with cream,

Now you pay seventeen or eighteen cents for a pound container-and it is NOT mixed with cream.

For a fifty per cent increase in price you do not even get the same quality of merchandise-which is true not only of cottage cheese but of almost everything else you buy.

However, the Borden Company at least does not let you down completely. On its container where it used to say that cream had been added, it now kindly tells you to use cottage cheese as a meat substitute. Bigheartedly the company gives you the same amount of printing, even though it does not give you any cream in the cheese costing fifty per cent more.

Borden's and other dairy product monopolists are indeed making hay while the sun shines-if you can mention the sun in connection with this global catastrophe.

By cutting down the milk deliveries to every other day, the companies are saving plenty of money on labor -while workers will be jobless.

The milk drivers' union states that most of the houseto-house deliveries are made by horse and wagon. The claim that gas and rubber must be saved is therefore only another instance of bosses using the war to line their pockets with blood-stained gold.

Every time workers balk at being the goats, the bosses and their controlled molders of public opinion have a stereotyped answer ready: The workers are holding up the war effort!

A factory near Westport, Conn.-not named in the press, presumably for military reasons-is farming out homework to women in the neighborhood on a piece basis. The plant is making cable grips for the Signal

The head of the factory-who happens to be a woman -is very proud of this solution of the manpower "shortage" we are hearing so much about-while thousands of union workers in various industries are constantly finding themselves without work, and competent Negroes can't get work.

The ingenious head of this factory also poses as a benefactor of the poor, stating for the press: "I've discovered real hardships the average Westport resident wouldn't suspect; poverty and pride, an urgent need for money in the home," etc., etc.

The self-created halo must be pulled from the selfrighteous head of this she-boss.

Piecework at home is definitely a method for undermining union standards. Unions cannot organize home workers. Consequently home workers are prey for the bosses-a source of cheap labor. This Westport she-boss knows from where come sable coats.

This column hasn't paid its respects to Mrs. Roose-

velt for quite some time. Amends are hereby made with the following long quotation from a speech by the First Lady about the miners' strike:

"Take the company stores, for instance. They allow the miners to run up bills and keep them 'in hock' forever. And they charge higher prices for their goods than neighboring stores.

"If you go down into the mining areas you will find that mining is an extremely dangerous occupation, and I am not satisfied that always efforts are being made to make it less dangerous. In the matter of wages, the miners are working full time now, of course, but for years many miners never worked more than two and three days a week.

"That, undoubtedly, was hard on the mine owners, too-[poor things]-but nevertheless these miners ended the week often with pay envelopes containing as little as three cents. I have seen pay envelopes containing three cents."

Based on her first-hand information of the miners' hardships, Mrs. Roosevelt is of the opinion that the miners are entitled to "some concessions" in the light of what they and their families "have lived through for the past ten years."

You, reader, being a bit logical in your thinking, may draw the conclusion from the above that Mrs. Roosevelt was at least not opposed to the miners' strike. Banish the thought. She assured her listeners-in this case some two hundred Chinese students in this country-THAT SHE HAS NO SYMPATHY FOR THE MINERS' STRIKE.

She failed to indicate in what other way the miners can get "some concessions"-nor did she account for the fact that she herself did not make speeches about the miners' hardship BEFORE THEY WENT ON STRIKE.

Delayed reports from France via London tell of the heroic acts of French women against the Nazis. With all their might they have been opposing the deportation of their sons, husbands and fathers for slave labor in Germany.

Mass demonstrations have culminated in mothers, daughters and wives laying their bodies across the tracks in front of locomotives to prevent the movement of trains carrying their men to slavery. This and other actions have kept between fifty and eighty per cent of the French workers conscripted for German factories from going. Vichy supposedly admits as much.

Is it reasonable to suppose that these militant, fighting women-undefeated in a defeated countrywill be content with the post-war replacement of Hitlerism by the old-time rule of French capitalism represented by Giraud, de Gaulle et al.?

Many a bitter struggle have French working men and women fought against the fascist-infested French capitalist class before the war. In 1936, they were on the verge of making a workers' revolution-the only salvation for the working people of the world.

MAY THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT TODAY BEING SHOWN BY FRENCH WOMEN INDICATE THAT THE FRENCH WORKING CLASS WILL CONTINUE WHERE IT LEFT OFF IN 1936!

In South Africa, among the African natives, Hitler's agents are actively telling the people that the British are the real enemies of the African people. This is true enough, but equally true is the fact that the Germans are not persecuting the Negroes simply because they haven't any to persecute. The Hitler regime sterilized all the Negroes it could find in Germany.

Thus imperialism plays football with the desire of the Negro peoples for freedom and equality. When the pressure in Washington and all over the United States was getting really hot on the Negro question, Roosevelt went out of his way to make a spectacular visit to President Barclay of Liberia, and invited Barclay to pay an equally spectacular visit here. The Negro press, which, along with good agitation on the Negro question, can propagate the silliest nonsense at times, made much of the fact that, in accordance with official custom, Mrs. Roosevelt accompanied the distinguished guests to the doors of their bedrooms. Presumably, the hundreds of thousands of starying Negroes in Liberia slept better that night.

One should not be fooled by all this. The order of the WLB was not issued willingly, nor without pressure, nor without fear of what a dangerous situation exists now. Rather we should know, when the Negroes have won a privilege, it was by hard struggle. The workers in the unions have demanded equal pay for all alike and it is they who have forced the issue. This order is not only a victory for the Negro worker, but for all labor.

### LABOR ACTION

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### 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 measures!
- 2. \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
- 3. Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- 4. For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- 5. No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- 6. For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- 7. No government contract without a union contract. The closed shop in all war industries!
- 8. Maintain and increase all government social services!

- the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- ers' control!
- three per cent of the people who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth!

#### SOAK THE RICH-LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- 9. A government levy on capital to cover
- 10. Conscript all war industries under work-
- 11. Expropriate the "Sixty Families" the

SMASH JIM CROW! Corps. 16. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semi-

- tism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!
- 17. For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

#### **BE PREPARED!**

- 18. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions against vigilante and fascist attacks!
- 19. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
- 20. For Peace Through Socialism! For the independence of all colonies!
- 21.For a World Socialist Federation! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism.