After the Third Miners' Strike

Nationalize the Mines **Under Workers' Control!**

The Policy Committee of the United Mine Workers of America has voted to call off the third general strike of the miners.

A statement issued by President John L. Lewis declares that the miners will return to work pending another truce, this one to expire at midnight of October 31.

The decision of the Policy Committee has not been greeted with enthusiasm by the miners throughout the country. From numerous mining centers come reports that miners, sick and tired and angry over the sabotaging of their legitimate and modest demands for a living wage by the profit swollen coal operators and the government, are reluctant to return to work.

"Unless Lewis has something up his sleeve, the men will refuse to work," said Russell Foltz, secretary of the Central Pennsylvania Scalp Level Local of the UMW, with 1,600 members.

"It will be kind of hard to get men back," said John Castel, president of the Portage Local of the union. "It looks like production will be cut firty per cent as the men are disgusted."

Negotiations for a new contract have been going on since the beginning of the year. The miners have a perfect case for their wage-increase demands. The coal operators, drunk and arrogant with their economic and political power, feeling the whole capitalist class backing them up, has simply stood pat in the defense of their profits. Not once during the negotiations did the operators make a single specific proposal to meet the miners' demands -except to say: "Go back to work under the old contract,"

The government, and the government agencies, particularly the graveyard of American labor grievances, the War Labor Board, have done everything in their power to back up the operators and to rebuff the miners.

Operators, government, press and radio have worked with might and main to break the ranks of the miners. For months, they have carried on the dirtiest campaign of slander and mudslinging against the miners and their union.

So the miners showed them! They went out once-to a man. They went out a second time-again to a man. And then they went out a third time—and you couldn't find a scab to dig coal. The fight of the miners, their solidarity, their militancy, their courage in the face of mendacious attack and threats, has few equals in the history of the labor movement of this country.

Now they are back at work again-without a single conces sion, unless you call the miserable twenty cents a day that the War Labor Board has adopted a concession. We call it an insult and a provocation to the men who take their lives in their hands every day they go down into the mines, to men who are compelled to rive with their families in conditions of poverty and suffering, the men whose labor and physical sacrifices have built up some of the biggest fortunes in the country.

A statement of the Appalachian operators says: "If the President permits the mines to be operated under the terms laid down by John L. Lewis, the main issue goes unresolved. Nothing is settled. The present strike is merely postponed." The operators are right. They know what they are talking about. They know where their interests lie.

A statement by President Lewis says: "This arrangement is predicated upon operation of the mines and their collateral production units by the United States government and will automatically terminate if governmental control is vacated.... The mine workers are going to work for their government, and not for the coal operators." John L. Lewis is wrong, on at least two counts. In the first place, it is not "their government" that the miners are working for, but the government of the coal operators, and the other big industrial monopolists and bankers. In the second place, the miners are not working for the government at all. They still work for the operators, and at least for the time being they work under the old, outlived, utterly inadequate contract. The government has NOT taken over the mines. Solid Fuels Administrator Ickes has made that plain ten times over. He insists that he, that the government, is merely the "custodian" of the mines. That means, the government is merely holding the mines for the operators. It means only that the government hoisted its flag over the mine tipple. It means only that the government is making the miners go back to work for the operators on the terms of the operators. The operators say that they can't "afford" a wage increase. Poor operators! Who are they? The "operators" are the big railroads and the big banks. The operators are the House of Morgan, the House of Mellon, the House of Rockefeller and more of the same. Every miner's baby knows that.



ALL WORKERS MUST UNITE AGANST JIM-CROW TERROR



Unite to Defend the Negro **People and Labor Movement!**

Statement of National Committee of the Workers Party

The pogrom against the Negro people of Detroit is a shameful abomination.

A bloodthirsty minority of the population, its mind poisoned with the doctrine of Jim Crowism and inflamed by the blatant propaganda of organized reactionary forces, has imposed its criminal will by mob violence.

The streets of Detroit are covered with the blood of the victims of the pogrom. Twenty-five Negroes are dead, picked off singly by cowardly mobs who outnumbered them a hundred to one, and three whites are dead, too. Hundreds of Negroes are injured, along with many whites. An atmosphere of terror and intimidation hangs over the city.

This is not the first pogrom against Negroes, which the capitalist press refers to as "race riots." The conditions making for such pogroms have been developing all over the country, and these conditions continue to exist. Yesterday it was Mobile, Chester, Beaumont, Los Angeles, Newark, El Paso and other centers of American "civilization." Today it is Detroit. Tomorrow it will be other cities.

It will be other cities tomorrow-unless speedy, resolute, united action is taken by the people to wipe out the bloody blot of Jim Crow! Nothing less than this will do.

Before action can be taken, the people must know where the responsibility for the dastardly crime lies.

The basic responsibility lies with the rotten system of American capitalism, which feeds upon Jim Crow, upon economic, political and social discrimination against its colored slaves, and which feeds the vicious doctrine of Jim Crow to every child who grows up under its tutelage.

Well, if their ownership and management of this basic industry has driven it so far into the ground that it cannot afford to pay the miners a living wage-And if the government says that the mining of coal is indispensable to the

interests of the nation and the nation's industries-And if the government has found it possible to subsidize the big corpora-

tions and enterprises of the country to the tune of billions of dollars-THEN LET THE GOVERNMENT NATIONALIZE THE MINES UNDER

WORKERS' CONTROL! LET THE GOVERNMENT REALLY TAKE OVER THE MINES FROM THE OPERATORS, WHO ARE SELF-CONFESSED BANKRUPTS AND IN-COMPETENTS, WHO ADMIT THAT THEY CANNOT PAY THE MINERS A WAGE THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR THE MINERS TO LIVE LIKE

HUMAN BEINGS! LET THE NATIONALIZED MINES OPERATE UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL!

The miners can GUARANTEE the operation of the mines at top capacity if they control production, and they can guarantee production with their wage demands met in full!

The miners are one hundred per cent right. Their demands are one hundred per cent justified. All they need to do to win is to stick together, take the next step together, fight together-AND LET NOBODY AND NOTHING STAND IN THEIR WAY!



An Eye-Witness Account

he Massacre in Detroit

Woodward expectantly.

"There's one!"

"Get that n--r!"

"Kill that black bastard!"

"Lynch him up! Kill him!"

chase.

streets, suddenly breaking into a

By T. R. COBB

The sun rose high and strong on the first day of summer, 1943. I left my furnished room for the downtown district early that morning, heading for Woodward Avenue, Detroit's Broadway.

Had I been born with a black skin I would have been innocently walking to my death-just as I was later to see dozens of Negroes stroll unsuspectingly into the areas where blood-hungry mobs were waiting to massacre them.

I caught the arm of one of the Belle Isle Bridge. I turned into hoodlums. He wasn't more than sev-Clusters of shirt-sleeved white enteen years oldi

'What's the matter, Buddy? You youths, many wearing identification badges of war plants, milled in the guys like the sight of blood?"

He turned on me ferociously. "Keep yo' face shut, Bo, or yo'll ketch it too. These n--rs are goin' aroun' slashin and killin' white people."

Wild and confident, the mob was now stopping cars driven by Negro Fists flailed, lead pipes and beer bottles descended on the head of a drivers. I saw them stop one car, Negro youth, feet kicked his prosyank out its Negro driver, drag him behind a billboard and club him into insensibility. Two policemen on (Continued on page 4)

Responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the Roosevelt Administration, which sets the tone for Jim Crowism by segregating and discriminating against the Negro in the armed forces of the country, which makes it clear to the world that it regards the Negro as an inferior animal in the war which is presumably being fought against the Nazi doctrine of "Aryan" or "white" supremacy, the war which is presumably being fought for the "equality

of peoples." Responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the governing party of the Administration, the Democratic Party, which could not stay in power in Washington for one minute without the support of the bigoted, corrupt, Bourbon political machine of the Southern Democrats, the heroes of the poll-tax states, from whom Roosevelt does not dare cut himself loose, because his whole presidential past and

his whole presidential future are tied up with them in an iron knot.

Responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the Republican palitical hypecrites, the traditional "friends of the Negro people," who act in Congress as the accomplices of the poll-tax Democrats, who are silent before the Jim Crow and lynch speeches that poison the halls of the federal legislature, who go along enthusiastically with the Jim Crow system in the armed forces, and who are often directly linked with the reactionary fascist and semi-fascist gangs who spew the venom of Jim Crow propaganda throughout the country.

Responsibility falls upon the capitalist class of America, the big corporations and monopolists, who resist every effort to have the Negro taken into industry and treated on an equal basis with all other workers; who stimulate and provoke racial antagonisms among the workers in order to divide their ranks, in order to weaken their unions, in order to maintain their dirty war profits and social power by turning the discontentment of the workers into dissension and fratricidal war among themselves; who encourage and even finance the fascist and semi-fascist organizations, demagogues and rabble-rousers who make their living by spreading the poison of Jim Crowism and anti-Semitism.

Responsibility falls upon these organizations and demagogues too, upon the Christian Mobilizers, upon the Ku Klux Klan, upon the National Workers League, upon the Christian American Association, upon the Black Shirt movement, upon the America First "Party," and others of their foul kind. And there is no doubt that responsibility is shared by Nazi and fascist agents from abroad, that sinister scum which joins with all "native" reactionaries in this country and whose task it is to divide the working class against itself.

We must tell the truth and the whole truth:

a Section 1 + 1 th

Responsibility must be shared by those short-sighted, stupid and reactionary labor leaders who sow antagonisms among the (Continued on page 4)

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GRAND TOTAL FOR DRIVE 1214

The LABOR ACTION Sub Drive began March 7 and ended June 19. During the fifteen weeks of the

121.4

were sent in, exceeding by two hundred and fourteen our National Quota of one thousand subs for the entire drive. Of the total number, over eleven hundred are

brand new subs!

The Sub Drive has truly surpassed all our expectations. Its success is an indication of what we can do in the future. It has given LABOR ACTION a broad basis for extending the paper's influence in the labor movement. Already, in the biggest industrial centers, LABOR ACTION is read by thousands of workers each week. It is discussed in lunch hour conversations, its ideas are argued on the floor of union meetings, the policies it advocates are emerging more and more clearly as the ONLY answer to the pressing problems that the American working class is confronted with. Auto workers, shipyard workers, rubber workers, coal miners-all are reading LABOR ACTION and finding in it what they need.

The end of the drive must NOT mean an end to subgetting activities, however. Our friends and readers

drive, one thousand two hundred and fourteen subs have learned in the drive what can be done and how to do it. Now the job of getting new subs and getting renewals on old ones must be organized on a month-inmonth-out basis that will permit no lag, no slack periods, no relaxation in our efforts. The time is rapidly approaching when LABOR ACTION will be needed by American workers in a more urgent sense than ever before. If we have a drive psychology, that means we can't and won't organize ourselves to get subs unless there's some kind of a DRIVE on.

It was a damn good drive—because of the magnificent work of a comparatively small group of devoted supporters of our paper. Now we would like to see the subs begin to come in from our many new subscribers -who by this time have realized that their friends should be reading the paper too. Order one or two, or better still, a buck's worth, of the twenty-five-cent Prepaid Sub Cards. Send us twenty-five cents each for them, and sell them to your friends at twenty-five cents.. Each one is good for a six months' trial sub. When we receive the card, the sub goes into effect.

trate form. I caught a glimpse of his face-it was ripped into patches of The previous night I had heard whispered rumors about "trouble" on hanging, bloody flesh. the Top-1214 Subs! Drive Over

LABOR ACTION

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Local 9 Rank and File **Action** Wins Wage Victory

SAN PEDRO - Repair workers at the General Executive Board meet-Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Drydock

Page 2

Corp won important wage and working conditions' when the corporation signed an agreement last week with Local 9, CIO Shipyard Workers Union covering work in the repair yard. The long standing dispute over the company's refusal to pay a bonus of 11.6 per cent over new work scales for repair work was settled by the restoration of the "dirty hour"-an extra hour's pay to compensate the men for filthy and often dangerous work aboard ships being repaired. This "dirty hour" pay is retroactive to October 1, 1942, which is considerably less than the men are actually entitled to, as the 11.6 per cent bonus went into effect April 1, 1942. The corporation refused to pay 11.6 per cent on the ground that the question in relation to Bethlehem's San Pedro yard is being decided by the National Shipyard Stabilization Committee. If Bethlehem is forced to give the percentage bonus, pay for the "dirty hour" will be discontinued in the LA yard and 11.6 per cent substituted. As the "dirty hour" pay affects only 70 to 75 per cent of the repair workers, those who actually work aboard ship, the repair workers as a whole, have more to gain from 11.6.

Other important gains for the repair men are time and a half for "hot" jobs-working in engine rooms with steam up, etc.-four hours' reporting time, double time for all work performed after four hours without time off to eat, certain seniority rights for regular repair workers temporarily transferred to new work, eight holidays to be paid at time and a half (workers on new construction at present have only six), and leadermen to get a two-cent raise to bring them up to the standard of leadermen on new work. Leadermen also will be paid the "dirty hour."

Some eight hundred men turned out to hear the report of their committee and in a spirited meeting voted to accept the agreement as a real victory for the repair workers and Local 9. They whole-heartedly accepted the work of their rank and file negotiating committee.

As previously reported in LABOR ACTION, this negotiating committee was elected by the men who were disgusted with the complete lack of success in the negotiations being carried on by W. S. Pollard, administrative director of Local 9, and his staff. The committee was elected against Pollard's protests, began its work with Pollard's prophecy that it could accomplish nothing and would only run itself into the ground-and ended with a clear-cut victory in fewer

ing in Camden, N. J.

repair yard are some of the oldest

members of Local 9 and they are

wise to the sell-out tactics of the

Pollard ordered the sergeant-at-arms

to remove Paul Boyich, former chief

shop steward at the LA Yard, from

the meeting. Thereupon a motion

was made that Boyich be seated

without voice. Defeated overwhelm-

ich and giving him voice was passed

unanimously. Boyich, a repair work-

er in another yard, had been sup-

porting the committee in its work

and has the respect of the repair

workers, who know him as an active

The success of the repair work-

ers has demonstrated conclusively

that a determined rank and file can

force concessions from the corpo-

ration. It has also demonstrated

that the autocratic dictatorship of

the administrative director cannot

prevail against union members de-

termined to get some action. These

are the chief lessons to be learned

by Local 9 members of both the

repair yard and new construction.

Next month the Pacific Coast Ship-

yard Stabilization Committee meets

to consider requests for a raise in

the base wage scale of all the yards.

As yet Local 9 and the CIO have

done next to nothing about getting

a general wage increase to help meet

the skyrocketing cost of living. Last

year the Pacific Coast yards only got

part of the automatic raise they were

entitled to under existing agree-

of Local 9 to begin letting Pollard

Now is the time for all members

Stalinists.

militant.

ments.

and W. H. Stickel.

had a right to transfer these moneys by resolution, as they attempted to do. Postal, the defendant, was the agent and steward of the member-The committee, composed of men

ship and turned over their money at working in the repair yard, knew their direction." what it wanted and was grimly de-Despite this verdict, Postal was termined to get it. Back in the yard, the men were backing up the committee by letting the corporaagain brought to trial on another indictment based on the same facts, which differed only in the tion know that this time they amount of money Postal was almeant business. Protests were orleged to have embezzled. Alganized and threats of a work stopthough the evidence was substanpage were made. Above all, the tially the same, this time Postal men took the action into their own was found guilty and given a fivehands and acted despite the donothing bureaucracy. Fortunately, year sentence. Now that Postal's appeal for a new trial has been the Stalinists, who would run with denied by the Minnesota Supreme fright from anything that smacked Court, he is condemned to serve of direct action, were entirely out that sentence. of the picture in the repair yard. Among the leading militants in the

Kelly Postal is among the best known trade union leaders in the Northwest. For years he was secretary-treasurer of the powerful Team-

avowed, cannot be disputed, as it

was heard, according to state wit-

nesses, through the loud-speaker

system, even by those assembled out-

side the building. The membership

of the union must have believed they

J. P. Jones acted as chairman of the committee, with the following Sun Shipyard Guards members participating: G. Baer, C. R. Brown, W. R. Garcia, J. J. Mc-Donald, N. E. Murray, D. J. O'Hara **Shoot Seven Negro Workers** An interesting sidelight of the

meeting, showing the attitude of the By E. LUND men toward Pollard, took place when

PHILADELPHIA - Seven workers were shot, one of them critically, when company guards fired into a crowd at the yards of the Sun Shipbuilding & Drydock Corp. last Wednesday. The outbreak was the result of a policy of brutality and intimidaingly. Another motion seating Boytion used by the management in its fight against the CIO drive to organize the yards.

Although none of the wounded, all Negroes employed in the Jim Crow No. 4 Yard, were CIO members, the "treat 'em rough" attitude of the guards has been applied toward all employees. Among the wounded was even a prominent company union man and stooge for the management. The guards, also all Negroes, are paid by the company but function as members of the Coast Guard. The latter held them under military arrest, pending an investigation. In an effort to protect them against the vengeance of the men, the Coast Guard has refused to make public the identity of the guards involved.

The story of how the shooting started follows two versions; one, that of the company and the Coast Guard, the other that of the union, Local 2 of the Shipbuilders, CIO. The union story, authenticated by numerous workers who were eye

witnesses, says that it started in the company cafeteria during lunch hour. A warning whistle blows at 12:25 and the men are supposed to be back on the job at 12:30. Several workers who were finishing their meal as the warning whistle blew

sters Local 544 and served as a delegate to the Minneapolis Central Labor Union. He is a World War veteran, a former member of the United Mine Workers and a unionist of thirty years' standing.

The Minnesota Supreme Court's confirmation of the decision against Kelly Postal sets an extremely dangerous legal precedent which can be used to deprive other unions of their democratic right to decide for themselves the disposition of their union funds. Postal was never accused of misusing the union's funds personally. As secretary-treasurer of the local, he merely obeyed the unanimous vote of the union membership at a regular union meeting to take 544's funds with them out of the AFL and into the CIO. He is no more guilty than the officers of the CIO who took their union funds along with them when they left the AFL.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, which has been conducting Postal's defense; has announced its resolve to fight this gross violation of trade, union democracy and to take all possible steps to secure Kelly Postal's freedom.

The version of the stories given by

the company and the Coast Guard

say nothing about the cafeteria inci-

dent and claim it started when a

guard challenged a worker who

worked without an identification

badge. None of the workers present

can even guess how this story ever

got started. It is pointed out that

no one can get by the guards at the

gates without a badge. Even should

he could have worked all morning

without being challenged by his lead-

er, his foreman, or by one of the

guards on the hourly visits to check

The intensive activity of the CIO

is continuing to enroll more and

more members as the date of the

NLRB election, June 30, rolls near.

Union spokesmen feel that the bru-

tality shown by the company guards

ing to understand that Pew really

loves them as long as they are satis-

the shooting will help open the

all badges.

ture of the race.

in

To Force Prices Down, San Pedro **Housewives Act**

SAN PEDRO-Direct action to compel compliance with OPA food prices was taken Wednesday by a mass demonstration of 750 war workers' wives living in Banning Homes Project, which succeeded in forcing a twenty to twenty-five per cent reduction in prices at the Banning Market.

This reporter witnessed the demonstration, which was covered by the San Pedro and Los Angeles press and blasted its way into the big newspapers

Indignant housewives, furious at the outrageous prices charged by the market, succeeded in forcing the manager of the store to close his doors and immediately lower his prices.

The auditorium, crowded to capacity, enthusiastically responded to the appeals of the speakers. A Banning Homes housewife chairmanned the meeting and introduced several speakers, one of whom spoke on the necessity for permanent organization. Another housewife read to the gathering two letters from shipyard workers who enumerated their grievances and pledged their complete solidarity.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Shipyard Workers Union, Local 9, CIO, at the request of its members, helped organize and assist in the work. Mrs. Frances O'Brien, chairlady of the High Cost of Living Committee of the Auxiliary, spoke at the meeting and pledged the support of her organization. She stressed the fact that this was but the beginning of the fight for all women throughout the United States, that prices must go down to the lowest level in 1942, or wage stabilization didn't mean a thing; that only union and housewives' committees will lower prices. She quoted figures proving that food costs have increased a hundred per cent in many sections of the country.

Another housewife, who was the final speaker and leader of the housewives, led the demonstration to the market and went inside with two other women to issue an ultimatum to the manager to lower prices by Friday morning, or the store would be boycotted.

A surging crowd of indignant housewives wanted to force their way into the store and take action this have happened in the morning into their own hands, but were disrush, it is impossible to believe that suaded by Mrs. O'Brien, who asked

the crowd to follow the instructions of their committee. A wave of laughter shook the crowd when it was reported that the manager could not be found. "Where is he?" "Where is he hiding?" "Can he be hiding in the icebox with the rotten meat?" cried the women.

A share-cars system was presented and enthusiastically received. Men

News of Miners' Strike Taboo in Nazi Propaganda

No labor union, no union official or section of the working class has been so vilified and abused by the reactionary press, the bosses and the politicians (aided and abetted by the No. 1 scabs in this country, the Stalinists) as the United Mine Workers, John L. Lewis and the coal diggers. They have been called everything from traitors and agents of Hitler to fifth columnists by the "pay-triots" and their new ally in the newspaper world, the Daily Worker. We have been told that the strike of the coal miners for a decent standard of living has been hailed by the German fascists.

This is, of course, a lie. Fascism is an anti-union and anti-labor movement allied with big business. Fascism destroys the labor movement, its trade unions and its political organizations. We now have confirmation that the propaganda of the yellow press was a lie.

That the Germans have utilized the conflict between the miners and the Administration, we have no doubt. That is part of their propaganda campaign in the war. They utilize all the conflicts in the United Nations for progadanda purposes, just as the United Nations take the same advantages over the conflicts in the Axis camp.

But it is extremely significant that in the case of the Miners Union, the German fascists have avoided all mention of the fact that the miners went out on strike and carried on a fight for their basic rights. PM and the Baltimore Sun report the fact that neither the radio nor the press in the Axis countries made a single reference to the fact that workers were on strike in this country!

There is a moral in this report. The fascist scum which rules over the masses in the Axis countries are in deathly fear of their working class-not of big business, mind you, but of the working class. They know that if they report a series of strikes in Allied nations, it would be catching. The exploited and oppressed workers in their countries would give way to their dissatisfaction and go out on strike themselves. And, who knows, their strikes might lead to even bigger struggles, such as the overthrow of the whole kit and kaboodle of the fascist monsters who stand upon the bent backs of labor throughout Europe.

While the fascists fear to mention the fact that the workers have gone out on strike in the United States and other countries, Congress has passed the Smith-Connally anti-strike bill. And this, too, is significant. Loss of the right to strike is a further step on the road to enslavement of American labor. It is a leaf borrowed from the book of

Sparks in the News

By EVERETT WESTON

Beginning April 1, the Japanese have broadened their military training program down to include boys of 15 years of age. -LA-

According to a report by the National Child Labor Committee, 580,-000 boys and girls of 14 and 15, and 2,200,000 of 16 'and 17 are working in industry and agriculture. Much of this is still illegal, in spite of the relaxing of many state laws prohibiting child labor.

-LA-

By estimates of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., between 1,615,000 and 2,085,000 soldiers were killed in action in the year 1942. This does not include a possibly equal or greater number of civilians. -LA-

"An Irish soldier on duty in Egypt received a letter from his wife saying that because of the war she would have to dig the garden herself. 'Bridget, please don't dig the garden,' wrote Pat. 'That's where the guns are.' The letter was duly censored and in a short time soldiers came and dug up the garden from

end to end. Bridget, worried over

persons on Celebes, Netherlands Indies, for "plotting against the Japanese government." Could it be that they don't like Pan-Asia? -LA-

"The Wages and Hours Division of the Department of Labor announced that minimum hourly rates for learners employed in the textile industries have been increased from as low as twenty-two and a half cents to thirty-five cents an hour. The order also authorizes the employment of a large number of learners in the industry for the duration of the war." --New York Times.

-LA-

"Sixteen flour milling corporations, eleven of their executives, and their national trade association were indicted by the federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy to fix prices of packaged family flour."-AP dispatch from Chicago.

-LA-

The Spingarn medal is given annually to the American Negro considered to have made the highest contribution to his race in the preceding year. For 1942 it went to ex-Judge William H. Hastie, who resigned as civilian aide to Secretary of War Stimson in protest against segregation and discrimination in the Army.

Following the shooting the workers lined up against the fence and refused to work. Edward Abrams,

popular CIO organizer in No. 4 Yard, attempted to speak to the men but

was arrested and held in \$3,000 bail on a charge of inciting to riot. Though the men were persuaded to go back to the job, virtually no work was done for the rest of the shift.

Five workers were taken to the hospital and two were treated at the company dispensary for minor flesh wounds. Almost all of the wounds were in the back or the back of the legs, indicating they were running from the guards when shot.

weeks than Pollard had tried in and the national leadership know months! A contributing factor may that they demand a general wage inbe that during its negotiations Pol- crease to meet the rising cost of livlard was safely out of town attending ing!

Minnesota Supreme Court Upholds Postal Conviction

On June 18 the Minnesota Supreme Court upheld the conviction of Kelly Postal, secretary - treasurer of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544, CIO, on a charge of alleged "embezzlement" of funds belonging to the union. Postal, the victim of one of the most vicious frame-ups against a militant union leader in American labor history, has entered the state penitentiary at Stillwater, Minn., to serve a five-year sentence.

Postal's conviction is the third case in which he has figured as a result of the conflict over questions of trade union democracy between Local 544 and Daniel J. Tobin, president of the AFL Teamsters International Union, which culminated in 544's separation from the AFL and affiliation with the CIO. Postal was one of five defendants acquitted by the jury in December, 1941, in the

famous trials of twenty-three members of Local 544 and leaders of the Socialist Workers Party. Having failed to obtain a federal conviction, Tobin then pressed the Hennepin County attorney to try Postal a second time upon an earlier indictment, together with President Miles Dunne and Organizer Moe Hork, on four different charges of grand larceny.

Postal's first trial for "embezzlement" ended in a directed verdict in his favor. In directing the jury to discharge the case, Presiding Judge Hall declared:

"By a resolution of the majority of the Local 544 membership, he (Postal) was directed to turn over all of the moneys of the union to the Union Defense Committee. That this resolution, directing him to turn over the moneys was open and

were approached by several guards with a demand that they "get back on the job." One of the workers replied that he was still on his own time and would finish eating. The guard proceeded to take his number, which is the usual procedure when reporting a worker for violating a

rule. The worker followed the guard and asked what he was being reported for. At this moment the captain of the guards pushed his way through the small group that had gathered during the argument and punched the worker. Soon a general scuffle ensued, during which someone threw a half-brick and struck a guard. The guards immediately pulled their automatic pistols and the crowd scattered. However, the guards opened fire and felled a number of persons.

fied to keep their mouths shut and let Pew judge when they should have a raise or a promotion and, above all, join his company union. But Negroes who stand up like men, think their own thoughts and speak them out, which means joining the CIO, are manhandled, laid off. fired, and generally pushed around by Pew management and guards.

Labor Action Readers, Please Note:

. The Post Office Department has been assigning postal district numbers in various parts of the country. We are asking all subscribers and readers to send us their postal district numbers immediately. This will insure a more rapid and certain delivery of your paper. Also take note of LABOR ACTION's postal district number: 114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.

and women pledged on the spot to eyes of many Negro employees who drive women into town to shop at all have been taken in by the company hours of the day. The crowd was inunion line that John Pew, the comstructed to meet and elect court cappany president, Republican boss, and tains and organize a democratic die-hard enemy of unionism, is realcouncil. Cries for a picket line were ly interested in the welfare and fuheard throughout the audience and arrangements were made to have a Negroes are more and more com-

picket line ten hours a day. Seven hundred and fifty women pledged to boycott the store until prices were lowered and pledged also to make sure that no resident of Banning Homes would enter the store until then.

Store Manager John Dente told the newspaper men that he had complied with the ceiling prices and has been sixty per cent below on the most important staples. The statement appeared in most of 'the newspapers but they did not mention that it was clearly not true. The Housewives' Committee distributed to all reporters a list of prices at the Banning Market above the ceilings. The proof, of course, is that the demonstration forced the market prices down.

This is the first case in this boom area where effective action has been taken to halt the profiteering price rise which is eating into the workers' pay checks. The Banning housewives have shown the way.

But shipyard workers, who must

the incident, wrote to Pat asking what she should do. Pat's reply was short and to the point: 'Put in the spuds.' "-Reader's Digest.

-LA-Donald M. Nelson: "Everybody is just a little bit dissatisfied, which is always the sign of a healthy compromise."

-LA-

All newly appointed Spanish bishops are required to take an oath of loyalty to Franco's fascist state. This is in accordance with the Vatican accord of June 7, 1941. -LA-

When the statues are built to the heroes of this war, it is to be hoped that they do not forget Thomas J. Watson, president of the International Business Machines Corp. With a truly remarkable, and most unusual show of patriotism, Mr. Watson insisted that his pay for 1942 (when the company had a great deal of war business) should not be greater than in 1939 (when the company had none). Of course, there is a limit to this

kind of thing. Mr.. Watson did agree to accept \$428,189 for the year. That is only \$8,234.40 a week, though.

-LA-The Tokyo radio reports that the

Japanese have had to execute seven

-LA-

"Widespread worker 'demonstrations' against the black market in Italy, which in Milan at least attained proportions of a near-riot, are being investigated by the government...."-New York Times.

"The weekly meat ration in The Netherlands was cut from seven ounces to four and a half ounces."-UP dispatch.

"Prime Minister John Curtin warned Australians that food rationing on a wider scale than had hitherto been thought necessary might have to be faced."-Canadian Press dispatch.

"Prime Minister Abdul Kasem Falul Hug of Bengal Province and his cabinet resigned after a government crisis over the food situation."-UP dispatch.

"A great scandal was unveiled in Versailles when the police discovered that a number of high civil servants, in charge of national relief, had stolen the entire fund collected this winter."-Reuters dispatch.

"The food crisis in the British West Indies is becoming so grave that warehouse owners and other business men are demanding riot insurance."-Newsweek.

"Major General Sir Robert Percy Laurie, convicted and fined about \$23,250 for misusing civilian food ration stamps, has been suspended from his post as Provost Marshal of Great Britain."-AP dispatch.

Jhe Readers of Labor Action Jake the Floor

Doubts Socialism

From reading your paper, I know the Workers Party believes in socialism. Now socialism sounds very fine on paper and I would be all for it if it worked. But I can't see how it can work with human nature being greedy. In no time you will again have rich and poor politicians and a new ruling class. Russia, in my opinion, proves that. I agree with you when you say that under Lenin and Trotsky they had socialism, but look at them now; the conditions are worse than in the U.S. and England. I will continue reading your paper for its labor news and point of view, with which I agree, but not for its socialism.

For Our Labor Views; Dear Editor:

stood us on Russia. We never said that under Lenin and Trotsky there was socialism. No, socialism can exist only as a world order; it is impossible to establish such a society in a single country. What we did say was that under Lenin and Trotsky there was a genuine workers' state, i.e., the workers ruled the country. The new state, based on the soviet system, owned the property. A basis

was laid for socialism. The objective reasons for the decay of the workers' state lay in the fact that the European and world working class never came to the aid of the isolated, backward and poor workers' Russia. On the basis of this poverty and backwardness, a new ruling class came to power-the bu-J. H.

(We should like to make a couple reaucracy, under the leadership of Stalin. of brief comments on the letter of

J.H. First of all, he has misunder-We trust that the events of today and tomorrow will convince you that socialism must and will come. If the workers rule in one or more of the advanced countries, a solid foundation will be laid for a socialist world. Socialism is not only desirable; it is necessary for the future advance of mankind. But it can only come as a world system.

Keep on reading LABOR ACTION. We are certain that in time you will agree with us-Editor.)

Shipyard Wages and **Earnings of Bosses**

To the Editor: Shipyard workers will be interested to learn how wage freezing af-

fects the "big shot" executives of the shipbuilding companies. Testimony before the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington revealed that K. F. Metten, chairman of the board of the New York Shipbuilding Co. in Camden, N. J., was getting \$3,200 a year in 1939 and has since been raised to · \$60,000.

Must be tough struggling along on that. It means only \$5,000 a month.

However, Metten defended himself by saying that it was really less than is being paid by other shipyards to their top executives.

Representatives Robert Grant and Melvin Maas, both Republicans, also defended Metten's big pay. They said he was a "sparkplug of industry" ,and a wage cut would "harm his spirit and morale."

stand the worst cold and wet weather in winter, and work on deck plates hot enough to fry an egg in summer, are expected to show the proper spirit and morale just out of patriotic feelings. And when we ask for a raise, as we are in the new contract at the Penn-Jersey yard, the company spokesman calmly tells us to take it up with the Navy, since he is working cost-plus It seems as though "cost-plus" means gravy for the corporations and thin gruel for the workers. All we get is "cost"what it costs us to keep body and soul together and a roof over our heads. So how about a little "plus" for us? Enough to buy a few things we need and lay aside for a rainy day?

Penn-Jersey Worker.

Introductory Offer TO: LABOR ACTION 114 WEST 14th STREET New York 11, N.Y. SIX MONTH SUBSCRIPTION 25e! Name . Address City _

What Is Responsible for the Attacks on the Negro People? **Race Discrimination-National Policy and Practice**

By ALBERT GATES

The bloody "race riots" in Detroit which have resulted in the death of 25 Negroes and three white persons and injury to scores of others is one of the worst outbreaks in the history of the country. But it is no isolated event. These pogroms against the Negroes have become frequent in recent times. Only last week the press contained harrowing reports of lynch mobs roaming the Negro districts of Beaumont, Texas, burning down homes and beating Negro men, women and children.

A couple of weeks ago, soldiers and sailors, incited by the Los Angeles press, participated in what yellow journalism termed "zoot suit" riots. A Negro was recently lynched in Florida. Five Negroes were killed in the Sun Shipyard at Chester, Pa., by company guards. A Negro soldier was just slain at El Paso, Texas. He is not the first colored serviceman to meet his death in this way. . Is this a complete list of the violence, organized and unorganized, against the Negro people of this country? Not at all. There are hundreds, literally hundreds, of cases comparable to those cited. Prior to the outbreaks listed above, we had the attacks on Negro shipyard workers in Mobile, Ala. It is now clear that company officials inspired that attack. The pattern of the Mobile riots is found in other cases. The anti-Negro walkout at the Packard plant in Detroit was also organized at the top, entirely inspired by company officials and aided by the KKK. As a matter of fact, in most instances tension and maintaining it are with these attacks upon a racial minority us every day.

By HENRY LORING

not entirely accurate.

Last November, the U.S. Navy De-

partment took time off from issuing

appeals to American workers for

greater "sacrifices" and heavier war

bond purchases, to concoct a little

deal with the Standard Oil Co. of

California intended to enrich that

company's treasury by some \$20,000,-

000 of the above mentioned Amer-

ican workers' hard - earned dough.

Early in December the Navy Depart-

ment issued a press release on this

master stroke in the war for democ-

racy on the home front, modestly

giving only a few details-and these

The contract putting this little deal

into effect, and turning over to the

Standard Oil Co. of California the

Elk Hills naval oil reserve in Cali-

are inspired from above and are organized! Who Incites Race Hatred?

Since the war broke out, racial tension has increased. The propaganda against racial and national minorities has been both open and secret. But it has increased steadily and to a point where open attacks, reminiscent of Hitler's pogroms against the Jews, were bound to take place. And all of this in a country at war, presumably in defense of the principles of the so-called "Four Freedoms" and the Atlantic Charter.

But, it will be said: the Administration is firmly against race discrimination, has made attempts to solve the racial problem and to improve the status of the Negro people. In some respects, this is true. However, it must be explained that whatever concessions the Negro people have won in the fight against Jim Crow and discrimination were largely the result of their own determined efforts. Yes, the Negro people have made

progress, but it is this very progress which has incited the race haters, Hitler's spiritual comrades, the Southern politicians, the Klansmen of the North and South, and many in high places in industry, to copen their vicious and vile propaganda against racial and national minorities.

How and why is this possible when charge! presumably the Negro people have made progress in their struggle for equality? It is possible because all the necessary bases for inciting race

Jim Crow, Administration protests to the contrary, is a national policy. There is Jim Crow in the armed forces, in every branch of the service-in the Navy, the Army, the Air Force. Jim Crow is practiced in nursing and in the Red Cross. There is Jim Crow in government service. These evils alone would serve to keep alive race tension and race discrimination. But this is not all. The Southern states are poll-tax

states. The fight in Congress to abolish the poll-tax brought on a Southerners' filibuster and speeches by such human rabble as Rankin, Bilbo and Starnes which were calculated to incite pogroms against the Negroes. Thus the legislative halls in Washington were used as a podium to express the basest and most reactionary thoughts of ignorant Southern Bourbons, still fighting the Civil War and, in essence, endorsing the entire racial program of Hitler and his degenerate hordes. The debate over the poll-tax and the speeches of these champions of darkness and hate have been one of the main springs for the current racial violence.

Last but not least in this list of race baiters, are the industrialists who thrive on racial antagonisms because it takes the attention of exploited labor away from their real problems of life and directs their dissatisfactions into racial and national channels. The current situation has brought much proof of this

Jim Crow-A National Policy

But in addition to the fact that

sional discussion over the poll-tax Jews. The next day on the foreign has incited racial feeling against the Negro, there is the ordinary day-today hatred of the Negro and all minorities nurtured by the apostles of darkness in the South and the North, in the Democratic as well as the Republican Parties.

Negroes are Jim Crowed every day of their lives, North and South, East and West, and in every sphere of life. They are Jim Crowed on trains, in restaurants, in public places. They

Good for the Three Sailors!

From a Detroit dispatch by Anthony de Lorenzo, United Press staff correspondent, we take the following paragraphs:

"In front of City Hall a gang of white youths began to close in on a Negro. Three sailors, none of them more than twenty, stepped in and broke it up.

"'He isn't doing you guys any harm,' one of the sailors said. 'Let him alone.'

"'What's it to you?' snapped one of the mobsters.

"'Plenty!' barked the sailor. 'There was a colored guy in our outfit and he saved a couple of lives. Besides, you guys are stirring up something that we're trying to stop.' "

Good for the three sailors!

of cities, in dilapidated houses where they pay the highest rents. They cannot go to certain theaters. They are overcharged for the food they eat and the clothes they wear. Moreover, they face the daily insults against their race. In a word, they are discriminated against socially, politically and economically.

What does Jim Crow and discrimination mean? It means that you single out one racial group or a national minority, and vilify it. It means that you charge such people as being inferior, mentally, physically and spiritually, to another group; in this case, the Negro people as against the white. The moment that is done, racial conflicts are inevitable. They are especially unavoidable when incited from above, in the congressional halls, by the reactionary press, by high political figures, by industrial leaders who find it profitable to divide the workers in

What Race Hatred Does

Obviously, relations between Negro and white peoples in this country are not simply solved. Decades of Jim Crow and racial discrimination have led to a certain conditioning of the thinking of large sections of the population. Children are not

born to it; they are raised and edu-

cated to race hatred by their elders.

But race hatred is a prevailing doc-

it spreads to all parts of the country.

It infects other groups where na-

tional antagonisms exist. And thus

we have a vicious circle of race and

national antagonism which cannot

serve the real interests of the over-

whelming mass of the American

people, the workers and the poor

We revolutionary socialists are op-

posed to Jim Crow and racial and

cause it is inhuman and reactionary.

We are opposed to it because such

doctrines hurt labor and hurt the

poor farmer. The well-being of the

working class and the poor farmers

depends upon their unity, and not

division. Division plays into the

hands of labor's exploiters. It plays

into the hands of reactionary politi-

cians, big business and the rich

farmers. They are the ones who

profit from the attacks now made

But that isn't all. Today these at-

tacks are made against the Negroes.

Tomorrow they may be made on the

upon the Negroes.

national discrimination not only be-

farmers.

born, and a third day upon the Catholics. Once this disease becomes rampant, it has no limits!

The efforts of the liberal press to lay the blame for the anti-Negro riots solely upon the Axis' is dangerously false. We have no doubt that those who echo Hitler's racial doctrines in this country are active in these events. But remember, long before Hitler was even known this race situation existed in this counare segregated in the slum districts try. It was present in the last war

and after the war. It was present before Hitler came to power. The existence of Hitlerism only served to make our native racial haters more outspoken and more vicious in their propaganda. But if the blame for these recent outbreaks is placed exclusively upon fascism in Europe we will overlook the fact that these events have a native base which must be thoroughly uprooted.

How to Defeat Race Hatred

How can this deplorably antiworking class, that is, anti-social, conduct be eliminated?

By ending Jim Crow as a national policy! By abolishing Jim Crow in the armed services! By abolishing the poll-tax and all forms of race discrimination in the South! By. abolishing all forms of race discrimination in the North, East and West! By abolishing all forms of Jim Crow, and race discrimination in industry! By creating genuine racial equality, national equality, social, political and economic equality for all peoples!

One step in this direction is to make it a criminal offense to practice race discrimination-in industry, in political life, in the armed services, in transportation. Discrimination on account of race, creed or color must be destroyed in every community in every phase of life.

Beaumont Bosses and KKK Behind Attack on Negroes

By W. F. CARLTON

The events in Beaumont, Texas, have been overshadowed by the tremendous outburst in Detroit. But they are essentially of the same order, belong to the same series of events, and demand some consideration.

As a result of an alleged "rape of a white woman," attacks on Negroes took place on June 16. At least two people were killed and many wounded. Scores were beaten and the Negro district was set afire by mobs bent on destroying whole sections of the Negro area. There were at least sixteen fires raging together at one period. Hundreds were arrested and

martial law was declared. "Rape" That Didn't Occur

The alleged cause of the outburst is the rumor that a white woman was "raped" by a Negro. The nonsensical circumstances which were supposed to have surrounded the raping were sufficient to prove that this was a more than usually flagrant case of the usual Southern fakery. City Attorney Albert Tatum has stated that the woman had been examined by a physician and there was no sign of rape. She said that a Negro had drunk a cup of coffee in her house before he attacked her. The cup and saucer were examined and there were no fingerprints on them.

Yet it would be a mistake to look upon this as merely another Southern racial conflict. The root of the question lies in the relationship between capital and labor.

The whole trend of events both before Beaumont and after point to this. Under pressure of the necessities of war production and also the dogged fight that the masses of the Negroes are putting up for their rights, numbers of Negroes are being admitted into industry and, to a small degree, to higher positions in production all over the country. As can be expected, this meets with a certain opposition from the more backard elements among the white workers, particularly in areas where the sharp division in social life has to be overcome with drastic suddenness in the compelling integration of

modern production. It was inevitable that there should be friction and that, in certain instances, this friction should flare up into bloody outbursts. But that is not at all sufficient to account for what has been happening in Mobile, in Beaumont, and now

in Detroit. First of all, the white employers in the Southern states have too long encouraged Ku Klux Klanners and other professional Negro-haters. They cannot expect that these elements would see this integration between whites and Negroes

most to ruin a unity which has been the chief object of their attack in the past. The Klanners and their associates have existed all these years purely on the basis of preventing what is taking place now under their very eyes at a rate which, though small in itself, is unprecedented in comparison to what has taken place in the past and what they see is still more likely to take place tomorrow. They Fear Negro-White Unity But there is another side to this

taking place without doing their ut-

question. The employers themselves, especially in the Southern areas, must view with fear these first steps by the masses of the Negroes on the ladder of equality. What is taking place, particularly in the South; must lead to a struggle to destroy wage differentials between white and Negro labor. The employers are making big money at the present time and they do not want disruption of production and destruction of property to the degree that has taken place in Beaumont. That is cerain. But it is certain also that they are quite aware of the danger to capital not in the future but in the immediate present of this growing unity between Negro and white labor in the South.

Rumors of the approaching outburst had been running around in Beaumont for weeks. This has been established by the Negro press. And if the employers were really concerned about preventing outbursts of this kind, they and the local authorities could easily have taken concerted action. While they are probably seriously put out by what has taken place, it is a legitimate opinion that they would not have objected to some disturbance which would sharpen the distinction between the whites and Negroes and give them their usual commanding position in playing one off against the other so. as to keep the wages down.

The Stalinists, as usual, see in these outbursts nothing else but "the hand of the Axis." The National Maritime Union, led by Smith, a Stalinist, has wired President Roosevelt to say that Packard, Mobile, and now Beaumont "must be recognized as a concerted campaign of disruption and disunity unleashed by sinister appeasement and fascist elements in America." The Stalinists and PM, are foremost among those actually. encouraging the view that "Axis agents" have been deliberately fomenting these outbursts.

Whether that is so or not, and it may well be, the fact remains that no Axis agent could possibly instigate any such flare-up were it not for the fact that the whole course of American capitalism has laid the basis for just such outbursts as these.

Teapot Dome at Elk Hills contract "detrimental to the public Standard Was to Get the Gravy But the main point is that interest." Standard Oil, in the contract, is Fear of a Scandal given ALL THE OIL produced in

Roosevelt, who also received, from Secretary Knox, a DEFENSE of the contract worked up by a big Chicago banker who is Knox's special assistant. Standard Oil always has its friends in the right places, and they are not hesitant to come forward even when the going gets rough! But the damage was already done; politicians are more sensitive than admirals to the breath of scandal, and Standard Oil is the mother of scandals. Teapot Dome and the hottomless pit of political corruption re-

A report was sent to President of FIVE YEARS! Meanwhile, the Navy PAYS TWO - THIRDS OF

THE COST of producing the oil! After the five years have expired, the oil produced in that period, some 18,000 barrels, worth approximately \$20,000,000 at present prices, will have to be repaid to the Navy. But, whereas the Navy "contribution" of 18,000,000 barrels of oil, supposedly to defray the cost of "exploration," is figured at crude oil prices under a ceiling fixed by the government, Standard Oil may reimburse the vealed to the world in the early 20's Navy in Standard Oil's own refined

products at a price fixed only by

Jim Crow is a national policy, in addition to the fact that the congres-How the Navy and Standard Oil Did It

the entire 43,000 acres, for a period

their employ.

fornia, the richest oil reserve in the world, for exploitation, was signed by Secretary Knox and approved by President Roosevelt, on the advice of Admiral Harry A Stuart, director of naval petroleum reserves. The Standard Oil Co. obviously has friends in high places who are glad to recognize and reward the magnificent services (ahem!) of this great corporation in the struggle for the Four Freedoms. And it is apparently far from the minds of the President and the Secretary of the Navy to suspect the Standard Oil Co. at any time of being lacking in devotion to the interests of the people.

In February, Admiral Stuart went before the Appropriations Committee of the House, asking for \$1,748,000 to cover the cost of drilling. Then Standard Oil found itself in less congenial company. A couple members of the naval subcommittee became a bit suspicious, and the committee, in its report to the House, refused to approve the appropriation. Secretary of the Interior Ickes now appeared in the picture and informed Secretary Knox that Ickes' Undersecretary, Abe Fortas, considered the

seemed to haunt Washington once again, in the form of a faint but unmistakable stink that began to settle over the national capital.

Two generations of Republican and Democratic politicians, big and little have had promising careers in the service of big business blasted because the odor of oil is so hard to suppress. And once a really firstclass scandal gets going, things begin to come to light that are much more dangerous to the big corporations than the revelation of payoffs that boss politicians get: the basic means by which big business controls the government is sometimes uncovered. and workers see what the boss parties really are.

The facts on the contract began to come out. Of the 43,000 acres in the Elk Hills field, the government was estimated, in the contract, as owning about two-thirds of the oil and the Standard Oil Co. was estimated as owning acreage including about one-third of the oil. Actually, it appears that ground water has encroached on Standard Oil acreage to the point where this acreage has considerably DECREASED in value. This is not considered in the contract.

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-11, by Pierre Bellasi. Russia's Foreign Policy in the War, by Reva Craine. The West Indies in Review, by W. F. Carlton. 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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THE NEW INTERNATIONAL 114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.

Standard Oil, and including Standard Oll's profit at each step of the process. Moreover, the Navy must buy its oil from Standard Oil during the first five years and thereafter to

the end of time, on the same basis. Standard Oil has the use of \$20,-000,000 for five years, with no interest charged; its production costs are guaranteed; and, through a complicated contractual arrangement, the Navy must SELL its oil to Standard at a LOW price and BUY IT BACK from Standard at Standard's HIGH price.

Congress remained notably quiet about the whole business. The scandal was brought to the floor of the House about a month ago and came up in the Senate somewhat later. Newspapers carefully avoided playing it up, until not even the delicate sensibilities of the big advertisers could keep it off the front page. Meanwhile, the Attorney General announced that the contract had been sent to the Department of Justice on March 26, for investigation. Normally, such an investigation would have taken place BEFORE the contract was signed, in November. But doubtless, in view of Standard Oil's spotless reputation, it was felt that such a formality could be dispensed with!

More Is Still to Come

The Navy Department discreetly withdrew its request for an appropriation, after the Attorney General indicated that he was turning thumbs down on the contract. Within the past week, the contract has been definitely thrown out.

The Justice Department is "investigating." The House Public Lands Committee is probing the affair, and from this latter body some interesting information may yet emerge. But the real facts concerning the relationship of the Navy Department's brass hats to the Standard Oil Co. of California. these are unlikely to be more than hinted at. The basic situation that produces these scandals of government-big business corruption is not and cannot be changed by the outcries of astounded liberals or the investigations of congressional committees. As long as oil, and steel, and automobiles are the source of private profit, oil, and steel, and automobiles will run the country-and the controls are so near the surface that every now and then they show up plainly enough, for anyone to see.

C. K. S. S. S. P. S. S. F.

Do this and progress on the racial and national front will be made imtrine in the South. From the South mediately.

> Overcoming and fighting Jim Crow and all forms of race discrimination is a chief task of white workers. The Negro people know what race hatred means and everyone knows how determined they are in fighting it. The white workers, organized and unorganized, must also recognize that race and national hatred is a weapon that can be turned against their best interests as workers. They must fight it with all their vigor and prevent any groups or individuals from introducing such practices in their ranks.

> But above all it is necessary to unite the labor movement - the working class, the poor farmers, and all people who toil-in the fight against the scourge of race antagonism. It is they who in the end will suffer most from this condition. It is they who become the prey of vested interests which profit from divisions of color, race or creed. Such a movement of all who toil is the best safeguard against race and national hatred.

How Big Business Suffers

We are extremely touched by the following bit of news on how a representative of big business suffers under conditions of the war. The case in point is that of John B. Hawley, owner of the Northern Pump Co. and the Northern Ordnance Co., of Minnesota.

Hawley's firms, producing hydraulic machinery for the Navy, were among those earning enormously high war profits. As a result of national pressure and the seandals arising from contracts which have lined the pockets of the big industrialists and manufacturers with superprofits, the Administration has been "renegotiating" these contracts. In these renegotiations, these large large profits have often been reduced -still leaving handsome profits for big business.

Here is how it worked in the case of Mr. Hawley: His firm is allowed a two per cent profit, cutting its earnings by \$16,000,000; but on \$68,-000,000 company business, it leaves them with a profit of \$1,31 0,000!

Here is how it personally affected Mr. Hawley: He earned \$21,000 in 1937. But in 1941 his salary jumped to \$448,000! And now? | Now his salary has dropped to \$60,000-a measly \$5,000 a month; over \$1,200 a week. This, says Mr. Hawley, is "not sufficient incentive," either for himself or for his company!

And now, fellow workers, could YOU live on over \$1,200 a WEEK?

Means No Change at All In Britain's India Policy

Appointment of Wavell

When Prime Minister Churchill declared in reference to the war that "we mean to hold our own," and then added: "I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside at the liquidation of the British Empire," he gave an answer to the whole world on where he and his government really stand on the question of Indian freedom. Grant- permission to write to Jinnah (head ing India independence would mark a most powerful step toward the liquidation of the empire. Churchill's declaration only means that he has no real intention of granting such independence to the second largest country in the world. The Cripps mission and all the subsequent developments in British-Indian relations prove that Churchill has been shadow-boxing. Of late, he has been even more firm in rejecting any proposal which would advance Indian freedom. A turn in the fortunes of war have made him a tougher man. When Britain was losing the war, Churchill was more humble.

India now has a new Viceroy. Marshal Wavell has replaced Lord Linlithgow. There is no need to speculate on what significance there is in this appointment. It may mean the stepping up of the war in that sector, and it may not. That, however, is not decisive. The question which is prompted by Wavell's appointment is whether there will be any change in the British policy toward Indian freedom. Obviously, there will not be any change. If anything, Churchill has become bolder and more intransigeantly opposed to independence for Britain's most profitable colony. Wavell will undoubtedly pursue policies which will be decided for him in London, in the British Colonial Office. For discharging his duties in keeping India in its colonial status he will receive \$75,000 a year!

Accomplishments of the British

"India Today" has some revealing information on the policy of the ex- in the United States late this sum-Viceroy. Says the bulletin of the India League of America: "Lord Linlithgow REFUSED Gandhi an interview before clapping him into jail; his government. It will be interest-REFUSED permission to all who ing to watch the trapeze act,

wanted to see Gandhi in jail; RE. FUSED to release Gandhi during his precarious fast; REFUSED to release political prisoners, even after the English Chief Justice of India had declared their arrests illegal; REFUSED Phillips, Roosevelt's envoy in India, permission to see Gandhi; and has now refused Gandhi the of the Moslem League)."

This sounds like pretty negative conduct. But British rule does have some accomplishments in India. According to Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, in his report to the House of Commons on February 12, 60,229 persons were arrested during the struggle of the Congress Party. In December of 1942, there were still 39,498 persons under arrest. In this same period, we learn that the police had fired on 470 occasions and the military on sixty-eight.

Only a few months ago, in New Delhi, Sir Reginald Maxwell, home member of the Viceroy's executive council, stated, in answer to a question by Sirdar Sant Singh in the Central Assembly, that 940 persons had been killed by the end of last year, and 1,630 injured. "India Today" reports that the home member had "no figures on the number, of persons prosecuted, sentenced to death or executed."

South Africa Joins Churchill

As an offshoot of British policy, the South African government has passed legislation restricting the purchase of land in Natal by Indians. At an Indian mass meeting in Mombasa, this legislation was roundly denounced. The government which passed this discriminatory law is headed by Prime Minister General Jan C. Smuts, who has been strutting about of late talking and writing on the alleged United Nations' war aims of freedom and justice as embodied in the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms. Perhaps Mr. Smuts, when he arrives. mer, will be able to explain how this legislation squares with the "professed aims" of the Allies and

EDITORIAL PAGE

LABOR ACTION

We Need a Program for Action by the MOW

By DAVID COOLIDGE

You are assembled in Chicago in answer to a call from the leaders of the March on Washington Movement. The slogan of the conference is: "We Are Americans, Too!' The call for the conference declares that "the need for mass organization is now." Negro Americans must awake to the cause of their nation's freedom. Black men who have so long seen and cherished democracy from afar must arise and take this sacred goddess for themselves. Democracy must be saved for America and hence for the world. We must join the swelling ranks of all people who are on the march toward a free world. We must be the standard bearers of this new community, of the spirit that has as its motto the matchless slogan, 'with malice toward none and justice toward all.'

"Here we will ponder and discuss whether Negroes should march on Washington and if so, when.... We will demand the abolition of the WAR'S GREATEST SCANDAL -JIM CROW IN UNIFORM!... We will dedicate our lives to the cause of American freedom, the freedom of colored people everywhere and the freedom of the world. We will

of a free Africa and the freedom of begin and end as nothing more than the West Indies....

the Axis powers and for democracy.

We will seek a solution to the prob-

vent riots, violence and bloodshed."

more than verbiage? Are we to as-

ON- WASHINGTON?

a "Cave of the Winds." The call says that "the need for "Here we will map out a broad mass organization is now." This is national program in the interest of true, but mass organization for what? abolishing Jim Crowism in America. For more calls for organization? For We will ponder and discuss nonmore speeches? For more protest violent techniques for mass action meetings? For more lamentation on that may some day point the way the wrongs against the Negro? For toward a foundation of peace for a more wailing over Jim Crow and new world. We will proclaim anew lynching and segregation? and reaffirm the determination of

the colored people to struggle for the What Needs to Be Done victory of the United Nations over

The imperative need is for mass organization followed by militant mass action. Furthermore, experilem of race which will avoid and preence has demonstrated that the road to mass organization, the way to get This is quite an ambitious program the masses to respond to an organizathe conference sets for itself. Is it tion call is through militant mass action. Neither the Negro masses nor sume that the MOW leadership will any other masses can be organized come to the conference with definite merely by holding conferences and and concrete proposals for the delemaking speeches. The Negro masses, gates to act on, proposals that will be just like other groups with deepin line with the purpose for which seated grievances, will respond only the MOW was formed two years ago, to the call of a leadership that comes namely, to organize Negroes in the with a program for concrete and United States, for a mass MARCH practical action commensurate with the magnitude of their wrongs and If the conference is carried through grievances.

The call states that "we will dediwith the same indecisiveness that has cate our lives to the cause of Amercharacterized the MOW during the past two years or in the spirit of the ican freedom, the freedom of the colored people everywhere and the high sounding but empty platitudes proclaim our dedication to the cause of the call, then this conference will freedom of the world." The first and

primary business of this conference is to dedicate itself to the cause of the freedom of the Negro here in the United States, to demand and organize for complete POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUAL-ITY for the Negro right here in the United States-NOW. When we have, made some appreciable progress in this direction, we can consider the larger question of the "freedom of the world."

The call says that the conference will "reaffirm the determination of the colored people to struggle for the victory of the United Nations over the Axis powers and for democracy." Now we can see no reason whatsoever why Negroes should desire a victory by the Axis powers. That is, we cannot imagine any Negro desiring the victory of the fascist nations. But, on the other hand, it is difficult for us to reconcile "our dedication to the cause of a free Africa and the freedom of the West Indies" with the victory of imperialist Britain in this war. That is, we cannot understand + such a position unless the leaders of the MOW believe that after the Axis powers are defeated England will free Africa and the West Indies (which isn't mentioned in the call).

Also, what is there in the present. situation which leads Mr. Randolph

and the other leaders of the MOW to believe that the United States ruling class and its government have any intention of according equality to the American Negro after the Axis powers are defeated? After nearly four years of England's participation in the war and eighteen months by the United States, we see no reason why any Negro, British or American, should have any such belief. The question of the liberation of the colonies by England and the elimination of Jim Crow in the United States have no place whatsoever in the minds of the American and British rulers.

The Negroes Do Understand

The Negro masses in the United States can see this. They see it written in their own blood in the streets of northern Detroit and southern Beaumont. They see it in the Jim Crow_policies of the Washington government, in the brutal treatment of black men in uniform, in the savagery of the mob and in the discriminatory practices on Negro workers in the factories: the "arsenals of democracy." All we need do is listen and hear the groans of hundreds of thousands of black agricultural workers writhing under the lash of the plantation boss just as though slavery had never been abolished. Then where is democracy? Where are the "Four Freedoms"? Where are even their beginnings to be discerned?

The March on Washington Movement began its career with at least a partial recognition of these facts. It was organized around a slogan calling for a militant mass march on the capital of the nation: the center from which flows out to the whole country a national policy of Jim Crow. In its original call for a march on Washington the MOW said that "our valiant and heroic forebears won the right for Negroes to enjoy the priceless gift of freedom.... they won it through tears, sweat and blood."

Commenting on this statement at the time, LABOR ACTION said: "Nat Turner didn't put in much time contemplating or condemning the oppressive governments of Europe in his day. He had an uncanny knowledge what government and what group was oppressing him and the Negroes of his day. And we are of the opinion that Nat Turner, Vesey and Gabriel did not shed many tears. 'Toil, sweat and blood,' yes, but not tears."

After making a very militant beginning, so far as words could be militant, the march was called off. It was called off in the most undemocratic manner, without any consultation with the thousands of Negroes who were ready to march. Mr. Randolph announced that the march had not really been called off but only postponed. This was two years ago. Since then the movement nationally has been nothing more than a paper

Negro communities became the order of the day. While this outrageous situation was developing Mr. Randolph and the MOW leaders were stumbling along from one pronouncement to another, from one speech to the next. Randolph went over to full support of the war and called for "national unity." But Negroes found that they could not unite with those designated by the MOW leaders. They could not unite with a gov-

ernment at Washington in war, because leading government officials had no inclination for "sociological experiment." This is a new term for demands for democratic rights for Negroes, for freedom from lynching and the security of Negro neighborhoods from invasions by white mobs.

A Concrete Program Is Needed

Now, the leader of the MOW has had a revelation which takes on a sort of modified form of the Gandhi philosophy , of "non - violent resistance" or something known as "constitutional obedience." The call for the July conference says that "we will ponder and discuss non-violent techniques for mass action that may some day point the way toward a foundation of peace for a new world." (We can imagine with what profound interest the Negro delegates from Detroit, Beaumont, Newark, Alexandria, La., Florida and around Fort Bragge will listen to these discussions!)

The supreme need of this conference is to organize for ACTION and not more speech - making. There has been enough and too much of that already. We say again that the conference hall must not be a mere "Cave of the Winds." The delegates must demand and insist on definite plans for action from Mr. Randolph and the other MOW leaders. The time for talk has long since passed.

One thing to be insisted on is the orientation of the MOW, in a very practical way, toward the organized labor movement. This means to call on the labor movement for support, to urge Negro workers to greater activity in the trade unions, to bring thousands of Negro workers into the MOW. If the MOW is to be an effective organization it must have a working class base and a working class membership.

MOW Must Become Working Class Working class Negroes must rise

to positions of leadership in the MOW. This must be real and not a fake. At present the MOW is led by middle class Negroes. Furthermore, we can see no reason why white workers should not be permitted to become members of the MOW. We have the opinion that one reason for excluding white people was the desire to exclude the Stalinists. But the most effective way to combat the Stalinists is to adopt a militant program which would automatically ei-

The conference should adopt a mil itant and realistic program, specifically for the United States in the present concrete situation. The call to the conference contains far too many mushy and tender generalities.

The MOW was called together for MARCH ON WASHINGTON. There is greater need for such a march now than two years ago. This should be the main item on the agenda and all the other questions ful times and occasions. It is all should be held over for more peaceright for the leader of the MOW to indulge in philosophical musings on "non-violent techniques," "the freedom of the world," "peace for a new world," the "brotherhood of man' and saving America "for God." But that's not the business of the conference.

After Detroit and Beaumont, the problem is to organize for saving the Negro masses in the United States and to secure for them SO-CIAL, POLITICAL AND ECO-NOMICAL EQUALITY. A militant mass MARCH ON WASHINGTON will contribute more toward this end than anything else!

Workers all over the country are beginning to think on the qquestion of independent working class political action. They are not ardent in their support of Roosevelt today. This does not mean that they will necessarily support Willkie or any other Republican in 1944.

Negroes too should fall in line with this current. They must join any movement for an Independent Working Class Labor Party. That is, a party formed of Negro and white workers, free from the control and domination of the two ruling class political parties, the Republican and Democratic Parties. Along with the main question of organizing the MARCH ON WASHINGTON, the Chicago conference might well give thorough consideration to the matter of independent working class political action and the formation of a Labor Party.

There are important things for the conference to do. We have mentioned a few of them. There may be more. The time has come for more action and less talk. While the MOW leaders talk and talk, the Klan and the native fascists incite to murder and pillage.

We do not believe that Negroes have no alternative to support of Axis fascism save crawling before American imperialism which Jim are of course against fascism. They, Crows and maltreats them. Negroes are like the white workers who are also against fascism. They will give no support to the Axis powers and, of course, they are correct. LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party hold that the road to freedom, liberty and security for the Negro worker is the same as the road the white worker must follow. They must go up that road together, arm in arm. That is

Statement of the Workers Party--

(Continued from page 1)

white workers, and play up the prejudices inculcated in them by capitalist politicians and teachers, by the policy of "lily white" clauses that prevent Negro workers from joining some unions, or that make it extremely difficult or embarrassing for them to do so.

And responsibility must also be shared by those servile leaders of the Negro people themselves who are so completely tied to the war machine that they counsel the Negro people to gag themselves, to fetter themselves, to suppress the grievances that cry out to heaven for remedy, to accept the position of inferiority in which they are held by force-so that the Jim Crow pogromists are encouraged and not deterred in their bloody insolence. The leaders of the Communist Party fall into this shameful category.

Jim Crow terrorists MUST be crushed! Jim Crow terrorists CAN be crushed!

This job can be done, however, ONLY if the labor movement takes over the leadership of doing it. The defense of the Negro le labor movement, and the fighting unity of the labor movement is the only terrorist mobs. salvation of the Negro people.

keep labor at war in its own midst, labor is must take the initiative in defending their helpless to meet the blows being rained down right now upon its economic standdoomed.

If white workers can be kept at war with black workers, the trade union movement will be a house divided against itself, it will become the battlefield of an internal civil war, it will go down in a river of its own blood. And capitalist reaction will rise triumphantly over a torn and prostrat- criminality for another day. ed working class. 611223.20 8

Working men and working women, Negro and white: the Jim Crow system, segregation and discrimination against the Negro people, terrorism and pogroms against the Negro-THESE ARE OUR COMMON ENEMY. They threaten us both. They are aimed at us both. They must be combatted by us both.

Jim Crow terrorism must be given an answer it will never forget!

Labor must draw closer the fraternal bonds that link Negro and white workers in the brotherhood of oppression and of people in this country is the cause of the struggle against oppression. Labor must not allow this sacred bond to be severed by the

Negro brothers and sisters from the cowardly attacks of the Jim Crow terrorists, ards and its political rights - labor is In Detroit, these terrorists were an organized and stimulated MINORITY, which in no way represented the body of the Detroit labor movement or the Detroit working class. Labor must make this gang of fascists and the dupes of fascists feel the full weight of labor's strength, of labor's determination not to tolerate their hideous

The trade unions have the organization, the training, and the men required to come to the defense of their Negro fellow workers who are attacked only when they are greatly outnumbered. The trade unions have the men and the experience required to deal with scabs who endanger the existence and the living standards of the workers,

The Jim Crow terrorists are scabs. They too endanger the existence of the labor movement and of the men and women who fought to build it up. These scabs should be treated no differently than any other of their breed.

Labor, black and white, must speed the organization of a political party of its own, Page 4

suffer irreparable damage and end in disaster.

gangsters can keep labor divided along the lines of color, race or creed, if they can

Labor must IMMEDIATELY root out of If labor allows these criminal injustices its ranks all forms and representatives of and persecutions to be perpetrated upon Jim Crowism—all discriminatory practices the Negro people, its own movement will against Negroes must be wiped out, and all participants in Jim Crow movements or activities must be made to renounce their If capitalist reaction and its Jim Crow anti-labor behavior or be driven out of a clean labor movement.

Labor, the trade unions particularly,

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!

SOAK THE RICH-LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- 9. A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- 10. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
- 11. Expropriate the "Sixty Families" the three per cent of the people who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- 12. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
- 13. The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
- 14. The right of all youth, male or female, to vote at the age of eighteen. Old enough to fight; old enough to work; old enough to vote!
- 15. For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

SMASH JIM CROW!

- 16. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!
- 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.

a fighting Independent Labor Party, which aims to take over the government and run society in the interest of its useful citizens, the workers of hand and brain, regardless of color, creed, race, sex or age.

Labor! Defend the Negro people, or you will end up by having no trade union movement to defend!

Jim Crow is the enemy of labor, the enemy of the trade union movement, the enemy of all social progress.

We must not leave the cruelly harrassed Negro people alone to defend themselves against the great forces of reaction that confront them. We must repeat a hundred times over: their defense is our own defense. Do not let the insidious forces of reaction divide white workers from Negro workers. Do not let these forces set white workers against Negro workers, so that they can be chopped down separately. Do not fall into the cunning trap of the laborsplitters and labor-haters

Unite! Unite!

Defend the Negro people and the labor movement!

Crush Jim Crow and Jim Crow terrorism! National Committee of the Workers Party, MAX SHACHTMAN,

National Secretary.

LABOR ACTION A Paper in the Interests of Labor

Published Weekly by the LABOR ACTION PUBLISHING COMPANY 114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.

June 28, 1943 Vol. 7, No. 26

Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a Year.

Re-entered as second-class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 8, 1879.

organization.

During these two years the United States entered the war as an active participant. Jim Crow, lynching, discrimination, segregation continued everywhere. Attacks on Negroes and



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, New York 11, N.Y.

ther exclude the Stalinists or render them impotent. But Mr. Randolph, in excluding the Stalinists, is in a very contradictory position. The Stalinists are warm and ardent supporters of the war-and so is Randolph. On the question of the main event of the day Randolph and the Stalinists stand together on the same plat-

The MOW should be made a genuinely democratic organization, with a real membership and controlled by that membership. This means democratically elected officers in every branch and in the national organization.

the road of independent pol tion, of socialist political action; of political and economic action against capitalism and imperialism, whether the imperialism of the Axis powers or the "United" Nations: of the liberation of all oppressed and exploited peoples.

Buy LA in Detroit at:

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Detroit Eye-Witness Story--

(Continued from page 1)

horseback charged up to break up the crowd, yelling at the top of their voices. The crowd jeered and pushed forward.

"Turn your back! Don't protect them n--rs!" came from all sides.

The policemen prudently retired from the scene. A moment later the Negro's car was overturned. A Panama-hatted hoodlum, armed with a crankcase, circled the lop-sided vehicle, smashing in the windows, finally knocking off the gas-tank cover. Gasoline gushed to the pavement. Someone threw a match. A blaze thirty feet high swallowed the car and the crowd scurried from the heat, laughing jubilantly. "There's one more jiggerboogie ain't gonna have a car!"

I staggered drunkenly down the avenue, my stomach working like a concrete mixer.

"There's one! Let's get 'im."

A Negro boy was running across Woodward to board a street car. The mob caught him on the steps, stripping him quickly. He lashed back successfully for a minute, punching and kicking. Then a thrown brick caught him on the side of his face. Blood spouted from his left eye like a sprung-leak. He tottered for a moment and collapsed into the street car. Ten feet away a smiling cop raised his hands over his head in the gesture of a newlycrowned heavyweight champion.

Further down in Grand Circus Park, within sight of City Hall and

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E.K

Cadillac Square, terrified Negroes were being stopped and searched by police. All around the weapon-hunting cops were groups of sweaty teenage rioters toting knives, wrenches, lead pipe and broken-fanged beer bottles. Once satisfied that the Negroes were unarmed, the police turned on their heels and the mob proceeded to its murderous attack. I heard one cop being advised to shoot a 'n--r" first and then ask questions. The cop chuckled, patted his revolver and said: "You bet, Judge Colt ain't givin' no reprieves

today." Trolley cars were being stopped and boarded, their Negro passengers wrested from protecting whites, taken off and beaten mercilessly. Speeding buses with their blinds down infuriated the mob, which stoned and smashed their windows. After a Negro was beaten to a pulp by the crowd, he was promptly arrested by the police.

Negroes ran after police cars and ambulances, begging to be taken into custody for the safety of their lives. They were pushed off the running boards. Only half-dead or dead Negroes received the hospitality of jail, hospital or the morgue. This mob was no respecter of sex. I saf them tear pocketbooks from the hands of Negro women and push them around. I entered a store where a pretty young Negro girl was trapped. She was convulsed and sobbing, repeating over and over: "Why are they doing this? Why are

fare and a promise to sneak her out of the danger zone. But there was distrust and terror in her eves. Her agonized refrain of "Why are they doing this?" tore my heart out.

Again on Woodward I saw dozens of overturned, burned automobiles and a mob which had grown considerably, a mob completely crazed with the passion of race hatred. Cars manned by half-naked white men sped on missions of murder to isolated forays, small American flags waving from their 'side windows.

Cries of "Let's burn their houses" and "Next come the Jews" reached my ears. My feet kicked splintered glass, and a smell of burning gasoline hung over the avenue. I overheard a group of boys, one of them boasting to admiring elders: "We beat five of them to death ourselves." At six o'clock in the evening, the strong sun of the first day of summer. 1943, shone hotly on a crowd growing larger in size and lunacy. I glanced at a headline: "Ten Dead." I thought of what the total would be before the night was over and shuddered.

I had seen enough-enough to last me a lifetime. I had seen Berlin. 1936, on the streets of Detroit. I had seen, like it or not, the post-war future mirrored in the desperate reality of American life today. I had seen the ugliest phenomenon of capitalism, the unreasoning bestiality of race-rioting and the murder of these innocent Negro workers by they doing this?' I offered her taxi American fascists, police included.

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(3rd Floor)

Albert Gates, Editor

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