We Say--

A 100% Tax on All War Profits!

LABOR ACTION

We Are--For a **Cost-Plus Wage!**

DECEMBER 13, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

BIG BUSINESS PROFITS UP 12% Against Subsidies; For Bigger People's Interests Not Represented at Cairo and Teheran

Power Politics Dominate Allied Confabs

By HARRY YOUNG

Two historic conferences between the leading powers of the Allied war camp have just been concluded. At Cairo, those great powers concerned with Asia and the Pacific have met. At Teheran, the long-talked-of and eagerly-awaited meeting between the "big three"-Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin-has taken place. What has come out of these meetings?

In the Egyptian city of Cairo, in distant North Africa, the leaders of America, the British Empire and China met behind locked and heavily guarded doors, in the utmost secrecy, to plan and decide the fate of hundreds of millions of Asiatic peoples. Who was present? Who sat in at these discussions where Chiang Kaishek, FDR and Churchill spoke of Japan, China, Burma, Korea, Manchuria, Formosa, Hong Kong, etc? Who represented the voice of the great colonial masses of these various countries? The answer is obvious.

Wooing and Winning Turkey

The latest reports disclose that the Turkish President, Inonu, has been meeting with Roosevelt and Churchill in Cairo. Although Turkey has made no announcement of its entry into the war on the side of the Allies, it has declared that it favors this camp in the war.

Reporters say that it is only a matter of time before Turkey participates in the war as a belligerent. Information from the Middle East declares that as soon as the Turkish army is fully equipped it will join battle against Germany.

The dictator of China, the head of the British Empire and the leader of American capitalism-along with their diplomatic and military staffs -were the only ones whose voices

cated in the purely imperialistic character of the agreement that emerged from this conference.

The Cairo declaration is specific and concrete, particularly in contrast to the Teheran declaration. But as we shall indicate, its very specificness only shows how completely it is based upon power politics.

Secrecy in Teheran

In the Persian city of Teheran the momentous session between FDR. Churchill and Stalin took place. From a propaganda viewpoint it proved to be quite a fizzle and very much of an anti-climax! Where momentous decisions had been expected. where specific declarations of intentions and definite answers to a whole series of problems had been predicted, all that emerged was a statement of agreement on military strategy, shrouded in vague and meaningless phrases about the future. Yet at this conference too-where the future of Europe was discussed at great length -the same atmosphere of secrecy

and exclusiveness prevailed.

the agenda!

Post-War Planning a Farce Without--

racy and openness!

The Thirty-Hour Week

No spokesman for the enslaved

peoples of Europe was present. The "big three" decided everything. Not

even the most conservative members of the most conservative govern-

ments in exile (de Gaullist France,

Poland, Holland, Norway, etc.) were

permitted a voice! Yet, supposedly,

the entire future of Europe was on

anese imperialism is to be stripped of all its colonies and possessions and the country is to be confined to its island area through reduction to the status of a minor power existing un-

der semi-feudal conditions. We heartily approve of Japanese imperialism losing its colonies, since we are opponents of imperialism in ANY form or manner. But the whole point is: WHAT is to become of these territories? WHO is to get them?

ments exist here-this tells all! Jap-

If the principles of the Atlantic Charter were applied, they would automatically become free and selfgoverning. But if the Atlantic Charter isn't applied in the Atlantic, how can we expect it to be applied in the Pacific? So, instead of getting their independence. Japan's possesions are simply to be coolly divided up among the victors! Korea-which has valiantly fought

for independence for many years-is to become a protectorate of China. "In due course" it will become independent. No wonder Korea's exiled representative in Chungking protested loudly. He knows what "in due course" means! India's "due course" has been lasting for a hundred and fifty years now!

Manchuria is to be returned to China. But the Manchurian people, who now fight bitterly against Japanese slavery, had previously fought for many years against the former Chinese administration. These people are NOT Chinese-they are mainly Mongolians-and had created a powerful nationalist movement against North Chinese domination before they were cruelly strangled by Japan. Surely, they have the right to declare themselves through a plebiscite, at the very least. But not a single, elementary democratic principle can be found throughout the entire Cairo declaration. It is

a very business-like contract. Under the shameful formula that the great powers do not intend to engage in any territorial "expansion,"

we find clearly implied the intention of Great Britain to regain and keep all its former possessions of before. Hong Kong, Burma, Malaya, etc. "We will not expand," say the British. We "just" want to get what we had before. But then, what has changed in the situation?

As for the balance of Japanese possessions-the East Indian islands and the numerous island groups that dot the South Pacific-there is, of course, no specific declaration. Certainly they will not get their independence -if the powers involved have their

This, in brief, is the result of the Cairo conference: a denial of the most elementary democratic right to the millions of Koreans, Manchurians, Indians, Javanese, etc., concerned.

Teheran is much vaguer and less definite. Much more was involved, more problems exist. The peoples of Europe cannot be disposed of so sim-(Continued on page 4)

Profits in Unlimited Prices

The fight over subsidies in the House and Senate has been joined in by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes. He made a speech over the radio on December 7 under the title of "Holding the Line Against Inflation." The fear of Byrnes, as

98

of the whole Administration, is that congressional action against subsidies will pave the way for wholesale wage demands by the entire labor movement.

The People's Lobby, however, has pointed out in a recent bulletin that food profits are so large without subsidies that the subsidy proposal is merely a means of guaranteeing these high profits in food to big business.

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INDUSTRIAL PROFIT

287 Manufacturing Concerns

Show 12% Increase in Net

Income in 9 Months

ONTINUES ON RISE

' This contention bears out the policy of LABOR ACTION in its opposition to subsidies. We have pointed out that only one policy has any value for working people of the country: a one hundred per cent tax on war profits! The fight of big business against

subsidies is not because is rejects the profits guaranteed by this system but because it can gain even greater profits by breaking the present feeble price ceilings. In the meantime, however, big

business continues to pile in recordbreaking profits. The big business press has tucked away reports on profits in small items in the financial sections of the paper. But the facts are clear: despite the highest taxes in history, big business profits have risen again by twelve per cent.

The following article from Labor, organ of the railway unions, is an excellent illustration of this trend:

New York Times, so 1943 -

Action of Congress Moguls May Bar Soldier Vote

The Senate has shelved the Green-Compared with these conferences, Lucas-Worley Bill providing voting the Wilson meetings and the Vermachinery for the voters in service. sailles peace sessions of the First Thus millions of citizens overseas and World War were models of democabsent from their home states are threatened with disfranchisement for It is clear that the great powers the 1944 elections. After playing footnow conspiring for world redivision ball with the bill for weeks, the are trying desperately to settle ev-Southern Democrats combined with erything before the war is won and

Republicans for its defeat. The Green-Lucas-Worley Bill provides for sending blank ballots out to the absentee voters through the Army and Navy. Candidates would be posted as they become available and definite balloting days set. Ballots would, of course, be secret, this

commission of four members to be chosen by the President, two from the Democratic and two from the Republican Party. In case there is a tie on any disputed matter, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would select the fifth party, who would have the deciding vote.

The bill, guashed in the Senate and now under consideration by the House, would apply only to the election of President, Vice-President and members of Congress. State elections. if absentees are interested in them. would somehow be handled through the cumbersome methods provided

Congress has no right to supersede the state election laws-even for federal elections. But behind the legal words is the fear that the suspension of poll-tax payments for overseas voters for the duration will deal a death blow to the poll-tax for good and always.

Republican politicians are trying to obstruct, the passage of the bill, because, with their opponents in the saddle at Washington, they believe they will be giving the Administration undue influence in the mustering of the soldier vote.

Old Enough to Vote

American profiteers have found a The report discloses that compaway to pay to Uncle Sam their innies engaged in war production all creased taxes and at the same time made substantial profit gains, citing have more left to themselves than bea 24.6 per cent gain for the automo-

tion of the New York Stock Ex-

change, which has no disposition to

make matters appear worse than

they are, reported that the profits of

385 companies in the first nine

months of this year, after paying

taxes, were 11.4 per cent greater

The publication recalls that when

taxes were increased corporation of-

ficials wailed they would be "ruined,"

but the cold, hard facts of financial

statements show that, on the con-

trary, they are enjoying unprece-

dented prosperity, despite their pay-

The gospel truth is that the cor-

porations have passed their tax bill

along to the government by adding it

to the price charged for war mate-

than in the same period of 1942.

By CHARLES M. KELLEY

the hilt.

rials and for goods sold to civilian consumers.

TO TPER

were raised. Nobody was there to speak for the Chinese peasants and workers; the people of Manchuria and Korea; or the people of India, the South Pacific islands and South Asia. Their absence and exclusion is indi-

They are sessions for dividing world. up the booty-a large portion of which is still to be collected.

the peace sessions are held. Their

intentions to stifle the voice of the

masses of Asia and Europe is only

too brutally and cynically clear. The

conferences are thus gigantic frauds

of secret diplomacy and in no way

speak for the people of a war-weary

Take the Cairo declaration, for example. This is one of the most transparent imperialist agreements ever to be published. No secret agree-

end to be accomplished by inserting the ballots in a series of envelopes within envelopes-not to be opened until they get to the proper election board back in the voter's home state. The bill also calls for a balloting

Of course, all agree "in principle' that a simple "war ballot" must be Southern senators don't like the bill. They pompously argue that (Continued on page 3)

Lynn Case Up Before U.S. **Circuit Court of Appeals**

Special to Labor Action NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 8-The Lynn case came before the U. S. District Court of Appeals here today. Justices Swan, Hand and Clark heard Attorney Arthur Garfield Hays, representing the defendant, and a government prosecutor. The court reserved decision for two or three weeks, indicating the importance of the case. LABOR ACTION will carry a complete report of the decision when it is rendered.

on account of race or color" in selection and training.

The National Citizens Committee for Winfred Lynn, with offices at 1 West 125th Street, New York City, was recently formed. Among its sponsors are George S. Counts, Willian H. Hastie, Willard S. Townsend, George L. P. Weaver, John Haynes Holmes, A. J. Muste, James T. Farrell, Norman Thomas, A. Philip Randolph, George Schuyler, Alex Rose.

fore the taxes were boosted! That's a big statement, but developments of the week prove it up to

tive companies, 10.4 per cent for the chemical group, 60 per cent for the amusement group, 21.6 per cent for the railroads-and those gains were For example, the official publica-"after taxes."

While feathering their own nests, corporations are also paying the taxes of their top-notch officials by increasing salaries. In a sensational report, the Securities and Exchange Commission revealed that, between 1940 and 1942, 121 corporations, whose business is almost exclusively confined to war production, added nearly \$10,000,000 to the salaries of officials, with individual hikes running up to 3,700 per cent!

The 121 companies, the commission said, were selected at random from a group of 854 corporations producing war materials. Only cash remuneration of officials was taken into account. Súch additional rewards as (Continued on page 3)

By SUSAN GREEN

One could spend a whole week reading post-war plans and speeches full of good intentions about avoiding another apple-selling era and about providing jobs as the key to the post-war situation.

But one thing would strike the thoughtful worker as very strange indeed. One of the most obvious steps against unemployment is hardly even mentioned by any of the socalled planners.

What is more logical than to shorten the work week in order to create jobs for more workers?

It is easy to understand why capitalists and their backers are against shorter hours. The more hours workers put in for the same pay, the more profits are created for the capitalists ---with plenty to spare for their backers

But why do not labor leaders come, out and say that the thirty-hour work week is on the agenda in any post-war plan worth its salt? If it is mentioned at all in labor circles, it is done softly, timidly, with an air of apology.

Thomas Speaks Out

A refreshing exception to this rule was a recent speech before the New York Women's Trade Union League by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO. Talking on the question of post-war jobs for women, he said everything depends on the adoption of the thirty-hour week. This shortening of the work week, he said, would not only give the men and women who are now working from forty-eight to one hundred hours a week "a greater opportunity to enjoy life and improve their minds," but would put "every able bodied man and woman who wants to work at their top skill."

Mr. Thomas went to the heart of the question. But, of course, with the

thirty-hour week must go the de- fore the Truman war production inmand for undiminished wages in the post-war period and for a minimum wage commensurate with the great productivity of American labor. For without the wherewithal to live, workers cannot "enjoy life and improve their minds."

Still another demand must go with the thirty-hour week. There is no sense in having a thirty-hour law on the books if it cannot be put into effect because the capitalist owners close down their factories. Workers must, therefore, realize the necessity to open idle plants and factories under their own control-in order to provide jobs and produce goods for consumption.

At the CIO Convention

But at least Mr. Thomas spoke up plainly and basically on the thiryhour week issue. What is puzzling is this: Why didn't Mr. Thomas, an important personage in the CIO, put up a fight for the adoption of the thirty-hour week at the CIO convention held a month ago?

There were plenty of opportunities to pose the shorter work week as an urgent need. For there came before the convention the question of jobs for women and for ex-service men as well as the whole post-war situation. But this logical measure was not even discussed.

The organized labor movement will have to take the lead in solving its problems-if they are to be solved at all., Peddling pretty phrases about the "four freedoms," in imitation of capitalist demagogues, won't do. What

is required is a definite prospective of action and definite demands-with the thirty-hour week near the head of the list of post-war demands. In his own inimitable fashion, President Green of the AFL touched on the question of the post-war work

week the other day as he spoke be-

vestigating committee. He very correctly complained that the Administration has "not kept its part of the no-strike agreement by adjusting wages to absorb increasing living costs." Then he added: "We shall endeavor to restore equity by insisting that peacetime hours standards shall be established without reductions in earnings."

Where Green Is Right and Wrong

Mr. Green is absolutely right that there should be no reduction in earnings when "peacetime hours standards shall be established." But why, since the Administration has not kept its part of the no-strike agreement-which labor leaders had no business to make to begin withshould not Mr. Green urge higher pay for the workers in the AFL right now, as the CIO is already doing?

Certainly, with the capitalists making war profits this year totaling well over eight and a half billion dollars free and clear after deducting taxes and everything else, it is eminently fair to make them disgorge a little by paying higher wages -so that workers can keep up with the climbing cost of living.

Another thing. What does Green mean by "peacetime hours standards"? Is it the return to the fortyhour week that he wants? But that won't do at all. The forty-hour week

is washed up, as far as labor's needs are concerned. Much water has flowed under the bridge since the forty-hour law was passed. The productivity of labor has

been increased enormously. In farm and agricultural industries the increase over the 1935-39 period was thirty-three and a third per cent. In war industries-which means modern industry as a whole-labor produces per hour from fifty to seventy-five (Continued on page 3)

WINFRED LYNN NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 7-On December 8 the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting in New York City, will hear the Winfred Lynn case. Ar-

thur Garfield Hays will argue Lynn's case and will carry it to the Supreme Court.

The Lynn case is the only court test made to date of the legality of the U. S. Army's discriminatory treatment of Negro soldiers. Winfred Lynn, a colored corporal, claims he was illegally selected in a Jim Crow quota. His case rests on the 1940 Draft Act, which specifically forbids "discrimination against any person

Rubber Workers Local 101 Holds Union Elections

ments to the government.

DETROIT-Local 101 (U. S. Rubber) of the United Rubber Workers Union has just completed the first stage of its annual election of officers and executive board members.

The group headed by John Marmon, president of the local, which carries out and defends the policies of the Communist Party and which has been in control of the local for nearly two years, has succeeded in electing its candidates, Sally Max and Alfreda Bush, to the offices of secretary and treasurer.

A run-off election must be held for the offices of president and vicepresident and for the fourteen executive board members, no candidates having received a majority of the votes cast. Marmon will run against Julius Venegoni for president, and Charles Rinehart, a Marmon man, will run against William Miller for vice-president. Six of the Marmon-Stalinist ticket are still in the running for executive board. This is written before the run-off election and thus far it appears that Marmon, having received 1,055 out of approximately 2.500 votes cast, or 400 more than his nearest opponent, stands an

excellent chance of being re-elected. In a previous election in August for delegates to the international convention, the Marmon - Stalinist group was decisively defeated. At that time there were only two slates in the field, the Marmon ticket and the ticket of the American Party, a coalition of all types of anti-Stalinist elements in the local. Out of twenty-five delegates to be elected, the American Party won twenty-one and the Stalinists only four.

At almost all membership meetings immediately prior to the convention and up to the present, the Marmon group was in the minority. All its major convention resolutions ... for incentive pay, denouncing the mine strike, reaffirming the no-strike pledge, condemning John L. Lewis and George Bass ... were defeated by large majorities. Previously the educational director of the local, a Stalinist stooge, was voted out by the membership.

Background of the Fight

The strong showing by the Marmon-Stalinist group in the present elections shows that the Stalinists have been able in part to slow down

and counteract the anti-Marmon, anti-Stalinist trend within the local. This is a result of the mistakes of the opposition to the Stalinists within the local and stands as a serious warning to all those who are sincerely interest in having a fighting union, democratically run.

Marmon was able to make gains because his group is well organized and is clear in what it wants-to push forward the latest policies of the Communist Party within the union. But the opposition is unclear and disorganized. The former American Party split up during the elections. It former adherents ran three separate, complete slates and four candidates for president.

No explanation is forthcoming on what, if any, are the differences between the three different groups and why they ran separate candidates. This has had only one result, confusion among the membership, which, in turn, aids Marmon and his group. What was the reason for the disintegration of the American Party? Organized during the election of convention delegates, it announced only

(Continued on page 2)



Page 2



The Meaning of the Two-Party System

called the attention of the labor movement to the need for independent political action by labor through its own political organization, a Labor Party. Developments in recent years have demonstrated that this is a prime need of the American workers. There are thousands and thousands of workers in the country who are more than sick of the rooking that labor has been receiving at the hands of the political parties of big business and its servants.

If you really want to know how important an independent Labor Party is, you have only to note who opposes such a political policy and such a party. The Republicans are against it; the Democrats are against it. Willkie is opposed to a Labor Party, and so is Roosevelt. Big business would fight it tooth and nail; its press screams out against independent labor politics every day.

But these are outright capitalists,

Tradition—Good or Bad?

The two-party system is a bad tradition for labor. It means choosing between two capitalist, anti-labor political parties, that is, parties of big business.

When the capitalists and their servants defend the two-party system it is because they fear a party of labor and do everything in their power to prevent its formation. In their success lies their political strength. When the labor movement accepts the two-party system it is merely aiding the parties of big business and weakening the political and economic position of the workers.

In the light of the above, it is easy to see how harmful the CIO political

Hillman and the CIO Political Action Committee

ton goods."

in any way.

gressive or labor party.

an hour should be top pay for mem-

bers of his union who work in cot-

Hillman is not carrying on inde-

pendent political action. He is play-

ing boss politics. He is acting as a

henchman of the Democratic Party

national machine. This is revealed

not only by the policy which his

committee pursues, but most alarm-

ingly by the assistants he has chosen.

chosen C. B. Baldwin, former admin-

istrator in the Farm Security Admin-

As his first assistant. Hillman has

The CIO officialdom, however, has become very active politically - but also in a reactionary way. They too oppose genuine political labor action and the formation of an independent Labor Party.

Instead of pursuing such a progressive course, the CIO executive board set up a "Political Action Committee." There are obviously two reasons which led to the formation of this committee: 1. to mobilize support for Roosevelt and his party of big business and poll-tax Southerners; 2. to head off any movement for a Labor Party, which would defeat the first purpose.

And who was placed at the head of this committee? None other than Sidney Hillman, the social workerunion leader, who, as the Maryland Labor Herald says, "is losing caste among the members of the union he heads because he thinks fifty cents

For some time now, we have or their supporters. But in the labor movement the officialdoms also speak and act against such political action by the workers.

Behind the labor officialdom stand the arch-enemies of the working class, the Stalinists. They are the most conscious and therefore the cleverest opponents of genuine independent political action by labor and are especially vigorous in their fight against any kind of organizational steps that would lead to the formation of a Labor Party.

One of the oldest arguments used against a Labor Party is that it would upset the two-party system in this country. But you might ask: What is so all-fired holy about the two-party system? Certainly experience shows that the two-party system, especially when it is represented by the Republican and Democratic Parties, as it has been for so many years, is really a choice between tweedledum and tweedledee.

By WALTER WEISS The War Labor Board is still "holding the line," it appears, against the coal miners.

There have been many headlines and comments about the delicate care with which, on November 20, they snipped a reported sum of 301/2 cents weekly from the Ickes-Lewis contract, so that, in a technical way at least the miners' earnings might not exceed the Little Steel formula by even half a hair's breadth. In fact, the decision involved quite

a bit more than 301/2 cents. The board stated that the Ickes contract was within bounds (except

apparently for the 30½ cents) for day workers but definitely too generous in the case of piece workers - and most of the miners are piece or tonnage workers.

Dissecting the Decision

Ickes-Lèwis had already, after prompting by the board, worked out a formula which would allow piece workers, like day workers, travel time only when the working week went beyond forty hours. The formula went like this: take total piece work earnings for the week and di-

vide by actual productive hours (that is, hours excluding travel time, which was assumed to be forty-five minutes a day). This would give an hourly rate. Now take the total hours for the week, including travel time, and pay the above rate for the first forty, time and a half for hours over forty. Suppose we clarify this by an example. For the sake of simplicity we

assume a worker makes \$48 on the basis of piece work rates for fortyeight hours of productive work. The hourly rate is \$1.00. The total hours, including 41/2 of travel time, are 521/2. This would mean \$40 for the first forty hours, \$18.75 for the other 121/2.

That, said the board, is the wrong answer. For day workers, whose flat 521/2 hour week. In this way: the that long.

of \$1.67.

As director of CIO political activities in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, Hillman named Raymond C. Mc-Keough, former Democratic member of the House and long-time politician associated with the Kelly-Nash-

200

operation performed was that described above.

What the Miners Really Won

LABOR ACTION

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Even under their old contract the miners could for a 48-hour working week have earned \$54.50, since time and a half was paid after thirty-five hours. Therefore, the travel time allowance amounts really to \$2.57 for the six days, a matter of forty-three cents a day or, there being four and a half hours of travel time, fifty-five cents an hour.

This is a far cry from the \$2.00 a day originally demanded, from the operation only. Any new contracts with the operators must be approved by the board, which asserts that travel time for various areas will be carefully scrutinized. A special board appointed by the President, on the WLB's "suggestion," is at present collecting data on actual travel time.

are for the period of government

What, according to the WLB's formula, happens if travel time in some areas proves to be one and a fourth hours daily instead of forty-five minutes? Presumably the productive hours would remain eight, and the total underground hours (except lunch) would become nine and a fourth. The \$8.50 daily rate for eight hours of production remains but is divided by nine and a fourth to establish an hourly rate of 91.89 cents. Total travel hours are now seven and a half instead of four and a half, total pay \$58.12 instead of \$57.07. A total of \$1.05 extra for three extra hours of travel weekly. A neat formula-if the board can continue to put it over.

Labor Movement Moves

In the final stages of their fight the miners were aided by the rank and file action of the rest of the labor movement. The aid was not direct. However, the leaders of the railroad unions, as they themselves piteously confessed, had at least to take a strike vote for fear of losing their rank and file. In the railroad unions, as in many other unions, "wildcat" strikes increased and multiplied. Labor leaders were forced to initiate a talking campaign, if no more, against the Little Steel formula.

In such a situation Roosevelt (to the chagrin of the WLB) had to move cautiously. The miners benefitted. You want a contract? asked the President. Is that what you keep striking for? Well, we won't put you in jail or in the Army, although I did consider that in the past. Now I see you REALLY want a contract. We'll give you one-and with the United States government too!

Technically the WLB has held the line of Little Steel, and actually it has allowed the formula to be stretched only very slightly. But the miners have broken the line of the no-strike pledge, have not retreated an inch, and have made it possible to crack the next line, which is the Little Steel line, wide open. For this united assault, using the miners' methods-not words-is needed. The militants in all the unions have this to work for. The leaders are still piddling around, hoping to be bought off with a few trifling concessions.

Belgian Underground Helps German Deserters

WORLD EVENTS

By Europacus

oped a feeling of hatred against the

Germans as such, not only against

the Nazis. The nationalist under-

mendous efforts to strengthen and

exploit this feeling. Not fascism and

capitalism but "the Germans" are

pictured as the enemy of the op-

pressed people of Europe. The slo-

gan, "Kill the German wherever you

In contradistinction to this nation-

alist approach, the above action of

the Belgian underground is a true

manifestation of an internationalist

spirit. The Belgian underground ex-

tends its helping hand to the German

anti-fascist. This is the way, the

only way, to help to prepare the fu-

ture fraternization of German work-

ers in uniform with the workers and

peasants of all over Europe. Acts

like, this, even if relatively inconse-

quential for the moment, help to

prepare a fraternity of the oppressed

going on for weeks, has only been

and to veil the real ones.

started in order to create fake issues

Sforza, hailed by the entire liberal

press, now tacitly supports Badoglio

in the hope that he, Sforza, may soon

accede to his place. Other politi-

cians dispute him this "honor." Rev-

olutionary socialists are once more

forced to work underground; that's

why we know nothing of their activ-

ian people is provided by an inter-

esting paragraph in one of the re-

"The people are by no means the

simple, light-hearted folk they ap-

pear to the casual observer. They

are old, complex, melancholy, skep-

tical, patient with their own long

view of time and circumstance. They

veiled their thoughts from the fas-

cists, and they will veil them from

A clue to the thinking of the Ital-

can," has been publicized.

ground movements have made tre-

According to "News from Bel- the Nazis have undoubtedly develgium," the Belgium underground has, since last year, effectively helped German soldiers trying to desert. It provides these soldiers with civilian clothes, shelter and food to enable them to go into hiding.

A "whispering campaign" has acquainted virtually every German soldier in occupied Belgium with the fact that aid is at his disposal if he wants to desert. It is estimated that one-fifth of all Nazi deserters since last spring have been aided by Belgians. This is most welcome news. It shows a correct approach to the complicated problems of the relation between anti-fascist German soldiers and the underground movements in the occupied countries.

An immense wall of hatred has slowly been built between the German people and the people of the occupied countries. French, Belgians, Czechs and the other people of Eufrom all over Europe. rope who are today oppressed by

Italian Stalinists Back Regency of Naples Prince

Apparently there are no limits to what Stalinism is capable of. In the United States they back Boss Hague, and in Italy ... the Prince of Naples, the six-year-old son of Prince Humbert and grandson of the moronic little King.

Dr. Eugenio Reale, head of the Stalinists in Italy, has just announced this decision. While even Italian liberals shouted down Sforza when he advocated the regency of the prince, our "defenders of the interests of the working class" do not even favor a republic.

cent columns of the New York Times: The whole discussion on monarchy or republic is in itself, of course, a fake issue. It is of very secondary importance whether an American Gauleiter shall rule over an Italy headed by a king, a regent or a president. What is of the utmost importance, though, is whether an American Gauleiter shall rule at all. This whole discussion, which has been US.

Stalin Wants Ten Million German Slaves

The New York Times recently published an article apparently obtained from well informed sources, stating that "Premier Stalin is prepared to make a staggering demand for Nazi manpower-certainly millions.... The Soviet soil."

of thousands of political prisoners built the new Russian canal system in recent years, but these Russian slaves do not suffice any longer. New millions are to be imported into the 'fatherland of the international

This is indeed the age of a new barbarism: fascism and Stalinism uproot millions, reduce the masses of their own people into virtual slaves and import millions of foreigners to labor under even worse conditions.

mula is broken even this contract

will perhaps not pass the anti-labor

standards of the War Labor Board.

It will require the efforts of the Lo-

cal, the UE, the CIO and the entire

labor movement to break that reac-

tionary ruling. What that is achieved

it will be possible to reopen nego-

tiations for a general increase and

to bring the wage scales close to

where they should be.

German labor organization, ten miltask they need reinforcements. A lion strong, would be required to labor decades to restore the occupied

Millions of political prisoners built the immense new industrial area of Siberia for Stalin, hundreds

Through the long period of nego-

pay, and could see no gains possible

except by that scheme, were forced

to agree that this is a good contract.

alizes, as evidenced by resolutions

passed for the UE national conven-

tion, that unless the Little Steel for-

The membership of Local 425 re-

working class."

Ford Instrument Local Wins Victory in Contract

policy is today. I do not speak about the AFL now because that organization with its old and foggy leadership is reactionary, politically speaking. It continues to adhere to a policy of "reward your friends, and punish your enemies." This has meant support of either Republican or Democratic candidates and has usually meant no support to any third pro-

But the CIO gave promise of progressive labor political action in its early years. More recently, local unions and officials have spoken out openly in favor of a Labor Party and genuine independent political action by the trade union movement.

Total. \$58.75. rate is \$1.00 an hour, we arrive at a rate of 97.17 cents to be used for the daily rate is \$8.50 (\$7.00 for the first seven hours, \$1.50 for the hour of overtime). But this must be divided by 834, since the total day, including forty-five minutes of travel time, is

The same procedure, they held, must be applied to piece workers. Thus a piece worker who averages \$1.00 an hour, is to receive \$57.07 instead of \$58.75 a week-a difference

istration, a Roosevelt appointee, and Ickes and Lewis evidently had arnot a member of the labor movement rived somehow at \$57.38 for day workers. This thirty-one cents was chopped off too, in order to show how firm the board was, but the real

JOHN L. LEWIS \$1.25 sought in an earlier Illinois contract, and even from the seventy-one cents a day proposed by the union

and operators in the latest Illinois contract and rejected by the WLB.

WLB Prepares New Blows

On the whole the board feels fairly satisfied that on the wage issue it has done well. It has allowed hardly more than a token payment for travel and has upheld in principle that more pay is to be gained by workers only through longer hours or a speed-up.

They are worried, beyond any doubt at all, that the miners will not really work a full eight productive hours a day, as the contract assumes. Chairman Davis of the WLB and newspaper men are reported to have exchanged grins at the idea that Ickes would actually be able to limit the miners to a fifteen-minute lunch period. Not a happy grin for Davis, we imagine. Further, travel time in many districts outside Illinois is said to be much more than forty-five minutes a day. In this way, too, working hours become fewer than stated in the contract.

The board has let it be known,

however, that there will be another

day of reckoning. The present terms

Hillman's "Labor" Assistants

Isn't it as plain as day that the politics of the CIO under Hillman and the executive board is essentially the same as that of the AFL officialdom? The only difference is that the AFL has not yet decided which boss party it will support, while the CIO Political Action Committee is unmistakably pro-Democratic Party.

What has this to do with independent political action by labor? What has it to do with an independent Labor Party? Exactly nothing!

More News on Carnegie **Steel Men's Wage Demands**

ers.

ber 14.

CHICAGO-At the November 30 meeting of Local 65, United Steel Workers Union of America, Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company, South Works plant, the following resolution on the new wage contract was adopted:

1. A basic \$2.00 a day increase in wages.

2. Every three months, negotiations for an increase in wages, based on the rising cost of living, shall be undertaken.

These proposals represent the main demands of this local, to be included in the nation-wide steel contract which is to be negotiated by the Steel Workers Union with the United States Steel Corporation.

The only thing that can be gained from such policies is another defeat for labor. It is more than high time to call a halt to this kind of political action.

Horner machine in Illinois.

It is necessary now more than ever for the ranks of the trade union movement, and the union movement as a whole, to embark on a determined course which would lead to the formation of a Labor Party to fight for the economic and political interests of the whole working class.

In proposing that the wage scale

be determined on the basis of the

actual cost of living, the local makes

a significant forward step in respect

to the rights and needs of the work-

The local union instructed its

president, Al Towers, to present

national policy committee of the

Steel Workers Union considering

proposals for a national wage con-

tract. Mr. Towers was the repre-

sentative from Local 65. It is ex-

these proposals to the meeting of the.

At this time, when the many unions conducting negotiations for new contracts are faced with combatting not only their own employers, but a mountain of governmental restrictions as well, the efforts of Ford Instrument Local 425 of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America, CIO, are noteworthy.

This local has won a contract that is one of the best in the instrument building field, as well as the entire electrical, radio and machine industry in the New York area and contains, among other things, an average hourly increase of eight cents for all workers in the plant.

The advances made by the local are therefore of interest to all UE locals and particularly to the workers of the Sperry Local, since the Ford Instrument Company is a subsidiary of the Sperry Corporation.

It was widely known among Ford Instrument workers, before negotiations began, that the company planned to reject all pay raise demands and to offer instead an extensive incentive (piecework) pay plan. Although the workers strongly opposed any such speed-up plan, incentive pay proposals received support from many reactionary elements within the union.

All proposals for piecework made by the Communist Party followers, who control the district and national offices of the UE, were beaten by a decisive vote of the membership who, in turn, realized that the enactment of these proposals would mean a breakdown of all labor standards and the introduction of a vicious speed-up system that would increase the already swollen profits of the company. The district and national offices also stated that it would be impossible for the local to win wage increases. The workers, however, after rejecting incentive pay, started their fight to win wage increases by elect-

ening the union's powers in the plant, hourly wage increases, and the rejection of any piecework schemes. After many weeks of hard and tedious bargaining with the manage-

a number of ruptures in the negotiations, the committee finally brought before the membership a contract. Although it involved some com-

and the lack of support by the UE

to the local in its fight, it nevertheless contained a number of very important gains for the workers of the plant.

The chief gains, according to the Range Keeper, Local 425 newspaper, were:

1. Automatic step - ups into second class.

2. Vacation pay based on the average work week in the plant during the past year (two week vacation).

3. Shorter step-ups for learners, based on the starting rate of 65c after one month; two months, 75c; four months, 80c; six months, 85c; after eight months, 90c; after ten months, 95c; and after twelve months, \$1.00. 4. A promotion clause based on qualifications and seniority.

5. A fine clause offering much needed protection for the shop stewards in the plant.

In addition to this, there are in the contract automatic mandatory stepups for those reaching second-class. Thus, where it previously took seventeen months for a worker to go from the sixty-five-cent learner's starting rate to the \$1.00 minimum second class, now under the new contract, it takes only twelve months to reach that same rating. Whereas, before, it was optional for the company to allow a worker to go beyond to \$1.10, now for all the machine and assembly workers employed in the plant it is mandatory that, after twenty-four months, they reach \$1.14.

The rates for toolmakers and those in the same classification are also correspondingly higher. For nonskilled departments such as porters and elevator operators, the new contract provides for a ten-cent increase over a four-month period, whereas formerly they were hired at seventyfive cents and just stayed there. All other groups in the plant have also benefitted by similar provisions in the new contract.

Another gain in the 1944 contract was an increase in vacation pay based on the prevailing work-wcek. Under the old contract, workers received two weeks, eighty hours, vacation pay; they now receive 116 hours' pay, an increase of thirty-six hours' pay.

Transfer of stewards from one department to another is prohibited

without permission from the union. Opportunities for unskilled workers to advance to skilled jobs before the hiring of new employees by the company were guaranteed by the new contract in order to end the tiations, the committee had a united company's discriminatory practice of keeping Negro workers and women endorsement of the entire local. Even the Communist Party followers, workers in the unskilled jobs. who shouted so loud for incentive

An average increase of ten cents per hour is given to all first-class men in the form of a merit raise agreed upon by the company and the union.

This contract received the almost unanimous approval of the membership.



(Continued from page 1)

one principle: to end the domination of the local by the Communist Party. This aim, one hundred per cent justified and correct, has proved to be inadequate. Yes, we must end Communist Party rule in our local. But in addition, and in order to accomplish this, we must have our own constructive, fighting program in opposition to the destructive, sell-out program of the Communists.

The American Party never developed any program or policies of its own. It contented itself with voting down the Communist convention resolutions but never presented its own. Its caucus meetings were confined to a narrow circle; no attempt was made to involve as many members of the local as possible in the fight against the Stalinists.

The American Party fell apart because it never made clear to itself or anyone else what it stood for. If reorganized, it will fall apart again unless it makes a change in that respect

The Stalinists and the Negroes

The Marmon-Stalinist group makes hypocritical pretenses of sympathizing with the just desires of the Negro membership of the local for full rights in the union and in the shop. But this is a false front. Marmon and the Stalinists want to appear as "friends of the Negro" because they want his votes to help put over the reactionary program of the Communist Party. The Stalinists try to use ALL workers, Negro and white, in the same way.

The Marmon administration has never conducted a serious and sincere campaign in the shop for the upgrading of Negroes into the skilled departments.

4.

In the present elections, not a word is mentioned in Marmon's campaign literature about the Negro. But during the August election of convention delegates, the Marmon group ran on a platform of "equality in the CIO." Why did Marmon and his supporters drop this plank now?

Every Negro member of the local should understand about this. Marmon was afraid of defeat in the current election. For the time being he felt assured that he would get the votes of the Negroes in any case. Therefore he lost his appetite for "equality." He threw this plank overboard as a concession to the Jim Crow elements in the local in an attempt to get a few desperately needed votes from the other side.

This proves completely that if the Stalinist - Marmon group can gain support by appearing to favor Negro rights it will do so. If it can gain support by remaining silent, it

India in Revolt

By Henry Judd

25 Cents Postpaid

WORKERS PARTY

114 West 14th Street

New York 11, N.Y.

will do so. That is why no Negro member of the local can trust them! The American Party and its sup-

porters have remained silent on the Negro question. This has helped Marmon to get away with his dishonest demagogy. To be for equal rights for all minorities, including Negroes, and, even more important, to actually fight to obtain these equal rights, is an elementary duty of all progressive unionists. One section of the former American Party at least partially recognizes this duty: the slate headed by John Davis and Montie O'Dowd endorsed William Alexander, a Negro brother, who also ran on the Marmon ticket for executive board. In their opinion. Alexander is a capable unionist who deserves re-election. But it is not enough simply to give "representation" to Negroes on the executive board. There must be a serious campaign in the shop for full rights.

For a Progressive Union Group

The first task of those of us who want a fighting union free from Stalinist domination and who want to keep it that way is to decide on what policies we want and to organize a solid group to get them. The kind of program we need should include these planks:

1. Against Communist - Stalinist rule in the unions. For a democratically-run union.

2. Restore real collective bargaining by (a) getting off the War Labor Board; (b) rescinding the no-strike pledge.

3. Equal rights for all minoritles in the CIO and in the shops.

4. For the organization of a fighting independent Labor Party with no ties to the two old capitalist parties.

TO: LABOR ACTION 114 WEST 14th STREET New York 11, N.Y. MONTH SUBSCRIPTION 250 Name _____ Address _____

Introductory Offer

pected that Mr. Towers will be back in time to report the proceedings of the National Steel Policy Conference to the next local meeting on Decem-

ing a negotiating committee on a program which called for strength-

ment, during which time there were

promises, due to the fact that the CIO itself was not yet pressing for breaking the Little Steel formula,

Fire Insurance Lobby Has Allies in Washington

-By Hildy Johnson

Do you have a good friend in Congress? The big fire insurance companies do. At the present time, the big fire insurance companies are waiting pending prosecution for violation of the anti-trust laws. The Justice Department has accused the companies of charging more than a billion dollars a year for four hundred million dollars' worth of insurance, plus a few other irregularities.

But, as I mentioned, the fire insurance companies have friends in Congress and they got their friends on the House Judiciary Committee to sponsor a bill exempting insurance companies from the anti-trust laws.

This bill was pushed through the Judiciary Committee by a vote of sixteen to five in a single session without hearings, and now waits approval of the House. (A Senate Judiciary subcommittee approved it unanimously.) It is being sponsored by the most powerful lobby in recent history.

HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE CONGRESSMEN

The most interesting aspect of the whole business is the high pressure campaign put on by the insurance lobbyists, which has already reached the proportions of a scandal which threatens to backfire on the over-zealous congressmen and lobbyists.

The legislation was introduced at the request of the fire insurance companies now threatened by prosecution under the anti-trust laws, in spite of the denial of their chief lobbyist that it is their bill. One of the House sponsors, Representative Clarence E. Hancock, admitted that he agreed to introduce the bill at the request of an official of the Travelers Fire Insurance Co., one of the largest companies in the business.

Many members of Congress own stock in fire insurance companies; others below to law firms which draw big retainers from the companies for handling insurance business.

SOME OF THE BILL'S SUPPORTERS

One of the most vigorous supporters of the bill is Representative Walter Ploeser of Missouri, who had been an officer of a large fire risk corporation in St. Louis for more than twenty years. Hancock, the House sponsor, once belonged to a law firm in Syracuse which represents a number of insurance companies.

In other cases, pressure was brought to bear on congressmen through law firms. Many congressmen are lawyers who have and still maintain connections, some financial, with law firms. Insurance companies put pressure on

Spinning a Fantasy About Captalism

Reuther "Plans" for Peace Production

By V. JENSEN

No union membership or leadership is more keenly conscious of the problems of post-war economic dislocation than is the United Automohile Workers

The UAW has over one million members, the overwhelming majority of whom are employed in the war industries. For these workers and their families, the fear of post-war unemployment for most, and a return to the declining auto industry, with its six-months seasonal slack for the luckiest few, is already present.

Among UAW workers in the plants, as among all other workers today. the ever-present topic for conversation and fearful speculation is the question: "What's going to happen to us after the war?" This question casts a particularly ominous shadow over the sunny stretches of the West Coast aircraft plants. It is not expected that the aircraft industry will be able to absorb more than 200,000 of the more than one million now employed.

Rank and file UAW members are looking to their leadership for some word on this question and before the last UAW convention, candidates for convention delegates in many local ran on platforms which included planks for a program of post-war security for auto workers.

Some months ago, R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW, made public a general program for economic reorganization. Last month, more sensationally, red-headed Walter Reuther, vice-president of the UAW, exsocialist and "social problems expert" in the high councils of the UAW, came out with a new "Reuther Plan" for peace.

The New "Reuther Plan"

Reuther, attacking the notion that "we can depend on the normal laws of economics" to prevent a post-war depression, correctly stated the alternatives:

"Our choice is between a monopolistic economy of scarcity, with its resulting unemployment, human waste and insecurity and the ultimate loss of democracy, or a free economy of abundance, with full employment, human security and the strengthening of democracy."

How does Reuther expect this economy of abundance to come about? First and most important is his demand that President Roosevelt should at once appoint of "Peace Production Board" as a post-war "high command" armed with supreme authority to direct the nation's economa ic mobilization for peace. Government, labor, industry, agriculture and consumers to have equal representation on this board, which would have full control over allocation of materials, manpower and tooling facilities in the immediate post-war period.

This board would proceed to formulate a far-flung public works program, with a nation-wide housing program as its keystone. Stating that housing should become the country's number one post-war industry, Reuther shows how with the conversion of aircraft factories into factories for prefabricated houses and rooms, and with the utilization of the public works programs, slums can be broken down and the whole communities replanned and rebuilt on a sound social basis.

The Reuther plan also calls, for a two months vacation with pay for most war workers, to contribute to the health of exhausted workers and to cushion the impact of unemployment during shutdowns necessary for retooling. This "Peace Production Board" is supposed to organize employment on the basis of a thirtyhour week, to spread employment, and maintain adequate wage standards, guarantees of continuous employment and production of socially necessary commodities at a fair price to the consumer.

Labor-management councils in in-dustry are to recognize "full and continuous employment and the establishment of a guaranteed annual profits, laughed him out of town.

wage as a supreme objective of all post-war plans."

In such seasonal industries as auto, the problem of the six-month lag is to be solved by new marketing techniques which sell cars, at lower prices during the low production period and the diversification of the one-product industries, by tooling up for quick production of other items when the main product like autos is in production.

An agricultural commission would work under the Peace Production Board to devise ways to develop cooperative marketing of farm prod-. ucts with an aim of bringing the farmers to a place "where they are participating in our total economy on the basis of equity, getting some of the comforts and advantages of city life in return for the values they contribute."

The plan calls for many other measures which aim to raise backward sections of the national economy to advanced technological levels and which are the source of employment.

What Is Wrong with the Picture

Reuther's plan on the surface seems to be an eminently reasonable one. Surely there are enough slums to be torn down and houses to be rebuilt, waterways to be controlled, bridges to be built, consumer goods needed, and surely American industry, in all the miracles of its wartime production, has only started to tap immense reservoirs of productivity.

Why, then, must American workers be faced with the prospect of unemployment, misery and starvation? Why won't Reuther's program, mild as it is, be adopted?

Reuther knows the answer. Reuther has had experience bringing plans to Washington. Three years ago he came to Washington with plans to convert the auto industry to war production. The dollar - a - year men and the auto magnates, latterday pay-triots, secure in booming

They would and did convert at their most profitable leisure, and without any uppity labor interference.

Yet today Reuther comes back to lick the boot that kicked him! He comes back to ask Roosevelt to appoint a new board! To ask Roosevelt, who has acceded to every reactionary demand placed upon him by American industrialists, to create another board, which will inevitably be packed against labor!

Such a program of public works and employment as Reuther outlines costs money. Where is that money to come from but out of the swollen coffers of industrial profits? Does Reuther expect Roosevelt and Congress, who spend their days and nights figuring ways and means to put every last jot and tittle of the cost of the war upon the backs of labor, to turn Santa Claus and pour out their ill-gotten capital gains because Walter Reuther comes and dazzles them with a new and shiny vista of social gains?

Roosevelt and Congress and the American bosses, whose representatives they are, are not interested in a new society. This old one has proved quite profitable enough, and if profits go down after the warwell, there's still some skin to be taken off labor's back to tide them over till the next war.

There is a much simpler plan for American workers than the Reuther Plan. It is a plan whereby they will accomplish what is outlined in Reuther's plan and more. And they will not have to wait for Roosevelt, a "Peace Production Board" and the millenium.

It is a plan whereby labor will drag its leaders out of presidential anterooms and newspaper offices and insist that a new organizing drive be started. This time labor must organize its own political party to take over the government, and organize production and agriculture for the benefit of the many instead of the few. If labor does this, fewer blueprints for the future will gather dust in Reuther's right-hand desk drawer.

Business Barons Give Themselves "Incentive Pay"

-By Leon Gordon

Page

This isn't news, of course, but we thought you might be interested in it. A gentleman named Dwight S. Wallace, executive vice - president, treasurer and directors of an outfit called Cessna Aircraft Company, had his salary increased a mere 3,700 per cent between 1940 and and 1942.

In 1940, as secretary-treasurer and director he earned \$2,325; in 1931, as secretary-treasurer only, \$16,032; in 1942, with the three titles given above, \$89,851.

We are also informed that Eugene Grace, director and president of Bethlehem Steel, received the largest salary in all three years-1940, 1941 and 1942. In 1940 he "earned" \$478,144 and in 1941 and 1942 he was upped to \$537,724a trifling rise of 121/2 per cent, which could hardly be said to match the increase in the cost of living.

In general "121 American corporations that are devoted (what a perfect word-L. G.) to the war effort added nearly \$10,000,000 to the salaries of their officers and directors between 1940 and 1942." This was shown by reports filed with the Securities & Exchange Commission.

CORPORATIONS JUMP OFFICIALS' SALARIES

Naturally, Wallace's 3,700 per cent jump was exception, but the Times' reporter informs us that "jumps of twenty-five to one hundred per cent were commonplace."

Did the small fry (relatively small, that is) like Wallace, as a rule, get the biggest increase? Not at all. "The trend was more pronounced in a study of the three highest salaries paid by each of the 121 companies. Here the increase was approximately 21 per cent."

Piddling raises like Grace's 121/2 per cent pulled down the average, as you can see. On the other hand, the shipbuilding group, a real war boom industry, showed an average boost for all officers and directors of fifty-three per cent; rubber products, fifty per cent; aviation, fortythree per cent, etc.

The above figures show only salaries paid in cash. "Such additional rewards as contributions to pension funds, and the awarding or exercising of options to purchase company stock at less than market prices were not included. Had such emolument been added, the amount in many cases would have been increased by thousands of dollars."

For example, the Times's story credits C. E. Wilson of General Motors with \$149,803 in 1941. LABOR ACTION of November 22, basing itself on Treasury reports, states that he earned \$276,434—almost double the amount of his s called salary taken by itself. And the latter figure still does not include income from dividends on stocks, from rent on property, etc.

Are You Dry? -- Here's Why!

By GERTRUDE SHAW

Here is a story of war profiteering, of Wall Street speculation, of corporations gypping on taxes, of soaping the consumer-a story that is only one of hundreds about the "self-sacrificing" pay-triotism of big business.

Between good liquor and the consumer there is today many a slip, as the saying goes-first because of the extreme shortage and second because of the fantastic prices.

Supplies of liquor have suddenly disappeared from the market for a very simple reason. The distilleries are holding back their reserves.

American Distilling Co. is keeping 245,000 barrels of rye and bourbon whisky off the general market. Instead of releasing its inventory, it is letting its stockholders have this huge supply at cost. Tom Moore Distillery Co. has pursued a

banner year many weeks ago. Weeks ago profits were already sky-high. It has ever been the aim of capitalists to pass as little as possible of their profits on to the government-even though the job of the government is to protect the class interests of these very tax dodgers.

HOW THEY WORK IT

Taking the case of American Distilling Co. as an example, if it were to sell those 245,000 barrels of liquor to the public before the end of 1943, it would have to report around eight million dollars of profit on the sale in the income tax return of a year of exceptional profits. That would mean that the eight million dollars of profit to be realized at OPA prices would be subject to the ninety per cent corporate excess profits tax.

Ah, but if the company sells the stuff to its

mortals will be offered foul stuff at shameless prices-and will be lucky if they don't die from it. But this is only half of the story. For the rest of it, the scene shifts to Wall Street.

Stock market prices of distillery stocks have risen spectacularly during 1943. American Distilling Co. shares went from a low of 15 to a high of 1111/2 and now sell at 108. That represents a mint of unearned wealth for the insiders.

Some of this jump in stock prices is due to socalled natural causes, that is, to the wartime boost in business and profits. But that which took place in recent weeks is due to unadulterated, old-time Wall Street finagling.

The big fellows laid their hands on as much stock as they could grab at low prices. Then rumors were set affoat that things were going to happen in distillery stocks. There were wispers

these firms.

In addition, the companies have put on an enormous mail campaign to congressmen, with 100,000 letters their goal. Already every conaressman is said to have received about a hundred letters urging support of the bill.

Finally, the lobbying and pressure campaign became such a scandal that it hit a snag when Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney forced the investigation back to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee with a list of very pointed questions about insurance rates and company practices. And that's where the bill is at present.

. These congressional stooges for the insurance companies are the first to make speeches against "special interests" when a bill favorable to the working masses comes up!

slightly different course. It declared a dividend in bourbon whisky to its stockholders. Other tremendous stocks of liquor are being withheld from the public by similar methods.

With OPA ceilings on a barrel of rye or bourbon at a peak of around \$62, why are these corporations not eager to sell? Believe me, there's plenty of profit to be made at that price. For the cost whisky to American Distilling Co.-according to its own unrestricted figuring-is \$32 a barrel. In a word, the OPA ceiling price allows nearly one hundred per cent profit. Not bad, what? A burden of one hundred per cent profit should be easy to bear.

^f But strangely enough, American Distilling Co., Tom Moore Distillery Co. and the rest of them are not anxious to collect this pretty penny of profit -at least, not just now. And thereby hangs a tale of taxes

The distilling concerns, along with all of big business, have been booming with wartime orders. For them, as for the others, 1943 was already a

stockholders at cost, the result quite different. There is technically no profit to report. Therefore, there is no tax to be paid by the corporation on the 245,000 barrels. And the stockholders get a nice dividend of eight million dollars-the difference between what they will pay for the liquor and what it is worth at OPA prices.

A nice bit of tax dodging!

It is estimated that such and similar maneuvers by the distillery companies will deprive the U.S. Treasury of up to twenty million dollars this year. But when Tom, Dick or Harry buys a bottle-if he can get it somehow-he can't evade the sales tax on it.

Imagine what will happen during the coming holiday season when nearly everyone wants a little liquor around the house! Already dealers are hoarding their supplies for higher prices. With the holiday demand, there'll be no holds on the prices. Good liquor will cost its weight in gold. Only stockholders of distillery companies and the well-to-do will be able to celebrate in style. Other

of the distribution of barrels of whisky to stockholders, and there were counter-rumors. Thers were predictions of mergers and liquidations and what not. The result was wild speculation, with the usual "sucker" rush to get his fingers burned. Of course, the big fellows in the know padded their pockets with profits both going and coming.

When-after six or seven weeks of this frenzy -the company officially announced its scheme to sell its whisky to its stockholders at cost, the stock leaped from 78 to 1111/2 in one market day. On a smaller scale, the same kind of speculation goes on in all other liquor stocks.

Thus in the troubled waters of war do the capitalists fish for-and catch-bigger and better profits. Such stories of this-of OPA prices set at one hundred per cent above cost, of tax dodging by the wealthy, of Wall Street finagling-can be fully savored only in contrast to the wage freeze, the job freeze, the undodgeable tax burdens, the profiteering prices and the other hardships piled on the backs of the working people of the country.

IT EVEN HAPPENS TO YOU

30-Hour Week --

Would you like to be in the shoes of these fellows? Not so fast! Says the Times: "In many instances it was apparent that the increases were absorbed automatically by the increase in income taxes on such large salaries, leaving the individual with little or no net gain."

We have yet to read an editorial in the Times or elsewhere suggesting that workers' increases, gained largely by long overtime hours, were "absorbed" by higher taxes. We have, however, heard rumors from workers that it happens to them, too-and then some!

Profits Up 12% - -

(Continued from page 1)

contributions to pension funds and options to purchase stock at less than market prices were not included. Had such emoluments been added, the commission emphasized, the boosts in many cases would have been increased very much.

The shipbuilding group showed the highest rate of increase, the average like to officers and directors being 53 per cent. Tire manufacturers increased salaries an average of 50 per cent; steel companies, 45 per cent; auto parts, 44 per cent; aviation, 43 per cent; radio, 32 per cent; distillers, 34 per cent; railroad equipment, 27 per cent.

Some of the startling increases were to officials of aircraft and aircraft equipment companies. Cessna Aircraft led the field, with a boost to Executive Vice-President Dwight S. Wallace of 3,700 per cent and proportionate increases to other officials. Incidentally, Cessna's 1941 profits, after paying taxes and the higher salaries of officials, were 133 per cent on its total investment! Profits in 1942 and 1943 are expected to be even greater.

Grace's Huge Reward

Eugene R. Grace, president of Bethlehem Steel, also fared well at the hands of his company and at the expense of Uncle Sam. He was paid

\$478,144 in 1940 and \$537,724 in 1942. Roland Chilton, engineer of Wright Aeronautical Corporation more than doubled his salary, with a jump from \$168,356 to \$373,752.

General Motors gave a 50 per cent boost to President C. E. Wilson; Willys-Overland doubled the salary of President J. W. Frazer; Bendix Aviation President Charles Marcus is 86 per cent better off, as is President W. H. Dow of Dow Chemical.

President P. C. Clark of Clark Controller boosted his salary 150 per cent and President W. A. McRidder of General Metals is drawing three times his former salary.

Doubled and Trebled

President W. H. Gerhauser of American Shipbuilding reported a 200 per cent increase; President P. F. Wilson of Pittsburgh Steel a 300 per cent increase, and General Manager R. C. Cosgrove of Crosley Radio an increase of 279 per cent.

And so on, to the extent of more than a column of small type.

In the meantime, propagandists, financed largely by the concerns mentioned in the SEC report, shout "inflation" every time a working man's wages are increased a few dollars.

(Reprinted from the December 4issue of "Labor")

Attention, New York! **MASS MEETING! RAILROADED TO PRISON!**

Eighteen Members of Socialist Workers Party and of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO

They are the first victims of the vicious Smith "Gag" Act.

They were denied a hearing by the U. S. Supreme Court-and condemned to serve twelve to sixteen month prison terms because of their ideas and union activities.

PROTEST

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this situation, the thirty-hour week is a most reasonable demand if jobs are to be provided for America's sixty million workers. If organized labor does not take this step, it concedes to the capitalists Albert Goldman, Attorney

greater.

all the benefits of industrial advancement and improved technology-and to the workers the miseries of unemployment. From labor's point of view, labor saving machinery and techniques must be translated into ever shorter working hours for the

> workers. The solution of the unemployment problem is unattainable only for those who think in terms of capitalist profits and the perpetuation of capitalist power.

(Continued from page 1)

per cent more than, in 1935-39. In

some industries, like aircraft, the

jump in labor's output is even

If we settle on the very low figure

of fifty per cent as the measure of

labor's increased productivity in

both agriculture and manufacture

over the 1935-39 period, then it fol-

lows that the amount of goods turned

out then can now be had with one-

half of the working force. In view of

To those who think in terms of human needs and human rights, the solution is ready at hand. It includes not only the adequate shortening of the working week without reduction in pay, and not only the right of workers to open up factories closed down by the bosses.

Demands are in order for the peacetime expenditure for public benefit of the vast sums now wasted in destructive wars-as a means of providing employment and the good things of life.

In the final analysis, however, the profit-grubbing obstructionism by the capitalist class must be ended. The working people will be forced to take increasingly militant and revolutionary measures-and finally to oust the capitalists and establish a working. class government and workers' power. Therein lies peace, employment and plenty for all.

Congress Moguls And Soldiers' Vote--(Continued from page 1)

provided. But all kinds of complicated obstacles are put in the way. Even Chief Justice Stone doesn't want the job provided for him in the proposed bill.

From the point of view of the menand women overseas, the bill has one very important omission. Why should twenty-one be the age requirement to vote? If men and women are old enough to risk their lives, they are old enough to make up their minds on political issues.

Any bill regarding the soldier vote which does not extend the franchise to every man and woman in service, regardless of age, is not good enough,

December 16, 8:00 pm.

Admission: 25 Cents

LABOR ACTION

——— Michigan CIO Learned Little Editorials-Teheran and Cairo: Symbols in the War From the Detroit Elections

Despite the great publicity given to the two three-power conferences, the 'one in Cairo between Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek, and the other in Teheran between the first two and Stalin, the press, while disclosing the military and territorial decisions with respect to the Far East, has been unable to say much of anything about the conference in Iran.

DITORIAL PAGE

The United States, Great Britain and China are united in their fight against Japan. While they undoubtedly reached an agreement on military matters, their political agreement is something else again. It is true that we learned from the conferees that they had decided to free the territories now held by Japan. These include not only the territories seized in this war, but those taken as far back as fifty years ago-some granted to Japan after the First World War by its present enemies and others agreed STRAWS IN THE WIND to at one time by Great Britain and at another time by the United States.

The announcement of the decision to reduce Japan to a small power is being roundly criticized by leading commentators. They point out that the announcement of these intentions will only make the Japanese fight "to the last man."

But, more important, the heads of these states have said nothing about what is to be done to a country of seventy million people. Shall they be exterminated? Made into slaves? Transported to other parts of the world? The reply is not forthcoming from the organizers of a "new" world.

The Cairo conference is notewarthy, too, not so much by its decision to destroy the Japanese Empire, but by its total silence on the question of national self-determination of colonial peoples!

Not one word was said about freedom for India! Not one word was said about national liberation for the East Indies. Not a word was said about extraterritorial "rights" in Shanghai and British "ownership" of Hong Kong, which they "mean" to hold.

A provisional liberation of Korea was to take place, but its real significance is revealed in the article in this issue.

WHAT WAS DECIDED AT IRAN?

So far as the Iran conference is concerned, there was even less forthcoming. The agreements arrived at, it was announced, relate to joint military efforts. The aim and hope of that conference were to effect not only collaboration in the war, but in peace too. Aim and hope! The same

Was nothing said about these questions? Did Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin avoid such discussions? Was the matter of Poland avoided? Or what to do with the Baltic states? Or the Balkans?

Obviously, all of these questions were discussed. If the decisions of Cairo were worthy of public announcement, why not the decisions of Teheran? For two possible reasons:

1. Either Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin did not reach agreement on these important questions which have heretofore seperated them, or

2. The agreements reached between them are of such a nature that they do not, at this time, at any rate, dare to make them public. We are inclined to this latter view.

Isn't it clear, if these powers had reached such decisions as, for example, complete national liberation for the Baltic states and Poland, that this would have been announced in blazing headlines? Wouldn't the powers have made the most of such decisions to put them in a favorable light before the peoples of the world?

But there are certain straws in the wind. "War and the Working Class," mouthpiece of the unofficial policies of the Stalin regime, published a blistering attack on the Polish government in exile at the very time that the Teheran conference was meeting.

The Yugoslav Partisans, led by Tito and under Stalinist influence, if not direction, picked the eve of this conference as the time to organize a new "government." It appears that England and America agreed.

As a matter of fact, power politics rules the strategy of the Allies. This strategy has nothing in common with the real interests of the European masses. It is discussed in the behind-the-scenes conflict between the powers over the reorganization of Europe, over Germany, the Baltic states and Poland. It is revealed in the imperial ist appetites of Stalin. It is revealed in the struggle between Great Britain, the United States and Russia over who shall dominate Europe. This was made so abundantly clear in the speech of General Smutts, who expressed the fears of the British ruling class that they might be left out in the cold in Europe. Teheran is a milestone in the war. But it is a milestone on the path of impe-

By MARTIN HARVEY

LANSING, Mich. - The Michigan State CIO has completed its political mobilization conference held here December 4 and 5. The conference, a dull and routine affair, can only be described as a step backward for Michigan labor.

The delegates to the conference, mainly local executive board and educational committee members of CIO unions in Michigan, were prevented from doing any real constructive work by a decision of the executive board of the State CIO council, announced just before the opening of the conference. This decision was that the organization of a Labor Party would not be attempted at this

Said the executive board: "Partial reports indicate that, while independent political action undoubtedly is favored by a substantial group of voters, the time is not opportune for launching such a move." Thus, while admitting strong rank and file sentiment for a Labor Party, the top state CIO leaders deliberately removed discussion of this burning issue from the conference agenda.

Thomas Presents "Policy"

The line that the conference was to follow was handed down at a banquet the evening of December 4, when R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers and principal speaker, presented a long list of problems facing labor in the political field. Removal of anti-labor laws from the statute books, protection of workers against post-war unemployment and extension of social security were a few of these.

But when it came to doing something about these problems, all the speakers fell back on the same old chant: labor must bring out its vote. Vote for what? For whom? No one at the conference bothered to ask these questions, much less answer them

All of this becomes very surprising when we remember that only a few short months ago the convention of the State CIO went on record as favoring a Labor Party and instructed its officers to investigate ways and means of setting up such a party. This the state officers completely ignored.

What the Panels Discussed

At, the panel discussions speakers went into great detail on the questions of organizing ward and precinct groups, on how to get the workers to vote. The conference big shots carefully side-stepped the question of WHY the workers stayed away from the polls in the past.

An answer was almost given in one panel discussion on how to overcome superstitions about politics among CIO members. Two of the superstitions listed were "politics are dirty" and "what's the difference who we vote for?-they're all alike."

One of the delegates, Paul Silver, president of UAW Local 351, pointed out that if the CIO supports Jeffries for Mayor of Detroit one year and attacks him the next, attacks Van Wagoner one year and supports him for Governor the next, attacks Boss Hague of New Jersey one year and works with him the next, the workers have a right to call that dirty politics.

Statement on the Poll Tax

The National Committee to Abolish the Poll-Tax has sent out the following statement:

At the time House Resolution 7 was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming introduced a proposal for a constitutional amendment to abolish the poll-tax. This proposal was defeated in committee, nine to eight, but Senator O'Mahoney has given assurance that he will introduce the amendment again on the floor of the Senate while RH 7 is being debated. The poll-tax senators at once recognized the amendment proposal for what it is, and have promised to lend support to it.

This is the procedure necessary to amend the Constitution of the United States:

1. Two-thirds of both houses of Congress must vote to propose a constitutional amendment.

The proposed amendment must be passed by two-thirds of both houses. In our history, sixteen resolutions have passed in the Senate and failed

tion! One-fourth of the states, plus tax legislation, will take refuge in one-a total of thirteen states-can defeat a constitutional amendment by failing to ratify it. This has particularly sinister implications for an amendment to abolish the poll-tax. Only five states would be required, in addition to the eight poll-tax states, to defeat such an amendment. A careful survey has shown that nine additional states would in all probability oppose it.

No wonder, then, that Senator Bilbo has thrown in his filibuster forces with the advocates of a constitutional amendment, knowing that it would only serve to delay effective action against the poll-tax for years to come. There is great danger that other senators, pledged to support anti-poll-

Famous Last Words - -

On January 20, 1927, Prime Miniswonderful man and a formidable ter Winston Churchill made the folworker." lowing speech to the Italian and fores in Rome.

Organized workers of this country are fed up with boss politics-supporting a boss candidate one year and opposing him the next. To them, and rightly so, a choice between a Republican and a Democrat is no choice at all. If the last few elections prove anything, they prove that simple fact.

Given half a chance-a party of labor and a program for labor-the workers would demonstrate that they do understand politics. But the top union bureaucrats, tied hand and foot to Roosevelt, can only think of supporting Democrats against Republicans, thereby demonstrating their political impotence.

Thomas gave the show away when he complained bitterly that if the workers don't vote in 1944 Roosevelt will be defeated. That may be true, but what does that mean to the average worker? The Administration program of freezing wages, letting prices skyrocket, hamstringing the unions, letting the workers pay for the war while the rich rake in the profits, is no attraction to the masses of workers in the shops. But the bureaucrats, led by Roosevelt's man Friday, Sidney Hillman, shake in their boots whenever they hear independent labor action mentioned.

Labor faces tremendous problems which simple trade unionism can't solve. Only when rank and file unionists understand this fact and raise the demand for a Labor Party will labor begin to take the place which rightfully belongs to it. The Michigan political mobilization conference failed to advance that goal.

this face-saving gesture-will loudly

proclaim their support of this "con-

stitutional" method of outlawing the

The proposal for a constitutional

amendment is deceptive. It is also

unnecessary. HR 7, which would

abolish the poll-tax in federal elec-

tions by statute, has already passed

the House overwhelmingly. No No-

vember 12 it won the approval of the

Senate Judiciary Committee, twelve

to six, after exhaustive hearings on

his commitment in favor of anti-poll

tax legislation means that he will

support HR 7, for the abolition of

Make your senator understand that

the constitutionality of the bill.

the poll-tax NOW.

poll-tax.

WAR COSTS Labor Will Bear The Main Burdens

Page 4

By JULIAN STERN

Even if we were to be extremely optimistic about the military conclusion to the war, its cost would still be about ten times more than the First World War, namely three hundred billion dollars.

The REAL first year of the war for the United States dates from July 1, 1941 (overlooking the formality of the war declaration of December 8). The amount of money spent on the war in this period was twenty-eight billion dollars, or four times the amount for the year before. From July 1, 1942, to June 30, 1943, the second year of the war, costs went to seventy-five billion dollars.

BREAKING DOWN THE COSTS

Monthly expenditures at the present time, in the third year of the war, are about eight billion dollars, with ninety-six billion dollars as the annual rate. Actually, however, only ninety-two billion dollars are expected to be spent, as opposed to the hundred billion dollars officially predicted.

Assuming the defeat or near collapse of Germany and the continuance of the war with Japan at a much increased tempo, by the time the fourth year begins in the coming July, war expenditures will be about seventy-five billion dollars, with this annual rate falling as the year draws to a close.

All this adds up to two hundred and seventyseven billion dollars but it seems extremely probable that with the conflict with Japan continuing on after July, 1945, we will have a grand total of three hundred billion dollars or more.

Congress to date has appropriated three hundred and forty-one billion dollars. Of course all of this will not be spent because the authority to use a good part of it will expire at the end of the fiscal year, June 30. The Army has indicated that it may turn back about thirteen billion dollars unless it is needed before next July. This leaves the gigantic sum of three hundred and twenty-seven billion dollars as the total war fund. Of this, one hundred and thirty-nine billion dollars, or fortyone per cent, has already been spent.

WHAT THE ARMY AND NAVY SPEND

Breaking down the money appropriated and the money spent, we have the following picture:

The Army (including the Air Force), minus the money expected to be returned, has one hundred and seventy-nine billion dollars to spend, of which seventy-six billions has been expended by November 1 of this year. The Army's expenditures are expected to accelerate until the end of the fiscal year. After July, a decline is expected if Germany does not put up a determined resistance to the coming large-scale invasion. Thus the accumulated materials can be used against Japan. About the only industry that can then expect continued heavy orders is the aircraft industry, with the emphasis on heavy bombers.

Less than half (thirty-nine billion dollars) of the Navy's ninety-four billion have been used. Unlike the Army, the Navy will still have large orders forthcoming. Although the authority to utilize its present appropriation may expire before it can be put to full use, the Navy is requesting from Congress five billion dollars to purchase three and a half million tons of land and auxiliary vessels. To do this, contracts for many destroyer escorts and patrol craft were cancelled, showing that shifts in naval concepts and strategy do not necessarily lead to reduction of expenditures. Within a few months the peak will be reached in naval construction.

old stalking horses.

The Iran conference also hopes to banish war for "many generations." This is indeed a far cry from "the war to end all war." But in its so-called realism it points a lesson: the leaders of these three powers know that the abolition of war is impossible so long as capitalist imperialism and Stalinism exist! The best they can say is that they hope to have peace "for a long time."

While we have no doubt that the needs of the war compel the closest collaboration between America, England and Russia, political agreement, post-war plans, and, especially, what to do with Germany - on these questions not one inkling of a word came out of Teheran.

LABOR ACTION

rialist politics.

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in the House, and a like number were passed in the House and failed in the Senate. The seventeenth amendment passed in the House several times before it was approved by the Senate.

2. The legislatures of three-fourths of the states must ratify the amendment.

No time limit is necessarily set within which a state must act on a constitutional amendment. The child labor amendment, proposed in 1924, is still pending: to date only twentyfour of the required thirty-six states have ratified it. The Supreme Court has held, however, that Congress may prescribe a reasonable period for ratification and that a seven-year period is not unreasonable! (Dillon vs. Gloss, 256 U. S. 3.)

And-a minority of the states may block an amendment to the Constitu-

"I could not help being charmed, as so many other people have been, Italy." by Signor Mussolini's gentle and

simple bearing and by his calm, detached poise, despite so many burdens and dangers.... If I had been an Italian I am sure I should have been wholeheartedly with you from start to finish of your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites of Lenin-

The late Neville Chamberlain, Munich Prime Minister of England, spoke of Italian fascism as having "new vision and new efficiency of administration."

He was joined by the later Viscount Rothermere, Hearst-like publisher in Great Britain, who expressed big business admiration of Mussolini by saying that he was "a

ermere's papers, declared: "Behind Mussolini stands all that is best in

Some years ago, G. Ward Price,

foreign correspondent for Lord Roth-

These men were not alone in their praise of the Italian butcher of the working class. They were joined in their praise of Mussolini by Sir Samuel Hoare, present Ambassador to Spain, Viscount Halifax, J. P. Morgan and many other representatives of the capitalist class in Great Britain and the United States.

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OTHER WAR APPROPRIATIONS

Five billion dollars of the Maritime Commission's twelve billion dollars were spent as of November 1. The peak of merchant ship building will be about the middle of next year.

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has contracted for seventeen billion dollars' worth of war plants and raw materials. Miscellaneous war agencies, the Agriculture and Treasury Departments included, have at their disposal twenty-six billion dollars, having spent eleven billion dollars, of which a greater part went for lend-lease.

In the last analysis, these enormous war costs, which have so greatly benefitted big business in the form of extremely high war profits, will come off the backs of the people who labor.

Cairo-Teheran - -

(Continued from page 1)

ply as the unarmed and comparatively defenseless colonials of Asia. These European workers and peasants are fighting too hard against Nazi tyranny and for national liberation! It seems apparent that only a strictly limited understanding and agreement were reached at Teheran. The "big three" require more discussion and conference before they can "settle up" Europe to one another's satisfaction.

Only a definite military concord seems to have been reached. But this was to be expected and is no surprise. Britain and America are now in a position where they are ready to invade Europe and thus satisfy Stalin's demands for a second front. This will undoubtedly take place But politically, what success can the conference point to? What steps concretely were taken toward a solution of Europe's basic problems? (What to do with a defeated Germany? The Russo-Polish boundaries? The Balkans? The governments in exile? Etc.) What plans, if any, were made for a post-war federation of independent European nations?

The answer is nothing-so far as the world knows-no plans or proposals accepted. To argue that progress was made, but that these things must be kept secret during the war, is nonsense. What would be better for Allied morale than definite proofs and indications of how closely they

were working together and how much harmony had been achieved? Are we entitled to conclude that the Allies at Teheran made little or no progress toward political understanding; that the basic differences between them are as sharp as before? Either that, or else that secret agreements are of so reactionary a nature (such as, for example, conceding to Stalin huge portions of Poland and the Balkans; the utter dismemberment of Germany; a yielding to Stalin's demands that millions of German workers be shipped to Russia, etc.), that the big three dare not reveal them to the world.

Yet the failure to issue any kind of a declaration to the German people; the failure to mention a word about Europe's future boundaries; the embarrassing (to England and America) and sudden creation of the Tito Partisan government in Yugoslavia right in the midst of the conference-all these facts seem to indicate that the conference was a complete political flop.

Empty phrases mean nothing when Europe wants to know about boundaries and application of democratic principles. If the Allies had really had something to say on these matters they would have been only too ready to let the world know.

In summary, imperialism, capital, redivision, trade and world markets, etc., sat in full control at both conferences.

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Textile Union Wage Meet

By MIKE STEVENS

The United Textile Workers of America is calling a conference for December 11 in Washington and it is urging all of its affiliated locals throughout the country to have delegates present. The conference is to discuss the UTWA's wage demand for a general increase of ten cents an hour for all textile workers and the establishment of a minimum wage of sixty cents an hour in the cotton textile industry. At this conference the International Executive Board will present its plans on the methods it expects to pursue in fighting for these wage demands.

are in line with the policy of the CIO as accepted at its recent convention that "the Little Steel formula is dead" and that the tremendous rise in the cost of living makes it mandatory that the workers' wages be raised.

It is difficult to say exactly what will happen at the conference. Nevertheless, the leaders of the TWA are tied to the War Labor Board and THEY probably will not suggest that the union disregard the WLB. The leaders of the union want the workers to get wage increases-but they will not suggest or permit any real militant action on the part of the textile workers by which wage increases will be a reality.

The entire textile industry is a

powder keg. And this is especially true of the Southern cotton textile section of it. The union officials are aware of it, and one of the reasons for this conference is to have the delegates return to their respective locals and tell the membership there is no need to strike because the union leadership is fighting mad at the bosses and at every government agency. They are really going to

town to get those wage increases. In August, 1942, the WLB, after continuous heavy pressure from the UTWA, established a 47½ cents an hour minimum for the Southern textile workers. Even this low minimum was never lived up to by the Southern mill owners. The records show that in the organized mills, case after case was brought into the courts in an attempt to force the employers to pay this pitiful sum. In the mills where UTWA had no foothold, much less than 471/2 cents

an hour was paid. This was brought to full light when on October 15 of this year, the regional War Labor Board in Atlanta set 42½ cents an hour as the basic minimum for the cotton textile industry in the South-five cents an hour less than was agreed upon a

The average work week in Southern cotton textile mills is 401/2 hours. Even at the 471/2 cents an hour rate a worker receives the gross wage of only \$19.24 a week. Deduct from that

his victory tax, social security, bonds, etc., and his take-home pay is pretty small.

The most optimistic figure for the average hourly rate is fifty-six cents an hour. Even at this rate the full weekly wage comes to \$22.68.

The cost of living in the textiletowns has risen over forty per cent since 1941. And even this figure does not give a real picture of the situation. The textile worker's take-home pay goes mostly into food, the one item that has risen way over the forty per cent figure, which takes in many items that have not risen as high and are averaged together with food. In addition, many Southern states have sales taxes which further whittle down the low wages. Government, Union Officials Upset

The union officials and the state and federal officials know that the textile workers are beginning to stir and they are trying to stop them. The International Executive Board held its September meeting in Black Mountain, N. C., the center of the Southern textile industry. At Columbia, S. C., the TWA held a conference to discuss wages. Over 150 delegates, representing 16,000 workers, were there. The Governor showed up, and the Mayor, four or five government people, the head of the Department of Labor of the state and a few others to tell the textile workers that they were on their side, but please don't do anything rash.

year ago.

The wage demands of the TWA