Foremen's Strike Highlights Detroit Labor Unrest

part of the government to break the strike of the 3,500 foremen in the Detroit area has caused the lockout of thousands of war workers. At the Mack Avenue plant of the Briggs Manufacturing Co., 10,000 workers were locked out on May 16 because the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics had refused to accept any more of the company's output.

The pretext given for the Navy refusal is "because of the lack of company supervision and inspection, which is resulting in quality unacceptable to the Navy." There is something wrong here, for however useful and necessary the work of foremen is, it cannot be said that the

What can be interpreted only as an effort on the quality of the product depends on the foremen. They believable reason as given by the Navy. have to do, as everyone knows, with the arrangement of the work in a plant and with like matters.

> By aggravating the situation, the government, it seems, wishes to put a gun to the head of the foremen, whose strike is now nearly three weeks old and whose union, the Foremen's Association of America, has been called before the War Labor Board.

> Following the example set at Briggs, Hudson Motor Car Co. has come out with the statement that it will also shut down some of its assembly lines "because of the unauthorized absence of certain supervisors" and "in order better to insure the quality of its product"—the same un-

Melvin Bishop, regional director of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, and Norman Matthews, president of the Packard Local, sent a protest to Robert P. Patterson, Under-Secretary of War, and to William H. Davis, chairman of the WLB. The protest read: "Failure on the part of government and management to eliminate this lockout by Thursday, May 18, will compel the UAW-CIO to order the return of its members to their important defense jobs irrespective of such irresponsible interference with war production."

This whole situation underlines once more that the howl raised about holding up war production when work-

ers go out on strike is anti-labor propaganda, pure and simple. For when the government and the capitalists are out to break a strike—as is the case now with the foremen's strike for recognition of their union as a bargaining agent—they don't give a hoot about war production.

This recent lockout brings to the fore the whole labor situation in the Detroit area, where great dissatisfaction and turmoil prevail among the workers. Newspaper estimates place the number of idle workers in the Detroit district at around 65,000 due to strikes and lockouts.

At the root of the situation is the union-busting campaign of industry which was given a good start by the nostrike pledge and the WLB's crippling effect on labor.

We Say--

Labor Must Form an

LABORACTION

We Say--Rescind the No-Strike Pledge

MAY 22 ,1944

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR



ONE CENT

ANTI-POLL-TAX BILL DITCHE

Murray Stems Tide of Revolt at STEEL WORKERS CONVENTION

Stiff Fight on Renewal of No-Strike Pledge

The second constitutional convention of the United Steel Workers of America, held at Cleveland May 9 to 13, might have become a pillar of fire to guide and inspire other sections of the labor movement. The opportunity for deliberate and significant action that would have brought the whole CIO to its feet, came on the second day of the convention when the nostrike pledge was up for consideration. This was the second resolution in the Resolution Committee report. The first, as was to be expected, was entitled "Philip Murray."

As soon as the resolution was reported and its adoption moved by the committee secretary, Delegate Tavlin of Local Union 2941 got the floor to support reaffirming the no-strike pledge "to keep up production in support of our armed forces." The next delegate to speak was Mark Brown of Local Union 2715, from near Reading, Pa. Brown was one of the younger delegates and was speaking against the no-strike pledge and in

support of a resolution

from his local demand-

ing the revocation of

the pledge. Brown made

an excellent presentation of the case against

the no-strike pledge and

was clearly winning the

confidence and support

of an increasing num-

ber of delegates as they

listened to his formula-

tion of the things that

were in their own

minds. At first there

was some booing, but

this quieted down as

Brown continued, and

President Murray in-

sisted that the conven-

It was clear that

Brown was really ex-

pressing the sentiments

of the delegates. They

strike pledge and were

were against the no-

tion maintain order.

PHILIP MURRAY Tied His Union to FDR and the No-Strike Pledge

courage and ability to formulate arguments against the pledge and to fight for this position in the convention. Brown was not only speaking for his local but for numerous other steel locals that had sent in resolutions against the no-strike pledge. The situation was a tense one. This was evident not only in

the attitude of the delegates but by the plainly demonstrated discomfiture of the leadership on the platform. It seemed that something dramatic was about to happen. Murray certainly

After Brown had finished there was applause from the delegates. Another delegate took the floor to relate how difficult it was to get grievances settled. He too was against the nostrike pledge. Next came a delegate in favor of continuing the no-strike position of the union. And then came the perennial Van Bittner, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, with the statement that he had received short notice as to the preparation of the resolutions. He didn't want to take up the time of the convention and closed with the astounding statement that he believed the overwhelming majority of the steel workers were in favor of the no-strike pledge now, just as they were two years ago.

MURRAY GETS INTO ACTION

Murray then took the floor, it seemed with a sort of sinking feeling that Van Bittner might be just running off at the mouth. Murray was plainly perturbed and alarmed at the unquestionably antagonistic attitude the delegates were assuming. He began with the history of the no-strike pledge. He went over the old ground that the "leaders of organized labor in the United States of America, by their own motion, without a single request from the President of the United States, gave to him a commitment that for the duration of this war organized labor would not indulge itself in the conduct of strikes."

Murray told the delegates that when the no-strike pledge was given, the United Steel Workers of America had 600,000 members. "It is meeting two years after it gave its commitment to the President of the United States with a membership of approximately one million." This was one of Murray's main arguments for the no-strike pledge. It amounts to saying that the union grew because of the no-strike pledge; that is, that thousands of steel workers joined the USWA in the past two years because its leaders had promised Roosevelt not to strike. If this is true, then one would think that instead of growing the USWA would have lost members, because there have been

therefore in a mood to listen to any delegate who had the strikes in steel involving thousands of members. The membership has not adhered to the no-strike pledge. Just last December, at the expiration of the contract, 175,000 steel workers were on strike for a brief period.

Murray had another argument that he has become noted for. He gave it again in the same words that he has used so often before. It is the argument that if the pledge is withdrawn "your organization and its leaders would be required, under some set of circumstances, to suddenly rush to Washington and combat the influence of a powerful anti-labor group who are bent upon the passage of no-strike legislation and national service legislation."

Murray, Thomas and others advanced this argument two years ago in support of the no-strike pledge. After they had shed their tears and dragged the CIO through the mud of nostrike capitulation, abject submission to Roosevelt and fawning over Army-Navy brass hats, the "anti-labor group" went right ahead with their Smith-Connally Act, state anti-labor laws, wage and job stabilization, higher taxes on workers and with free rein to the big capitalists to make more profits, salaries and dividends. To cap it all, the Great Friend of Labor in the White House came forth with his demand for national service legisla-

MURRAY BECOMING STUMBLING BLOCK

As Murray's reactionary position comes more and more into conflict with the genuine interests of the workers he leads and represents, he becomes more and more dishonest and more of a stumbling block in the way of progress for the industrial union movement. He talks about a "powerful anti-labor group who are bent upon the passage of...national service legisla-Who is demanding national service legislation? Congress? No. It is Roosevelt, the War Department and the Navy Department. It is Roosevelt whose boots Murray, Thomas, Green, Bittner, Browder and Golden are prepared to lick every day in the week. Murray doesn't mention one word of the fact that it is Roosevelt who is running things in Washington and that it was he who demanded national service legislation which Murray himself, in an honest moment, called "quack medicine."

Murray had another tear-jerker up his sleeve: an indecent and irrelevant appeal to the patriotism of the delegates and workers. "The withdrawal of your no-strike pledge here would be regarded as an insult to the armed forces and to the balance (Continued on page 2)

Without Contract

NEW YORK CITY - Almost a full year ago, Sperry Local 450, UERMWA-CIO, in the process of drawing up a contract, began a program of job re-evaluation and reclassification of employees as the only possible means of ironing out the chaos that is traditional in Sperry's wage-rate system. Once finished, this program was to become the wage-rate and classification section of the contract the local was trying to sign with the company.

Sperry Local Still

That was a year ago, when Local 450 had just won an NLRB election by a four - thousand - vote majority, and the Sperry union was young and strong and its shop stewards and members full of the fight of the organizing drive.

A long, sad year has followed, during which the leadership of Local 450 has neatly hog-tied its membership. taken away from them all voice in the running of the local, and sold them out in favor of the leadership's

own interests on every occasion. The question of a contract, signed, sealed and delivered, has been sidestepped for a whole year; the job re-evaluation program has become a phrase bandied back and forth at shop stewards' meetings and in Shop News, the local's weekly newspaper; but with no concrete action ever taken concerning it, and with great care exercised that no information should leak out on the subject of what WASN'T being done about it.

A POOR SUBSTITUTE

After a year of finagling, Local 450 has, instead of a contract, a series of insipid agreements in the form of arbitrators' awards concerning (1) Vacation policy: No vacations are

(Continued on page 3)

The time-honored American institution known as the poll-tax -which deprives 10,000,000 black and white citizens in eight states of the right of free franchise-remains unchanged.

The anti-poll-tax bill which passed the House Representatives a year ago by a two-to-one vote, was on May 15 "laid aside" by the Senate. This is another way of voting it into oblivion.

The vote to "lay aside" came five minutes after the move for cloture was defeated by a 44-to-36 vote. Cloture simply means the limitation of debate so that a bill can be brought to a vote within a reasonable time. Without cloture, voting on the antipoll-tax bill was, of course, impossible because the poll-tax senators of the Solid South were determined to filibuster till doomsday.

Both Democrats and Republicans voted against cloture and also for "laying aside" the measure. Both capitalist parties carry the laurels for this ignoble feat; though, of course, the Southern contingent of Mr. Roosevelt's party are entitled to more of the

By disposing of the bill in this indirect manner, the Senate spared the poll-tax senators from making such a spectacle of themselves as would have brought public loathing upon them. Imagine the reaction throughout the country to Senator Bilbo shooting his mouth off day after day at a cost of \$11,000 of public money per day, or to Senator Eastman introducing his one thousand debatable amendments to hold up the bill!



SENATOR EASTLAND (D., Miss.) Had a Thousand Amendments to Kill the Anti-Poll-Tax Bill

There is no doubt that the action of the Senate on May 15 not only gave the Bourbons of the South their way-BUT ALSO SAVED THEIR FACE.

ONLY A PRETEXT

The claim was made before May 15 that a majority of the senators were actually opposed to the poll-tax and would vote in favor of the anti-poll-tax bill. On the motion for cloture, howover, they voted with the polltaxers. They did so, they claimed, on the "principled" ground that debate should not be limited in the deliberations of that august branch of the national legislature. That, they said, would be a bad precedent to establish.

This flim-flam, however, is not a reason but a welcome pre-

text. For any senator who has a red-blooded belief in the need to abolish the poll tax would have had no difficulty in convincing himself that cloture in this case was no limitation on debate BUT ON THE FILIBUSTERERS WHO WERE BENT ON MAKING A MOCKERY OF DEBATE.

PARAPHERNALIA OF THE RULERS

LABOR ACTION fights, tooth and nail, for the abolition of the poll-tax, of discriminatory registration laws, of all undemocratic and oppressive measures. But at the same time it has no

The poll-tax and all the governmental loopholes used by the Southern Bourbons to maintain it, are part of the endless paraphernalia by which the rulers maintain themselves in power. To clean out ALL this oppressive rubbish—and quickly—the rulers themselves must be cleaned out too.

That is why LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party set as their goal the establishment of a workers' government which, by revolutionary action, will be able to sweep away all the undemocratic practices of the inherently undemocratic capitalist system BY SWEEPING AWAY THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE.

That is why we tirelessly teach that both Democratic and Republican Parties are part of the ruling apparatus of the ruling class—that for the working people to gain political power and a workers' government, they must form their own independent class political party.

LET EVERY WORKER WHO IS NOT YET CONVINCED OF THIS TRUTH, SIMPLY READ THE LIST OF BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN SENATORS WHO ON MAY 15 DID NOT DISTURB THE SACRED AMERICAN INSTITUTION OF THE

Comments on Important News

Three Anti-Labor Moves

Give a hog a finger and it wants the whole hand, is a saying peculiarly applicable to the employing class at this moment.

It considered that it got a finger when the WLB ordered the Montgomery Ward employees to hold a new election in spite of the fact that, by an NLRB election duly held, the United Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees Union, CIO, was the proper bargaining agent for the Ward plants.

So now employers open their mouths wide to swallow the hand. They will be given the chance at a hearing to be held on May 19, to determine whether employers as a whole should have the right-arrogated to himself by Sewell Avery with the support of the WLB-to challenge established unions as the bargaining agents of their plants.

If this union-busting tactic is made official, there will be a free-for-all attempt to shake out well-established unions, as was done by Avery. And though such moves will have as little effect upon union workers as Avery's antics had upon the Ward workers, there is no doubt that employer demands for new NLRB elections, on one pretext or another, can cause lots of delay and red tape in negotiating new contracts, settling grievances, and so on.

Another anti-labor move against which organized workers' protests should be loud and determined is the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of the Budd Manufacturing Co. The Budd company was plainly waging war against the UAW-CIO in its attempt to organize the 15,000 Budd workers. The NLRB had ordered the company to cease interfering with the UAW, to dissolve the company union, to reinstate with back pay two em-

ployees discharged for union activities. Giving only formal compliance to the NLRB order, the company continued its anti-union efforts, circularizing the employees with personal letters which the attorney for the NLRB asserted contained implications and aspersions amounting to intimidation or coercion upon workers to act differently than according to their free will.

The court held that the employer was merely exercising his right of "free speech"-and the capitalist press acclaimed the decision as a victory for "free speech." IT IS A UNION-BUSTING DECISION.

The third move by employers against labor was taken by the Southern Coal Producers' Association in notifying the WLB that it will not approve the wage agreement between coal operators and miners based on the Ickes-Lewis formula arrived at when the government took over the mines. These most proper capitalists says their approval of the agreement would

be "a clear repudiation" and violation of the stabilization program. The operators claim that the wage increase to the miners was granted on

the assumption that the miners would put in more working time and produce more coal. This is not being done and therefore the wage increase breaks the Little Steel formula!

This action of the coal operators was to have been expected. In view of the position taken by the WLB and the whole government, including the President, that the Little Steel formula must stand in spite of the 43.5 per cent rise in living costs, the coal operators also want to benefit by this official anti-labor policy.

So again we have evidence of the rule that labor advances together or falls separately. The miners' victory can be sustained only if all labor demands and gets adequate wage increases. The Little Steel formula must be openly, completely and unmistakably ditched-for every worker in the land!

Dies Reads Handwriting on Wall

It is a wise man who can read the handwriting on the wall and act according. From this point of view, Representative Marties Dies of Texas was indeed smart to announce his retirement from politics. The defeat of his pal, Joe Starnes, in the Alabama primary, and other evidences of the rallying of the labor vote in the South, gave Dies cold feet-though he claims the trouble is in his throat.

The fact that Representative Rankin felt constrained to blast the CIO Political Action Committee in the same breath with which he sobbed out his regrets over Dies' retirement, speaks volumes for the truth of the claim that ne labor vote is turning the tide in the South.

However, what a pitiable thing it is to use labor's political strength simply to flip the same coin over to the other side! What can be better proof than the statement of Albert Rains, the Alabama politician who won over Starnes in the Democratic primary elections? Rains said that Starnes' connection with the Dies committee "WAS NOT AN ISSUE AND NEITHER WAS HIS GENERAL ATTITUDE ON DOMESTIC LEGISLATION."

So what was the issue between Rains and Starnes? Another case of tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum!

Foremen Organize and Strike

The strike of some 3,500 foremen in the Detroit area, involving thirteen big companies, is a labor event of outstanding importance.

The NLRB has asserted the right of foremen to organize—but without the right to have their union declared the collective bargaining agent. The strike (Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Steel Convention Struggle Over No-Strike Pledge

(Continued from page 1)

of our union-minded population here in the country.... If you withdraw your no-strike pledge, which I know you are not going to do, what sort of letter would you send to your boy overseas tomorrow explaining the matter?"

Then Murray went on with all the threadbare arguments that delegates have heard from him so often about the value of labor's representation on government agencies, the coming invasion of the continent, "your country must come first," there are no labor unions under Nazism, and on and on with a mixture of truth and fiction, sense and nonsense. The point is that even what he was saying that was true was completely irrelevant to the issue before the convention.

He closed his appeal with increasing fervor and emphasis. "Your better judgment will undoubtedly prevail.... Don't take unnecessary chances; don't jeopardize the interests of your union.... I want it over as soon as we can get it out of the way, but I don't want it over until I am positive that these forces of tyranny which you and I and all of our armed forces are now fighting are completely destroyed in every inch of ground on

DELEGATES NOT CONVINCED

When Murray had finished, some delegates began calling for the question. The motion for the previous question was put to vote and lost. Murray had not convinced these 2,300 delegates that to withdraw the no-strike pledge was equivalent to guaranteeing the victory of Germany. Neither had he convinced them that other things he said made sense. They knew they had a case before the WLB and that nothing was being done. They also suspected that Roosevelt would like to hold over a decision on their demands for wage increases until after the election. Withdrawing the no-strike pledge might speed up action from the WLB.

The discussion continued with a Negro delegate, Timothy Smith of Local Union 2603, speaking against the pledge, and Joe Cook, another Negro delegate, who follows the Communist Party line, speaking for.

When the vote was taken, the resolution was carried with afternoon in connection with their wage demands which were

FROM 300 TO 500 DELEGATES VOTING AGAINST reaffirm- in the hands of the WLB? The no-strike halter was still around ing the no-strike pledge. An attempt to make the decision unanimous failed, with several hundred delegates holding out against this effort to force support of a position which millions of workers are really against.

A Detroit capitalist daily called Murray's speech and his fevered plea for the no-strike pledge "his greatest hour." Perhaps so, but Murray knows today that, in the days to come, he will not have easy sailing holding the men in line.

WAGE DEMANDS BEFORE THE WLB

The next most important matter before the convention was the case of the steel workers before the WLB. Despite the fact that the union had presented an excellent brief to the WLB and the fact that Murray and the other leaders spoke on the subjeet, the delegates were not particularly anxious to take the floor to discuss the wage demands. Murray, in opening the discussion, remarked that perhaps there was not enough interest being shown in the wage situation. "Now, this is your forum and here is your wage policy. I am asking what it is that you are going to do to help push this program forward back home. All of the people employed in the industry need your support. The officers of your international organization need your support in the prosecution of this program."

But what support could these 2,300 delegates give? What could the hundreds of members back home do? What could other CIO unions do? The resolution on the wage question came before the convention on Thursday. On the opening day of the concention, Tuesday, Murray had devoted nearly onehalf of his opening address to the convention to an endorsement of Roosevelt for re-election. On Wednesday he closed his political harangue to the convention with the words: "In these days of selective service there is a person who, regardless of his own desires and inclinations, must and, therefore, will be selected to be the candidate of the Democratic Party. We must make sure that Franklin Delano Roosevelt is re-elected."

On Wednesday afternoon the no-strike pledge was reaffirmed. What could the delegates do in a convention hall on Thursday

their necks; their leaders had committed them to the support of Roosevelt-the man mainly responsible for the anti-labor WLB, for the demand for a national service act, for the Little Steel formula, and for all the other measures of the government for the protection of the big capitalists and high profits and for the degradation of the labor movement.

These workers and all other workers are in full support of the demands of the steel workers. But the delegates had sense enough to know that you can't force the employers or the Roosevelt anti-labor WLB to grant a wage increase by sitting in a convention voting to support Roosevelt, the WLB and a no-strike pledge. And at least even the delegates who are for the no-strike pledge know that after you give such a pledge there is no need to wail and moan about lack of delegate interest in a resolution on wages where there is really nothing that the delegates or hie membership can do about it. That is they can do nothing about it so long as the union adheres to a no-strike pledge.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS ON THE FLOOR

There were other resolutions which should be discussed but there is not space enough this week. There was an important resolution on discrimination against Negroes in industry and the armed forces. Murray made a strong speech in support of the resolution. Some of his remarks might be heeded by a few of the local officers of the USWA and by one national officer.

There was some dissatisfaction voiced by Negro delegates at the way hotel accommodations are made for them at conventions. They are asking why Negro delegates are not quartered at the same hotels as the delegations of which they are a part. This question arose in the 1942 convention of the steel workers and it is about time the national officers took a hand and settled the matter. It is inexcusable that a communication should go out from any national office of any CIO international reading that "The Hotel is exclusively for Negro delegates." Negro delegates should be housed with other delegates and the CIO unions should refuse to patronize hotels that will

About the "Sinister Influences" on British Labor

By MIKE STEVENS

Almost immediately after the British government announced its most drastic regulations in an attempt to stop strikes, the bus drivers and conductors in London and the gas workers in Manchester nevertheless went on strike.

Before announcing this new nostrike regulation - 1-AA - Churchill, the labor leaders and the capitalist press laid the groundwork by raising the cry that "sinister influences" were fomenting strikes. These "sinister influences," the government claimed, were the Trotskyists, the Apprentice Guilds and the labor paper, the Militant Miner. Scotland Yard, very melodramatically and sued by the United States is directed, and raided the London office of the Trotskyists and confiscated some of their literature.

The Churchill government, through these raids, accusations and frameups, was not only seeking a scapegoat for the labor crisis-hundreds of thousands of miners and thousands of shipbuilding and engineering workers had already been on strike-it was setting the stage for more coercive anti-labor legislation. Churchill knew that the collaborationist labor leaders could no longer do an effective job in holding the workers in check-as had already been proved by the recent strikes.

The government knew that the miserable wages and conditions were responsible for the strikes and not he small Trotskyist organization, nor the Militant Miner with its limited circulation. But it also knew that when the workers get real sick and tired of the government's policies and promises, and see clearly through the sell-outs of their trade union leaders-as thousands already have -then workers begin asking questions and start looking around for answers to their problems. The Trotskyists, the Apprentice Guilds, the Militant Miner and other groups are giving their answers to these

A glance at the program of these organizations shows why the government-in the interest of capitalism and profits-calls them "sinister influences" in the hope of discrediting them and stopping their growth. Here are some facts about these socalled "sinister" groups.

tract with the union.

THE TROTSKYISTS

The Trotskyist organization in Great Britain, the Revolutionary Communist Party, and its paper, the Socialist Appeal, have been demanding that the Labor Party end the political true and coalition with the capitalist parties. The RCP stands for a program of nationalization of the mines, factories and land without compensation to the owners; for a rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living; for the repeal of all anti-labor laws; for freedom for Ireland, India and the colonies. This Trotskyist organization makes a socialist appeal to the workers of Germany and Europe to join the SOCIALIST struggle against Hitler and to establish the Socialist United States of Europe.

MILITANT MINER

The Militant Miner is a four-page tabloid-size monthly. When it was started it was called the Militant Scottish Miner, because its editors and contacts were all in Scotland. Its purpose was "to build a rank and file movement which will provide an alternative to the present leadership in the Scottish Miners Union."

The name of the paper was changed at the beginning of this year because there has been growing throughout the length and breadth of the British coal fields rank and file movements similar to ours in Scotland. The basic cause which prompted the growth of our committee—namely, the sell-out policies of our leaders—has been operating in all districts. As we have stated, we are not responsible for the building of these committees, but just as we have accepted the responsibility of co-ordinating the activities of all militants in Scotland, similarly we accept responsibility for coordinating through the columns of our paper the activities of these committees formed in England and

The main slogan of the Militant Miner is to "defend the union" by working class action—the only way that a union can be effectively defended-against the attacks of the ruling class and against the union leaders who permit or support these

During 1943 there were hundreds of coal strikes throughout Britain.

Ward Election A Good Starter

NLRB election once again shows that the company was lying

when it said that the union did not represent the workers,

giving that as the reason it had refused to negotiate a con-

the fight was all about, and realize the necessity for having a

union. Sewell Avery has been trying to get the idea across

to the workers that the union is only taking their dues and

getting them into trouble without being able to do anything

discharged workers have not been reinstated, and the union

leaders' conservative policy was responsible for many work-

ers really becoming apathetic toward the union. But when

the union stood up on its hind legs and went on strike against

union maintains the same militancy it revealed a few weeks

ago, it is bound to get a good contract and be able to bring

into its fold those workers who did not vote for it in the elec-

The fight for a new union contract will now begin. If the

the company, the workers' faith in the union was renewed.

During the past year grievances have piled up sky-high,

for them-but Avery didn't have much luck.

The victory of the Montgomery Ward workers in the

The union was victorious because the workers knew what

But the strikes were isolated, there was no connection between one pit and another, no coordination between the various rank and file groups. This, of course, affected the nature of the struggle. The Militant Miner is attempting to remedy this situation.

Workers going on strike had to fight the company, the governmental boards and tribunals, the Stalinists and their own trade union leadership. Regardless of the strikers' militancy and determination, their demands were limited to their most aggravating grievances - and at best they could hope for a compromise. Thus these sporadic struggles, important as they were, could not settle any of the basic problems of the industry -nor could they uproot the trade union bureaucracy and replace it with a militant leadership.

Is it any wonder, then, that the trade union leaders, worrying about their own future, have joined the capitalist chorus in condemning the Militant Miner for trying to co-ordinate the work of the militants in the various pits, counties and districts!

APPRENTICE GUILDS

The Apprentice Guilds were formed to combat the Bevin ballot scheme. Under this scheme the apprentices who had spent as many as four years in the engineering industries, for very low pay, were to be sent to the coal mines. When the first Guild was organized on the Tyne last January. it issued a statement saying: "We refuse to carry the burden imposed on the industry by the lust for profit and inefficiency of the coal owners."

In February apprentices from various parts of the country went to London to see Bevin, but he refused to see them. In March, the Tyne Apprentices Guild sent a letter to Bevin in reference to a particular case of a boy who had received his call-up papers for the mines, demanding unconditional exemption of all industrial engineering apprentices. Bevin

didn't bother to answer the letter. The Tyne apprentices went on strike and were followed by the apprentices from Clyde and Hudders-

field, until over 26,000 of them were

Such are the "sinister influences" blamed by Bevin for the discontent among the workers of Great Britain. It is plain that conditions and highhanded methods are responsible.

Regulation 1-AA will not stop the British workers from seeking a just settling of their grievances. The strikes that are coming will be better organized and the demands will hit a little closer to the root of the troubles than before.

Baths Are Becoming a Luxury

"A bath very largely is a luxury and water closets are really not necessary in many rural places at all."

This is the sober opinion of Viscount Maugham, seriously stated in the British House of Lords in a debate on the water shortage problem.

On that theory, the solution for the food shortage is to consider food a luxury.

However, one can understand the Viscount's approach. It's all a matter of comparison. With millions crawling like insects into crevices in the earth to escape death from the air; with vermin and disease having a field day upon human beings, a toilet and bath indeed become luxuries.

But what must be the judgment by civilized men of a system of society which throws humanity into such depths of misery that a toilet and bath become—by comparison something out of this world!

Cleveland Street Car Workers To Take Strike Vote

By JAMES SHEA

CLEVELAND - Over 4,500 members of Local 268 of the Street Car & Motor Coach Employees Union will take a strike vote on May 17, following refusal of the Transit Board to submit the wage dispute to arbitra-

The board's claim that such a move would be illegal is completely hypocritical. The three-man city board makes this claim despite the fact that last/year it allowed the wage dispute to be submitted to a panel of industry and "labor" members headed by the Mayor. Do they really think this legal sham is going to fool the workers?

It is obvious that they will find legal excuses to prevent any action injurious to the rapidly increasing treasury. They allowed the wage dispute to go to Mayor Lausche's War Production Committee last year because of the committee's anti-wageraise policy-and the results proved their action to be correct. They will submit the dispute to the WLB this year because of that body's even worse record on raises for labor.

The board will not submit it for arbitration by an ordinary panel because they are afraid to. They are afraid that the union's demands for time and a half over forty hours will be upheld (straight time is now paid up to eight hours in twenty-four). They are afraid that the employees will be awarded more than the TWO CENTS they have offered.

This decision of the union's executive board to hold a strike vote was taken only after more than two months of negotiations. It was taken with the full approval of Sam Barrong, member of the International Executive Board, who has been one of the chief union spokesmen during most of the negotiations. During the last meeting with the Transit Board, Berrong told the board members that they were not fit to hold their positions, that they didn't know how to

handle men and that they were wasting the taxpayers' money.

UNION SURVIVAL AT STAKE If the membership votes for a

strike, they will enter the fight with the realization that the future of the union depends upon victory. They were defeated in last year's one-day unauthorized strike and won only a partial victory in the two-day strike a month later. Following this strike two of the "instigators" were fired and seven others were disciplined. This was done with the consent of Thomas Meaney, president of Local 268, who now realizes it was a tragic mistake. Soon after, dissension in the miscellaneous department, which had been brewing for months, came to a climax with the "reclassification" of miscellaneous employees-machinists. bus and street car mechanics, painters and carpenters.

This was proclaimed by the officials of 268 as a fraud, because it didn't reclassify anyone! Its main purpose was to cause dissension among the miscellaneous employees by raising the wages of a few and keeping those who worked next to them at the same level. This clever scheme of the manage-

ment bore fruit, for the officers of District 54 of the International Association of Machinists grabbed the opportunity to organize the more dissatisfied of the miscellaneous employees. Cleveland Federation of Labor officials, anxious to get even with President Meaney for some remarks he had made about them, gave the machinists the go-ahead signal on this raiding of another union. The most startling revelation to come out of the raid was that Willard Rea, financial secretary of 268, aware of the tremendous opposition arising against him among the miscellaneous members, collaborated with the IAM. One of the most vicious jurisdictional disputes in the history of the Cleveland labor movement ensued between the Street Car & Motor

Coach Employees Union and the rest of the Federation, resulting in a strike of the 120 IAM members. The strike was broken and some of the strikers were fired.

The opposition to Rea has increased and at the last meeting, at which nominations were held, two members, Harry Lang, member of the executive board, and Michell Mahoney, who carried the fight against Rea for the International Executive Board in Detroit, were nominated to oppose him in the May primaries. Rea, however, has his supporters and they are opposing President Meaney's re-election. The outcome of the strike may well determine the elections.

If a strike is called, Local 268 members will be faced with the problem of keeping members of the IAM and of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from working. They will also face the intervention of the WLB, which they must resist to the end. UNLESS THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP COLLECTIVE BAR-GAINING RIGHTS, THEY MUST FIGHT THIS BATTLE TO THE

A Reader Joins Up

Please enroll me as a member of your Workers Party organization. I do not know what the membership dues or duties are but I will state here what I will try to do, and that is to encourage subscriptions to LA-BOR ACTION and to get those with whom I have contact to join the organization whenever possible. Am enclosing two subs. I wish I had time to write each individual contributor who makes LABOR ACTION informative and interesting reading and tell them of the wonderful work they are doing. "Plenty for All," by E. Lund, is a masterpiece. To all I say thanks for LABOR ACTION, and more power to the Workers Party.

H. C. S. (New York City.)

Gates Meetings On Tour

STREATOR, Ill.—An excellent meet- under the system of capitalist impeing was held here by the Workers rialism; declaring that even if the Party, at which Albert Gates, now Allies win the war, there is no guaron tour, spoke on the program of the

The speaker discussed the latest developments in the war and the prospects for labor in the United States and the rest of the world. He showed how impossible it is for capitalism to resolve its problems and provide for the people, or keep the

The Workers Party program, said Gates, offers the only hope for the workers everywhere. It points the way toward socialism and proposes a transitional program which can rally the masses in a struggle against capitalism. A long and interesting discussion

followed the speech. Many questions were asked, and those present participated, giving examples from their own experiences on why socialism was imperative for the whole world. Especially interesting was the

unanimous expression of enthusiasm for LABOR ACTION. They think it is the greatest paper in the country. And they're not far from right!

CHICAGO - Fifty workers in this city attended the meeting on Friday, May 5, called to hear Albert Gates, editor of LABOR ACTION, speak on "What Will This War Bring World

Gates spoke on the developments in the war and the prospect of peace

antee that fascism will thus be defeated. The diplomatic course purwith a lot of publicity, swooped down he said, toward preventing a successful rebellion of the European masses against their oppressors, and to winning the war in such a way that no social change is possible. All of the powers, America, Britain and Russia, are committed to a form of pre-war status quo, with the destruction of the power of the Axis imperialists in favor of their own.

Whether there is an Allied victory or a military stalemate, post-war prospects for labor in Europe and America are ominous. The world faces another period of economic and political chaos, with mass unemployment and poverty, so long as the capitalist economic system continued to exist. The speaker then went on to describe how socialism could destroy these prospects and usher in a period of real progress, peace and security.

An interesting question and discussion period followed the presentation by Gates.

Gates' tour continues as per schedule. He still has the following cities on his itinerary:

Akron-May 20-21. Cleveland-May 22-23. Youngstown-Warren-May 24-25. Washington-May 26-27.

Sperry Local - - -

(Continued from page 1)

given-instead a series of long weekends which the company feels like giving; (2) Seniority: No companywide seniority until the workers has been with the company several years; up to then, only building and occupational seniority, which is lost if the company shifts a worker around; (3) Layoffs: No definite stand to force the company to reduce emergency overtime hours before it puts people out of work. There are a few other minor points.

The most important section of any contract — the wage agreement — has never been settled. What has been done about it can be summed up in one paragraph. A year ago a joint job re-evaluation committee (whose qualifications to be such a committee very few members ever knew anything about) went through the plant and drew up descriptions of all the jobs in the plant. Shortly after that everyone except learners (a company designation which covers a large number of people in the plant) and leaders were re-classified according to the job description they fit into. Supposedly they were classified according to their own estimate of their work, their steward's, and their foreman's. In most cases the member knew nothing about how he was classified, had nothing to say about it. In some departments the original plan was held to, and a pretty fair classification list was drawn up. But there the thing was dropped.

For a year now the leadership, when pressed, mumbles vague nothings about the WLB and maximum and minmum rates. No one was notified, in so many words, whether the WLB ever was presented with the rate scale of the program, ever investigated it, voted on it, or informed the union of a decision.

ANOTHER RECLASSIFICATION

The only thing Local 450 members do know is that, at present, a yearold classification being obviously obsolete, they are all being reclassified again. And this time they seem to have even less to say about their own classifications than last year. Classification stewards (some elected) some appointed) carry around job reevaluation manuals stating that employees will be notified by mail of their classification when the time comes that they should know it.

Shop News has announced that a

special mediator, besides the arbitrator, has been called in as a consultant by both the union and the company to insure the ironing out of differences, and that this time the entire program will be presented to the WLB for approval. But as far as the membership of Local 450 is concerned, their wage contract is exactly where it was last year. It may remain in the same place for another year or so, while their sell-out leadership busies itself with writing post cards to Washington, co-operating with the company on time-study plans - at the expense of holding membership meetings, and otherwise attending its real union functions. That reclassification carries with it a year and a half retroactive pay only makes more ironic the leadership's year-old promises of "Only a few more months to go now!" THE FUTURE OF THE LOCAL

A sad indication of the state of the Sperry union is the fact that, at this late date—a year and a half after the first organizing drive was successfully completed - the leadership has had to begin a new organizing drive. Sperry has been losing, laying off and hiring people in a viciously muddled way; the misled union has proved no unifying force in the midst of this, and Sperry has succeeded in nearly disorganizing what was once a promising, strong local.

To Local 450 members we say: You have organization! You must stand together and force your leadership to act like real union men. Force them to complete the job re-evaluation program and get you a real wage contract! Insist on seeing that your shop is fairly classified, not sold out to whatever the company wants.

Your leadership is calling for a union shop. Show them that a union shop means a leadership fighting to give its members a real union, with a contract, regular monthly membership meetings, and a fighting pro-

India in Revolt By Henry Judd 25 Cents Postpaid WORKERS PARTY New York 11, N. Y.

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How About Your Friends?

Democracy for Brazil---After the War

The participation of Brazil in the war on the side of the Allies has always been a bit embarrassing for the propagandists of Anglo-American imperialism. For Brazil is one of those "democracies" where lack of freedom is not very well concealed.

It is especially disgusting, therefore, when the dictator of the country, President Getulio Vargas, the very man who in 1937 destroyed the constitutional government and banned all the old political parties, sees fit to promise Brazilians nothing less than DEMOCRACY—but only when the country is "again in full possession of the benefits derived from peace."

This statement is a joke, of course. For if the only reason for lack of democracy in Brazil is the war, why were all traces of democracy abolished in 1937, when there was no war, when Brazil was "in full possession of the benefits derived from peace"?-a question that won't be easy for you to answer,

Another indication of how much the statement means in terms of serious intentions of Brazil's ruling clique is the fact that it came only a few days after a declaration by the authoritative Brazilian newspaper, Brazil Portugal -edited by none other than the brother of the "great dictator" himselfcalling for a "corporate" (i.e., fascist) state, similar to the Salazar government of Portugal.

But the joke was meant seriously. With that cynical disregard for honesty and for the intelligence and memory of the masses, which is typical of the capitalist politicians in every country, Vargas thinks that the workers of Brazil, whose political organizations were destroyed by the dictatorship, will accept a promise of democracy "after the war" as a substitute for the fulfillment of their demands NOW.

It is the task of Brazilian workers to prove to Vargas that he is wrong

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Bound Volume, 1943

Report From Naples Gives Vital Information

(Concluded from last issue)

Within the Committee for National Liberation, all is by no means peaceful. It reflects in fact the struggle within the councils of the United Nations. Britain and America are backing Victor Emmanuel for all they are worth. Without their support, the throne and Badoglio would not last ten minutes. Both Churchill and Roosevelt are wholly aware of the power of the masses, and they are carefully building up their political reserves. The Americans are giving their powerful support to Sforza and his Liberal Party. Britain is relying on the Socialist Party to keep the masses in check should the situation get out of hand once more. Stalin, of course, has his own pack of stooges in the committee. The Pope has a foot in it too through his clerically - dominated Christian Democrats. There is to be no Italian revolution on the Russian model, all are

ALL FEAR THE MASSES

This week-end there is a conference of the Committee of National Liberation in Bari. All parties have pledged that there will be no mass demonstrations to synchronize with the conference. Everything is strictly parliamentary. The British and American authorities are backing up their pledge by issuing a stern warning that order will be observed, and there are to be no public manifesta-

tions. All fear the masses-the Committee as well as the Allies.

What role are the masses playing currently? At the moment they are bewildered by events. The men who went into the forces know it is their stubborn refusal to fight for fascist Italy (for which heroic action they were dubbed cowards in the Allied and German press alike) which made the Allied victories in Africa inev-

Inside Italy, right from the start of the war, even when things were going well for the Axis, the forces of anti-fascism undermined the regime. Thousands of courageous opponents of Mussolini were sent to die in the snows of Russia and in the burning sands of Africa. The jails and places of exile were swollen to overflowing. Mussolini fell, not because of Allied victories, though these undoubtedly speeded up the process, but because the Italian ruling class knew they had to throw a bone to the masses if they were to save their position.

The masses genuinely hailed the Allies as deliverers, but disillusionment was swift. Not only were many minor and major fascist dignitaries confirmed in their positions of power, but the main prop of the machine of the monarchy was preserved intact. The Allies made their deals, not with the representatives of the Italian people but with the fascist general, Badoglio. At the moment the people are stunned by the turn of events and are groping dazedly for a real lead. They are genuinely hungry people here. No one is ashamed to beg for a crust of bread, etc.

INDUSTRIAL NORTH CRUCIAL

To say that the revolution has spent itself would be to misread completely the symptoms. No revolution can succeed in Italy unless the lead comes from the industrial North. The chief obstacle facing the workers in the South is their uncertainty about the attitude of the British and American soldiers in the event of a determined move on their part to rid themselves of Badoglio's government. In the North the workers have no doubt about the role of the Reichswehr.

To succeed, the Italian workers must find a road to the British, the Americans and the Germans. A grave responsibility rests on the organized labor movements in Britain and America. They and they alone can give the go-ahead signal to the Italian proletariat. The lessons of Spain must not be forgotten. This time there must be genuine "non-intervention" on the part of the government but plenty of "intervention" by the labor movement.

Earlier I mentioned that after the fall of Rome the whole situation would surge forward once more. Rome is much nearer the proletarian the moving of workers' parties to the capital, they will become much more subject to the pressure of the revolutionary industrial proletariat than not much to choose. they are at present. The entire struggle will assume a higher form and the authority of the Badoglio government will depend even more than now on Anglo-American support. The greatest danger lies in the joint desires of both sides to prevent an Italian proletarian revolution at

ANGLO-AMERICAN SOLDIERS

The relations between the Anglo-American soldiers and the Italian people leave much to be desired. The main reason for this is undoubtedly the anti-Italian propaganda which preceded the invasion. All Italians are "Wops" who throw up their hands in surrender at the first approach of the Allied soldiers. THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS "VOTING" AGAINST MUŞO-LINI'S WAR WAS COMPLETELY IGNORED.

Here in Italy the soldiers came into contact with the baser type of Italions, the dregs of the social system (pimps, prostitutes and blackmarket touts). A ridiculous 7:00 p.m. curfew prevents them from meeting the better elements socially. Inflation has sent all prices sky-high, so the soldiers think they are being fleeced by the greedy Italian profiteers. No

cores of resistance than Naples. With attempt is made to smooth out these first impressions. If anything, the Americans are more anti-Italian than our lads [the British], but there is

> Most of the Yanks are isolationist at heart. They feel that they have been dragged into a war they did not want and their attitude is: "If these Wops did not want Musso, why did they put up with him? They forced this war on us and we are going to finish it as quickly as we can so that we can get back home. If the Italian revolution stands in the way of a quick victory, then we will shoot the bastards if ordered to do so. After the armistice, however, it will be a different story. We can get home and we don't care a damn who rules Italy so long as we don't have to stay here."

To a lesser degree this is also the attitude of the British lads, but you have a soldier core with a working class political tradition and the forward march of the Italian workers will not leave them undisturbed.

You can see for yourself the great need for the British and American labor movements to be awakened to their responsibilities. A stillborn Italian revolution would be a major historical tragedy. The labor pains have begun. There is not much time

Naples, Jan. 30, 1944.

Oil in the Far and Near East

A new system of trading came into being with the advent of the present war. Instead of buying oil or other resources with money, imperialist governments now pay for what they want with human lives. It's a costly business mainly because ammunition, ships, airplanes and all sorts of other expensive items have to go along with the human material. But if you want to beat the next fellow to the world's riches, you've got to be able to bear the expense—that's the way the top fellows figure.

This brutal truth is usually buried under fine sounding phrases like "fighting for democracy." As a rule, newspaper correspondent in writing war news follow the lead of the War Department and the propaganda division in the way they phrase their dispatches.

Occasionally, however, the truth is exposed in a news story, and this is most likely to happen when nations begin to haggle among themselves over who is going to get what. That's when the real psychology of the warmakers stands out nakedly. Then it can be seen that so many human lives equal so many gallons of oil, just as in peacetime a certain numbers of dollars pay for a bushel of wheat.

The following dispatch, quoted word for word, from the New York Times, illustrates the point. The emphasis is ours:

A REVEALING NEWS STORY

'ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NEW GUINEA, Apr. 24-Netherland New Guinea, where the first Netherland territory to be recaptured from the Axis is situated, is believed to be rich in petroleum deposits. How these are to be developed raises an interesting international problem.

"When Charles Evans Hughes was Secretary of State he obtained permission, with considerable difficulty, for American oil companies to explore the territory, but no development occurred. Now American troops on a 150 mile front are retaking the territory. Ahead lie the Netherlands Indies, with perhaps greater natural petroleum wealth than the United States, which according to its officials, is exhausting its oil and supplying all the Allies as well as its own enormous war needs. The Indies are also rich in tin, minerals, rubber, quinine-of which, before the war, the Indies had 95 per cent of the world's supplies-copra, kapok, coffee and cocoa.

"There is no suggestion that we obtain territorial concessions from the Netherlands government, since this is against traditional American policy and, moreover, abhorrent to most Americans. But, besides expending our own raw materials and other supplies in the reconquest of the Netherlands territory, we and the British will be forced to expend many lives before the reconquest is completed. It would be interesting to know whether consideration was being given to arrangements by which we might at least have access to and perhaps participation in the development of these resourcesmaybe in the form of return lendlease for the lives that we are al-

Due to unforeseen circumstances, were unable to print this week the article by Max Shachtman on the AFL-Lewis controversy.

Labor Action can be obtained at the newsstand at Lenox Avenue and 125th Street, southwest corner,

ready beginning to pour out in this direction.

"The Netherlands governmentone of the richest of the exiled governments-has proved itself a careful trader in regard to merchant shipping, of which it has more than most occupied countries.

"Netherlands fliers trained in the United States have for months participated in bombing the island area north of Australia, doing excellent work with Mitchells. Most of the Netherlands fliers here have been trained in the United States since the war began. There are no Netherlands ground troops in this area, although some are training in Britain for the invasion of Europe.'

Another chapter in the saga of oil is provided in the following item sent from Jerusalem to the New York Times by Julian Louis Meltzer, and headlined "PALESTINE'S FATE IS LINKED TO OIL." This item is also quoted in full. Emphasis is ours:

PALESTINE AND OIL

"JERUSALEM, May 2-British communications and Anglo-American oil are expected by impartial observers here to determine Palestine's fate at the peace conference. They point out that the major issue no longer is the rivalry of the Jewish and Arab peoples. British imperial land, sea and air communications are vital elements because Palestine will become an important hub in world

"The Suez Canal will revert to Egypt in 1963, when the ninety-nineyear concession expires, and already there is talk of cutting an alternative canal through British territory from a point near Gaza on the Palestinian coast to the Gulf of Akaba, whence it would join the Red Sea.

"Palestine will be an important

airways junction in the British Empire's extensive civil aviation after the war. Military construction has provided useful auxiliary landing By RUTH PHILIPS fields in all parts of the country.

"Fresh interest is being shown in Middle East oil resources. The region around the Dead Sea has not been thoroughly explored in connection with geologists' surmises about its petroliferous strata. Informed quarters declare that the "safe" refineries zone around Haifa must become an indispensable part of any develop-

"Therefore Anglo - American economic interests dictate that proper international safeguards must be envisaged for Palestine. These safeguards necessarily include a permanent constitutional administration that will not be involved in periodic disturbances like those occurring in recent years and the maintenance of a protective force for communications, pipelines and refineries.

"After the war British troops will withdraw from Egypt under the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian Treaty which, but for the outbreak of the war in 1939, would already have been carried out, so observers think the British and American governments will regard a large garrison in Palestine as all the more imperative.

"Thus Palestine's future is divested of its sentimental or political associations. Its geographical position heightens its economic personality.

surprising that neutral local opinion -and there are many neutrals among British and American residents not belonging to the Jewish and Arab communities - is beginning to feel that Palestine ought not become a Jewish or Arab state but will continue to be administered under in-

War and Imperialism Ruining Puerto Rico

The latest attack against the United States Governor of Puerto Rico, Rexford Guy Tugwell, came last week from Bolivar Pagan, resident commissioner of Puerto Rico. Pagan accused Tugwell of "dictatorial rule" and declared that the island is "near revolt."

Pagan is a stooge for the United States sugar interests, who are the real masters of Puerto Rico. They have been out to get Tugwell ever since his report to a Senate committee in which he described too truthfully the conditions of the people of Puerto Rico. Tugwell has also attempted some mild land reforms on the island in an effort to mollify "an angry people," as he described the Puerto Ricans in his report. The sugar barons, who regard the island as their own private domain for untrammeled exploitation, want no interference from the "liberal" governor.

As part of their campaign against Tugwell, the sugar interests used their influence with the House Appropriations Committee to cut appropriations for relief and social services for Puerto Rico.

This latest attack on Tugwell by Bolivar Pagan, who is running for reelection in November, is an attempt to direct the widespread discontent of the islanders away from the American plantation owners, and at the same time garner a few votes for himself.

MISERY IS RAMPANT

While this political battle goes on among the "big shots" of Puerto Rican politics, the poverty-stricken workers of the island continue to suffer from the exploitation of American imperialism, exploitation now aggravated by

Since the beginning of the war, the cost of living has risen fifty per cent. Rice, the main food staple, has gone up from five to ten cents a pound. This is a real blow at the income of city workers, who make from two to eight dollars a week, and to rural workers, who make as little as twelve cents a day. Despite the reforms accomplished by Tugwell, the people continue to live in terrible slums, according to the Governor's own admission.

One-third of the workers are unemployed, due to a lack of shipping space for the sliand's products. Actual hunger is widespread among the workers; and with it discontent.

The workers and peasants of Puerto Rico will find a solution to their problems neither in the demagogy of Bolivar Pagan, nor in the "benevolent" colonial policy of Rex Tugwell. The only answer to their misery is the complete expropriation of the American sugar interests which have ruined the economy of the island and impoverished its people. AND AMERICAN WORKERS WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE EXPLOITATION OF PUERTO RICO, MUST JOIN THE WORKERS OF PUERTO RICO IN A DEMAND FOR ITS COMPLETE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND AN END TO AMERICAN IMPERIALIST DOMINATION OF ITS ECONOMIC

C. P. in Italy -- A Comparison with Spain

By M. AND R. GOULD

Ercoli, long-time GPU hack, has entered Fascist Marshal Badoglio's new cabinet as a representative of the official Communist Party. Thus these consummate betrayers of the working class have served their Kremlin master in two ways: One, by breaking up the six-party anti-fascist front which was playing the game of the USA and offering some opposition (however slight) to the fascistic plans of Italy's rulers. Secondly, the CP at the same time laid the groundwork for taking over complete control of what remains of Italy's state apparatus-just as they got control of the late unlamented republican government of Spain.

This event is especially significant as it shows us that the Stalinists plan to follow the pattern they evolved in Spain to use and control no matter what government is left standing in the "liberated" countries, for the sole purpose of advancing the imperialistic foreign policies of Moscow.

Ercoli assumed the post of Labor and Supply: a key position as regards the daily bread of the Italian masses. Although it is too early to see just how Stalin will use this position, there are many possibilities opened by it. The communists can pose as the champions of the masses by exposing the deficiencies of Allied food supply and price control. At the same time, if the U.S. does increase shipments of food, Ercoli can assume credit

HOW THE CP HOPES TO CONTROL

But whichever post the first Stalinist minister took, his procedure would be the same-judging from past experiences. As a representative of a powerful and rich foreign power, he is in a position, working from inside the government, to win over large sections of the mercenary, semi-starved fascistic officialdom to the Communist Party. It would be a great mistake to under-estimate the opportunities offered by a toe-hold in the state apparatus, for advancing the CP line and the party organization-especially in the hands of those past masters of political maneuvering and back-stabbing, the GPU.

We can expect the Italian Labor Ministry to an English edition for the American newsmen); its own leaflets and radio programs; plans for reor- and other key agencies.

ganizing the Italian economy to make the most jobs for party members; and, most important of all, ITS OWN SPECIAL POLICE FORCE.

This latter, ostensibly set up for some such reason as "curbing the black market," will actually be organized because Stalin understands that state power means armed power. The boldness of the special GPU policies will grow in exact proportion to the CP influence in the government, and it will always be used against the Italian masses. By entering Badoglio's cabinet, Russia puts

herself a jump ahead of the USA in shaping the post-war Italian political scene. She had already fortified this tottering fascist set-up by recognizing it against Roosevelt's will. It is not excluded that before the Allies take Milan the CP will have virtual control of the Italian state. Of course, the Allies have their own stooges (Sforza, Croce, etc.) but these ancient gentlemen cannot function as directly and smoothly for American interests as the efficient GPU-CP machine does for Stalin.

From the point of view of the Italian revolutionaries. Stalin's latest move serves to show the people even more clearly the counter-revolutionary nature of these unprincipled betrayers of the working class. The task of exposing the true vileness of Stalinism is thus made easier in Italy than it was, for example, in the Spanish Civil War of 1936, because here they have OPENLY allied themselves with the fascists. There, many people were still taken in by their "anti-fascist"

HOW THEY DID IT IN SPAIN

Up until 1936 the CP had never actually led and organized a counter-revolution, although they had successfully wrecked a whole series of revolutionary situations in the post-war decades. In Spain they aggressively led the attack on the proletarian anti-fascist revolution that alone was capable of stopping Franco. This they did by reviving and then dominating the storm-tossed wreck of a Spanish republican government. The GPU showed itself a master at parliamentary intrigue. The communists made and toppled cabinets, ministers and generals; they shuffled cabinet posts with skill so completely as to infiltrate all key blossom out shortly with its own press (including jobs of supply and police, and gain great influence in propaganda, censorship, the army, the treasury

All this they were able to do in Spain without any substantial base. They strengthened their party by clever manipulation of the state apparatus, drawing into their ranks all sorts of middle class adventurers, government hangers-on, army officers, gangsters, petty land owners and shop keepers. They could not recruit workers or peasants to their party once they came out against the elementary economic justice the people demanded. In fact, the opposite was true: they soon lost the few proletarian elements they had. Not that the party didn't have a lengthy list of "excellent" reasons for postponing the abolition of inequality and wage slavery-just as they no doubt have an equally imposing series of alibis for supporting Badoglio today.

The fact remains that the Stalinists could not fool the long-oppressed Spanish masses - even though all the major political parties conspired to conceal from the people the filthy CP game. Their chances in Italy are even slimmer: no only is their own sell-out more brazen, but in Italy there IS a party with the understanding and the will to fight them to the end. THAT IS THE ITALIAN TROTSKYIST PARTY, WHOSE WORDS, WE ARE CONVINCED, ARE DESTINED TO FALL ON EVER MORE ATTENTIVE EARS, THANKS TO THE LATEST ACTS OF STALIN, ERCOLI

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An Expose of Gerald K. Smith and the America First Party

By REVA CRAINE

As stated in a previous article, the American fascist movement is not yet organized into one unified and cohesive organization or party. It is composed today of many groups and grouplets, which, though frequently rivalling each other for leadership, are nevertheless bound together by common aims and find it possible to co-operate with each other.

In many instances they are run by interlocking directorates, with key people serving as sponsors or financial backers in practically all the groups, or at least the most important ones. Their form of contact is that of a network, with lines crossing and intertwining, so that information and propaganda material passes on from one group to another with comparative ease. Their common hatred of the same things, and their common long-run goals would make it very possible and, under certain circumstances, very simple, to unify these groups into one strong and menacing fascist organ-

Among these groups, one of the loudest and most active sections is that known as the "Mothers" group. They exist in numerous cities and states under a variety of names, and they seek to utilize the anguish of mothers whose sons are serving on far-flung battlefields of the world. These organizations see to it, however, that the real culprit, the real source of the war, goes unnamed, and instead divert the attention of their feminine followers along channels of a fascist dictatorship. His entire devoted himself to propagandizing for unions in great masses. The indus-

anti-Semitism, anti-New Dealism and past history has prepared him for this extreme nationalism.

There are the groups which specialize in anti-Semitism; those which concentrate on anti-Negro propaganda; the anti-foreigners; the religious groups. What binds them together is their common opposition to labor and unionism.

The more serious fascists, however, realize that in the long run, if their propaganda and work are to be effective, it will be necessary to organize a strong, highly centralized fascist party, which will be able to reach out and control the smaller specialized groups now in existence and which will be able to rally all the reactionary, anti-labor, anti-Negro and anti-Jewish forces behind it.

What is especially disquieting is the fact that the fascist leaders realize the need for a fascist political party much more keenly than the labor leaders today recognize the need for an independent political party of the working class. And yet it is only such a party, with a bold program of action, that will be able to combat and beat back the fas-

GERALD SMITH'S BACKGROUND

Among those most actively engaged in the attempt to build a fascist party is Gerald K. Smith, father of the America First Party. If he succeeds in his plans, he will head a movement which could become the greatest threat to the American working class and which will seek to install

Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith started his political career as a member of Pelley's Silver Shirts and devoted his energies to speaking on subjects like: "Why I Left the Conventional Pulpit to Joint the Christian Militia of the Silver Shirts." That was in 1933.

He soon dropped Pelley and moved to Louisiana, where he established himself as pastor of the King's Highway Church, one of the wealthiest in the country. It was in Shreveport that he met Huey Long, the late "Kingfish," dictator of Louisiana. This time Smith left the pulpit for good to join the corrupt political machine which was running the state. Here he got his real training, for his job was to tour the state speaking on the "Share the Wealth Plan," by which every man was to become a king. Smith turned out to be a rabble-rousing orator who had learned all the tricks of holding and swaying a crowd while saying nothing.

Smith was with the Kingfish when the latter was killed. The squabble for power among Long's boys after his death found Smith left out in the cold, without a job and without a machine. Smith had opposed any "deals" which the Long boys were making with the national Democratic Party, by which Roosevelt and Farley succeeded in buying up Long's heirs, later dubbed the "Second Louisiana Purchase."

For the next period of time, Smith

the Townsend Plan. This was in the midst of the great crisis and depression when the masses of unemployed, particularly those faced with insecure old age, were looking about for some solution to their situations.

SMITH JOINS WITH COUGHLIN

In 1936 Smith found a new job. He became the promoter of the Coughlin - sponsored candidate for President, William Lemke, of the National Union for Social Justice, and of William Townsend and his panacea. Smith declared himself to be "contact man for the Union Party, director of the Townsend organization, a keynote speaker for Father Coughlin and supporter of Lemke for President." Not a very attractive combination.

Not satisfied with the job of mere 'promoter." Smith set out to organize his "Committee of One Million." which program included a number of pseudo-patriotic planks, but emphasized its intention to "issue a call to farmers and laborers to resist what is now known to be an international plot to make them part of a world revolution."

Actually, this plank had only one purpose-to smash, if possible, the growing influence and power of the CIO, which in 1936 was beginning to draw thousands and hundreds of thousands of hitherto unorganized workers into the union movement for the first time.

In Detroit, especially, the workers in the auto industry flocked into the

of stopping this influx into the unions ror, speed-up, anti-labor espionage. for they well knew that once the workers built up their own organizations, the days of open shopism were numbered.

THE UNION-BUSTER EMERGES

Gerald K. Smith was just the man they were looking for. His committee was actually financed by Horace Dodge of Detroit, Henry Ford and others. He was aided by Representative Woodruff of Michigan, Senator Nye and Congressman Day, who spoke for him. At first, Smith's job consisted of descending upon communities "plagued" with strikes, and through the preaching of the gospel of Americanism and old-time religion trying to get the men back to work. He toured through Akron, Flint, Toledo, Chicago Detroit-the big sitdown centers of those days.

In 1939, Smith settled in Detroit, the heart of America's militant trade unionism. Here he works well for the men who pay him, most notably, Henry Ford, of whom he said in a radio address:

"I defend Henry Ford tonight, not because he needs defense, not because he needs anything I possess, but because America needs Henry Ford and other Henry Fords....I use the name of Henry Ford not as the name of a man, but as the symbol of American opportunity that was and the American opportunity, pray God, that should be kept alive for the generations yet unborn."

Every union man knows what Hen-

trialists looked about them for means ry Ford symbolizes: open shop, ter-And it is this system which Smith seeks to spread and keep "alive for the generations yet unborn."

> In 1942, during the great strike at River Rouge, which finally broke the open shopism at Ford's and established collective bargaining for the Ford workers, Smith declared:

"Naturally, the first thing that should have been done by the Governor was to call out the militia."

Today Smith cooperates with the National Workers League, an organization which is attempting to disrupt the labor movement. (The National Workers League will be the subject of a future article.) He was endorsed by this organization in his fight for the Republican nomination as senatorial candidate in 1942 in Michigan. It constantly urges attendance at his meetings and exchanges mailing lists and other material with him. His magazine, "Cross and Flag," carries on where Coughlin's "Social Justice" left off.

SMITH'S POLITICS

In 1943, Smith launched the America First Party. While this organization (read: Smith) has not yet decided its course in the coming presidential election, it has made clear its attitude on what kind of a man it would chose as its standard bearer. If Huey Long had not been slain-"the America First Party would not now be rummaging around for a presidential candidate who would stand for none of this globaloney." challenge?

On his list of possible candidates he would support Smith names: General MacArthur, Senators Taft, Nye, O'Daniel, Johnson, Brooks, Reynolds, Congressmen Fish, Hoffman, Short, Sumners-and Charles Lindbergh. Actually, Smith is waiting to see whether the Republican Party will nominate a man reactionary enough to suit his taste.

The platform of his party fits the above list. Its first calls for "free speech for all good Americans [to be defined by Smith, of course], including Coughlin."

"A farm program based on Genesis. 46th Chapter, 46th to 57th Verses, inclusive." How this will bring the farmer a better standard of living is not revealed.

"Support all patriotic labor movements which are kept in the hands of patriotic American leadership." Read: Company unionism.

Gerald K. Smith, servant of big business, is flinging the challenge to the labor movement. He is well protected by the powers that be-a recent investigation by the FBI declared him "not subversive." His weapons are demagogy, fake patriotism, promises. But his past actions in decisive moments show where he stands with regard to labor. Today Smith's fascist America First Party is in its infancy, but it is being carefully nurtured by those who intend to use it against the labor movement in the days to come. Will the Amer-, ican workers be ready to meet the

Smith Committee Out to Boost Living Costs | News Comments--

By EUGENE VAUGHN

The proposed amendments to the price control laws and to the laws determining the power of the WLB, recommended by the Smith committee investigating government agencies, is the latest in anti-labor and pro-boss legislation which has come up before the House of Representatives. On the pretext of a special investigation of government agencies and by calling in as witnesses people who represent one narrow point of view, that of big business and landlords, the Hon. Howard W. Smith has brewed a vile cup, of which only a rabidly reactionary poll-taxer is capable.

If the recommendations of this committee are accepted by our laborhating Congress, the working class of the United States will suffer the most dangerous run-away price inflation of this war, while wages will be frozen and capital will fall heir to the most lucrative windfall of

Representative Smith is a rich man and a banker. He therefore knows

himself. He consequently recommends the same to Congress. The working class, however, is not composed of rich landlords and industrialists. Its interests are diametrically opposed to those of Howard W. Smith. The labor movement must fight Mr. Smith's proposed legislation. He proposes to fleece the workers of the little they have left after taxes by imposing higher prices on the consumer and by lowering wages. Labor must defend itself by fighting for legislation in its own interest; legislation along the lines proposed by the platform of the Workers aPrty, guaranteeing labor a higher and more decent standard of living. Let us examine Mr. Smith's anti-labor

WHAT SMITH WANTS

One of Mr. Smith's proposals is that the government do something which no administration has ever done before. He proposes an amendment to the price control law which would boost price ceilings by vir- that he proposes would freeze all tually assuring every business man in

could prove that he was not efficient. The OPA would thus be forced to raise the prices of the products of any firm which showed that it is not running at a profit. THIS IS EQUAL TO GOVERNMENT UNDERWRIT-ING OF THE PROFITS OF ALL CORPORATIONS.

The committee further proposes to raise the ceiling prices on many commodities and particularly rents. The committee proposes a general increase in rent, covering entire areas of the nation, and the complete abandonment of rent control in other areas. It is worth mentioning, in passing, that Howard W. Smith is a very big landlord in Alexandria, Va.

ALSO ATTACKS LABOR

Wages, according to the committee. should be frozen by law. At the time of this writing, wages are virtually frozen by administrative order. However, Smith wishes to go one better and write wage freezing into the law books of Congress. The wage freeze wages, even those substandard wages what is good for rich people and for America a profit, unless the OPA which by present law are still per-

mitted to be adjusted upward. Of course, Mr. Smith's plutocratic friends in the South, who are the worst transgressors in the payment of sub-standard wages, would like this legislation very much.

The committee wishes to prohibit the WLB from ordering any person to sign a contract to which he had not agreed, thus removing its power to enforce union maintenance of membership clauses. "Maintenance of membership" unionism is a great hoax that the labor mis-leaders themselves have put over on the union membership. For the promise that during the war, they would not permit strikes to better the condition of the workers, the union bureaucracy was offered by the government a maintenance of membership clause. Now even this measly concession to the unions is being threatened by Representative Smith. This should teach any trade unionists who is worth his salt that the best way to maintain union membership is to present the membership with a militant union program.

prohibit the WLB from ordering the (Continued from page 1)

continues, at this writing, the Foremen's Association of America holding out for the right to be the bargaining agent.

The companies involved have, of course, protested that a union of fore-

However, foremen are learning some elementary lessons from hornyhanded labor. They see the advantages gained by workers in belonging to a union. By organizing, the foremen have arrayed themselves against the capitalists. Will they take the step of unity with labor?

Ford is the only employer who has taken the bull by the horns, so to speak, and made an agreement for one year with the Foremen's Association of America. The contract makes the association the sole bargaining agent for Ford foremen, but the foremen's union agreed not to become affiliated with any other local or national union.

As employees subject to all the ups and downs of capitalist production, foremen will not for long be able to hold a middle position between employers and workers. Their present use of the strike weapon shows which way the wind is blowing.

The Solution For The Housing Muddle

By JESSIE KAAREN

Some very grandiose promises have been made lately about the fine houses that are going to be provided for American workers after the war is over. President Roosevelt, at a recently held national conference on post-war housing, sent in a statement declaring that he was in sympathy with the demand for better housing. It is impossible for anyone to maintain a good standard of living if he does not have "a decent home-whether it be owned or rented," acknowledges the President.

So, too, Prime Minister Churchill in his internationally broadcast radio address of March 26 made sweeping promises of a comfortable modern dwelling for every soldier when he returns from the front. That promise must have been a great comfort to the men grovelling in the muholes of Italy and to those stretched out in "luxurious" tents in the deserts of North Africa or the Middle East and to those sweating it out in the jungles of the South Pacific war areas.

But the clue to the fact that these promises are of the "pie in the sky" type is contained in another sentence of President Roosevelt's statement to the housing conference. Providing adequate housing, he says, "is primarily a job for private enterprise."

"PRIVATE ENTERPRISE" WON'T DO IT

And there is where the numerous plans to build low-cost housing get stymied. "Private enterprise" doesn't find it profitable to erect lowrental houses which would devaluate its other property. Furthermore, "private enterprise" objects very strenuously when the government makes an attempt to do the job. "Private enterprise" would hate to see an adequate supply of cheap houses, since that would naturally pull down rents in privately owned properties. Furthermore, it would mean the tearing down of slums which happen to be profitable ventures.

Incidentally, the property-owning interests are mainly large banks. The last fifteen years have witnessed the gradual elimination of small landlords because they were unable to keep up the large interest payments and finance charges that were imposed by mortgage holders who were in most cases banks or large insurance companies.

If the government has no intention of seriously attacking the problem of low-cost housing, either now or after the war, then why all the talk lately about a large-scale public housing program for after the war? Government agencies come smack up against the problem wherever they turn because the national housing situation right now is truly terrible, and they know, too, that it will become a great deal worse after the war. So they have to acknowledge what everybody knows to be a bad state of affairs and to TRY to do something about it.

But it is obvious from all the conferences and

all the speeches that the government is not getting ready to handle the question seriously. It admits that it does not dare antagonize "private enterprise," for whose benefit the capitalist system is being run.

THE NEED IS GREAT

The need for better housing remains a very pressing one. Welfare workers testify to the fact that overcrowding and unhealthful rooms are among the greatest contributing factors to disease and iuvenile delinquency. Medical authorities constantly stress the fact that unhealthful houses add significantly to the rising rate of tuberculosis. Social service workers complain that food money must often be spent on rent, because it is impossible to balance the family budget otherwise.

It was recently estimated by the research staff of the Twentieth Century Fund that the erection of a million new dwellings per year for the first ten years of the post-war era would just about cover the need for adequate housing. Furthermore, says the report, the presently existing housing is in an extremely deteriorated condition throughout the United States. In the cities and towns, twenty-three per cent of all dwellings had no private baths in 1940, and ten per cent of the houses were in need of major repairs. In rural communities conditions are even worse. As for farm houses, a large number of them are in very bad shape.

All these are openly acknowledged facts. But instead of an intelligent program to build new houses and repair the old ones, a program which could serve the double purpose of employing millions of workers in the post-war period and provide homes for them, there is nothing but a mass of confusion, talk and more talk, and the terrific waste of public funds.

WASTED PUBLIC FUNDDS

For example, \$1,025,353,000 in war housing is slated for demolition after the war. Some of these government-built houses are already being torn down-even before they were occupied-to satisfy the objections of local landlords.

While it is true that these war houses were designed as makeshift affairs for defense factory areas when it became necessary to accommodate large numbers of workers who came in from other cities, they at least attempted to provide a roof for a man and his family at a cheap rental.

However, they were litle more than a roof. A New York Times survey explains that they were built without cellars, without wooden floors; they had no central heating and were not protected by suitable weatherproofing or covering. Pipes were exposed instead of being hidden in the walls. Usually there was a coal stove for both heating and cooking, with only a hole in the wall to carry heat to the bedroom.

The same billion dollars that was spent on makeshift houses could, of course, have been put to better use on permanent houses. But aside from that consideration, these temporary dwellings were at least a step toward alleviating the very overcrowded condition of defense areas. Suddenly, however, the war housing program was scrapped because landlords in defense factory towns complained about not wanting ghost towns. Although there were not enough apartments and rooms to go around, landlords preferred to pack the workers in already crowded quarters so they could continue to milk them by high rents.

In Allentown, Pa., 260 one-story and two-story frame group houses contracted for at a cost of \$732,850 were left one-third completed. In Birdsboro, Pa., the contract for 160 units of a similar type, estimated to cost \$439,000, was cancelled when the houses were half done. In Messena, N. Y., the contract was cancelled for three hundred family units. In Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Mineville, Messena and Geneva, N. Y., hundreds of housing units were closed after they were completed. Fifty-two families occupying houses in the Fullmore Heights No. 2 village at Hatboro, Pa., have been asked to move so that the buildings may be closed!

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The survey of the Twentieth Century Fund previously mentioned, apologizes for private industry. It says: "The housing problem has often been confused with the problem of poverty, and the housing industry has been widely criticized for its failure to provide adequate housing for the lowestincome groups. But farmers are not blamed for malnutrition: clothing manufacturers are not accused of complicity in wretchedness of the poor. Great as its deficiencies have been, the housing industry can hardly be held responsible for inequities in the distribution of wealth and other defects

in the economy as a whole." The housing industry cannot be held responsible for the housing situation only in the sense that it is but one unit in a system designed to deprive the worker of his justly earned benefits, because it has to cater to capitalist profits. The building of low-rent housing and the demolition of slum areas awaits the organized pressure of the labor move-

Labor pressure can make a beginning toward a solution of the problem, but a workers government is needed to insure a decent home for each worker and his family. Only a workers' government can avail itself of the large natural resources in manpower and materials which exist in the United States for a large-scale low-rent housing development because it is the only type of government that would have the will to do the job.

payment of back wages covering more than three months. Such type of legislation would have saved the coal mine operators, who managed to stretch out the coal dispute over a long period of time, millions and millions of dollars in workers' wages.

Smith wishes to prohibit the WLB from having jurisdiction over labor disputes where the question is whether or not the collective bargaining unit represents a majority of the employees. This would provide a perfect out for employers to evade the WLB regulations by merely denying that the union involved represents a majority of its employees. This would have protected Montgomery Ward in its latest dispute. Furthermore, Smith wishes to give

the federal courts the right to review all WLB decisions. In this manner, such few WLB decisions which go against the employers would not be enforced until final appeal to the Supreme Court-which might take a

LABOR'S DEMANDS

It is essential that militant trade unionists learn the meaning of this type of labor legislation. It has been the war policy of the labor leaders. the Greens and the Murrays, to bring the labor movement into line with the Roosevelt Administration. If the government would only be good, and freeze prices as well as wage rates, then everything would be just fine. However, wages have been frozen, while prices have risen out of proportion to wages. And now Smith proposes to raise prices and rents even higher, and to freeze wages completely so that even substandard

wages cannot be corrected. Who are the supporters of these reactionary proposals? Representative Smith of Virginia, a Democrat; Representative Clare Hoffman of Michigan, a Republican. Both ruling parties prove themselves to be capitalist parties. The workers must bring into being and support a La-

bor party of their own. The platform of the Workers Party presents the proper demands for price control, and wage and labor legislation.

Abolish wage freezing and job freezing!

Rescind the no-strike pledge. For \$1.00 an hour minimum wage law, with time and a half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work!

No taxes on wages!

Down with control of rationing and price fixing by monopolists! For democratic control of rationing

and price fixing by workers' organ-No government contract to plants without a union contract!

For a Labor Party and a workers' government.

MCF to Convene

DETROIT - The state committee of the Michigan Commonwealth Federation announced, after a meeting in Flint, that the constitutional convention of the MCF will be held at the Olds Hotel in Lansing on July 28, 29 and 30.

Combined with the constitutional convention will be the nomination of candidates for the fall election. Delegates will be from Commonwealth Clubs and organizations which are affiliated to the MCF through block membership.

men interferes with the war effort. They are also using the old trick of trying to identify foremen with management.

ILO Finishes Its 'Labors' at Philly

"The International Labor Conference, meeting at Philadelphia, has produced a charter of human rights which, if it could be generally adopted, would usher in the millenium.'

Thus does the New York Times editor begin his comments on the accomthe charter up in tissue paper and nice pink ribbon to be put away in the trunk up in the attic. His conclusion reads:

"Those who framed the resolutions cannot expect them to be expressed in national and international practice on the morning after the war's end. They are ideals toward which all of us believe civilization ought to move. The real question is by what methods we can best proceed in this direction, and here there is less likely to be the same measure of agreement. What the ILO conference has done is not to attempt to solve the problem of ways and means, but rather to set up a standard toward which, in its ripening wisdom, mankind may advance."

What the working people want is no unattainable millenium-but only permanent security and permanent peace. This standard they have set up a long time ago. The wisdom of the common people in this respect is rotten

But the working people will never get more than a package for the attic trunk as long as they depend on conferences-like the ILO meeting-between the capitalist class, capitalist governments and the labor boot-lickers of both. The triangular ILO conference could have brought forth nothing but a dud.

Good and Bad Nazis

The ILO conference side-tracked a resolution to encourage German workers to form free unions and instead applauded a speech to the effect that There must be some punishment of the millions of German workers who, by their tacit approval, at least, of the war, have made its conduct by Germany possible.'

Probably there wasn't a labor leader, government official or capitalist present who does not know in his heart that without the "tacit approval" of the workers no wars can be waged by any nation. That "tacit approval" is gotten under the most viciously false pretenses which they all help to put

Perhaps some of the labor leaders-after condemning the German workers-blushed a little at the latest news about the proposed division of Nazis into good ones-to be allowed to remain in the seats of government after the fall of Hitler-and bad ones-to be disposed of.

Rather than encourage the German workers to come into their own, to stretch their political limbs after Nazi torture, to form their unions, to take whatever political action they see fit to govern themselves, the local Nazis in power will be allowed to remain in power.

This is the familiar pattern followed in Italy. The British, American and Russian high command bolstered the fascists-against the workers. From every workers' organization should come the demand that the capitalist governments keep their hands off the European workers in their efforts

THE PARTY SHARE

British Empire Conference

to find a new basis for living.

Prior to the meeting of the Premiers of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Winston Churchill made a strong bid for their support by revealing in the House of Commons that he had "... asked for the insertion of the fellowing words in the Atlantic Charter, which can be read in that document: With due respect for their existing obligations.' These are limiting words," said Churchill, "and they were inserted for the express purpose of retaining to this House and to the Dominions the fullest possible rights and liberties over the question of imperial preference."

With this introduction, the spokesmen for the "mother country" pleaded for the continued existence of the British "family" of nations in peace and unity. However, members of the family have grown up and are leaving the hearth and home of old-for a new love, namely, the United States. Foremost in this class is the Dominion of Canada. Prime Minister Mac-

kenzie King made it amply clear that Canada's bread is buttered on the side facing the United States. The war has emphasized this fact. The world rivalry between Britain and the United States becomes more