Lessons of the **Brewster Sit-In**

-AN EDITORIAL STATEMENT-

The sudden cancellation of the Brewster contract by the Navy Department and the vigorous sit-in strike action by Local 365, UAW-CIO, are of enormous significance for the whole labor movement. In many ways, what happened at Brewster foreshadows what may occur all over the country in the near future: sudden contract cancellations throwing thousands upon thousands of workers out into the streets as their reward for years of backbreaking labor to produce the enormous quantities of war goods that pile up all over the country.

There is an additional fact to be remembered about the Brewster situation: it was a political action against one of the most militant local unions in the United Automobile Workers of America. If this were not so, there would be no occasion for President Roosevelt to emphasize that the termination of the contract by the Navy Department "was done for economic reasons." But all the facts in the case demonstrate that exactly the opposite is true (see story on this page by David Coolidge).

EXHIBITION OF BANKRUPTCY

The whole situation reveals the utter bankruptcy of the capitalist system, the capitalist government and all its representatives to deal with the problem of conversion and to supply jobs for the many millions of war production workers.

Here was the first test, and with what results: No preparations, no plans, no ideas emanate from Washington that could solve the problems of the workers. It took a sit-in strike to get the Administration bureaucrats to begin working on the problem! But what are they working on? Anything concrete? Anything that offers a ray of hope to the Brewster workers? Why, they hadn't even thought about it practically until the workers took such action that struck fear in their hearts! Imagine if millions of workers did the same thing as the Brewster workers!

And so, they scurry around in Washington to see if perhaps the War Department could do something for 12,500 workers. And what do they find? They find that the War Department hasn't really got anything that the Brewster workers can do!

This sounds impossible, for only a few days ago General "Hap" Arnold denounced the foremen's strike in Detroit as "threatening to delay the invasion." Was the situation really so critical, or did General Arnold merely use the situation for another attack on labor? The answer is clear and it was given by Major-General Bennett E. Meyers, deputy chief of staff of the Army Air Forces, when he stated that the air forces had not need for additional aircraft production facilities!

Said General Meyers: "We already have all the facilities we need and reached peak production in March."

But then, if the Navy has no need of Brewster's air production facilities and neither has the Army, what is to happen to the workers of the Brewster plants? Conversion to the production of civilian goods? But that would be bad, too. It would demonstrate that the production of war goods is way beyond the plans and expectations of the Administration planners. It would take away, too, any ground there may be for the hypocritical anti-labor propaganda emanating from big business, the Navy and War Departments, the yellow press and the Administration functionaries.

That is why the President ordered Director Byrnes to meet with his various bodies for the purpose of finding something which could be contracted for Brewster in order to keep the workers on the job. This very action reveals the utter planlessness, the complete lack of foresight, the obvious confusion which emanates from the capitalist masters of profit, exploitation and

WHAT ABOUT THE BREWSTER WORKERS?

Let us assume that some kind of contract is found for the plant and the workers are called back to work in a week, a month or a year. What are the workers to do in the meantime? How are they to live, to pay their rent, to buy food and keep their families alive? As to this, the government has no practical answer. The company, on the other hand, will have no trouble existing. The company officials will manage to get along without great trouble. So will the government functionaries and the heads of the Navy Department.

But what about the Brewster workers? Can they live on their "accumulated savings"? There is hardly a Brewster worker who wouldn't laugh at the suggestion. Or can they live on their non-existent "contingent funds," "reserves," "stocks, bonds, dividends and profits"? The joks is too grim to be enjoyed.

What can be done about this situation? Well, there are many things that can and must be done to aid the Brewster workers.

1. An annual wage guaranteeing a livelihood to all workers, regardless of whether or not business can operate industries profitably. This way, the planlessness and chaos of capitalism would not be placed on the shoulders of

2. If big business cannot operate the plants, or worse, won't operate them because of the absence of profits, let the plants operate under union and workers' control.

efficient and competent job than the bunglers of the company and the Navy

Department. But even more than that is needed. The program of the Workers Party

shows a way out. It calls for: 1. Government planning to guarantee the highest national production and

income, a year-around job and a minimum annual wage to all, and a rising standard of living. 2. Conscript all war industries! Nationalize the banks, big industrial mo-

nopolies and transportation systems. No handing over of government-built and owned plants and facilities to private ownership! 3. For a two hundred and fifty billion dollar five-year program to provide

decent housing for all, extensive public works, rural electrification and mod-5. For a guaranteed \$5,000 annual income to all workers' families, made

possible by a planned rise in the total national income and a thirty-hour The war has demonstrated that all of this is easily achievable and obtain-

able. The first step in its accomplishment is the recognition by the labor movement that it can be achieved, and secondly that it is necessary to fight for this kind of a program.

HOW TO FIGHT

If the labor movement does not begin now to fight for the security of the workers, it will be doubly difficult later on when there will be hundreds and thousands of Brewster situations. The workers cannot take it lying down. The workers at Brewster showed that only militant action can win.

Nothing concrete has yet been won by the Brewster workers. Only a few promises were given. But even that is more than justification for the action which the union took. It needs to maintain its vigilance, however, to keep up the struggle until something more than a promise is given them. The workers cannot last many weeks without work.

There is another important lesson contained in the Brewster situation-it is a political lesson. Take a look, Brewster workers: What have the Republican and Democratic Parties done in this situation? NOTHING!

Can they really do anything in behalf of the workers except make election promises to them? No; they are so completely allied with big business and the profit interests, that they haven't even had the time to pay any attention to a handful of 12,500 workers who face destitution. Besides, they are too busy with the coming elections, preparing to fool American labor, with the aid of labor officials, to worry about the real problems of the worker.

The Brewster situation has demonstrated how absolutely necessary it is for labor to organize itself politically-not into committees for the purpose of electing capitalist candidates, but for the purpose of building its own powerful labor party with the aim of winning a labor, that is, a workers' government, dedicated to the interests of American labor. This lesson, too, like so many others we have been speaking about, gets clearer every day. The way to meet it is to prepare now! Act now!

The Mayor Was Too Busy

Mayor La Guardia has time for a great many diversions of not a strictly official nature, such as conducting bands and supervising the extinction of fires that an able fire department can very well take care of.

However, for some things, the Mayor just cannot make time. This happened when a delegation of Brewster Workers, composed of some two hundred veterans of World Wars I and II, went to City Hall on May 29 to ask His Honor to intercede for them with the Washington officials.

The Mayor didn't deign to see the delegation, but sent out word that he was just too, too busy.

LABOR ACTION

JUNE 5, 1944

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

BREWSTER WORKERS SIT-IN SCORES PARTIAL VICTORY

A Rank-and-Filer Tells the Story

By A BREWSTER WORKER

Today thousands of Brewster workers are being laid off. Grimly they face the fact that they will again have to trudge the streets looking for work. Every one of them is worried about what they face in the mad scramble for jobs.

Reports of many who have already tried to find work indicates that tremendous wage cuts are in store. Skilled men are being offered as low as fifty-five cents an hour to start in as "trainees" in jobs they already know. Almost all have been offered anywhere from ten cents to twentyfive cents an hour less by bosses who know that when thousands of men are out of work and have families to feed they are often driven to accept what they can get.

Every Brewster worker knows the story. The Navy brass hats have ordered cut-backs in production of Corsair fighter planes on the grounds that they have an adequate supply. At least, that is what they say. Following the completion of the 736th ship, all work on the Corsair is to cease at Brewster. The remainder of the 1,500 plane contract is to be sent to Chance Vaught and Goodyear for completion. Brewster workers are being denied the right to work on production of Corsairs while this work is being sent to so-called "critical labor shortage areas."

But every Brewster worker has more than a sneaking suspicion that this is nothing less than THE FINAL ACT in the persistent and constant effort to smash their union, Local 365, UAW-CIO, and to lower the decent wage standards that their union has attained for them.

What makes them see the picture most clearly is that only a little more than a week ago they read statements by General Arnold addressed to striking foremen in De-

troit to the effect that the invasion was possibly being held up because these strikers were not keeping a steady stream of these ships flowing out of the Detroit factories.

General Arnold got quite indignant about the fact-or at least that was his claim-that 250 fighter ships were lost by the Detroit strike. Yet, the Brewster workers are denied the right to work to turn out a steady stream of fighter planes. The strike of the foremen who were trying to organize a union of their own was denounced vehemently. Yet the powers themselves are virtually conducting a strike when they lock out thousands of skilled workers at Brewster wto can and did produce

THEY KNOW THE SCORE

The Brewster workers know the score. They know the attempt to smash their union all too well. It has been as constant an attack as any that has ever been. The machine gun fire against Local 365 in the past half year has been furious. First came the attempt of the Vinson committee to smear mud over the Brewster workers. They tried in vain to smear the union and its leaders. Then the Brewster workers answered the union-busters by hurling the lies and slanders back in the teeth of those who made them.

The daily press, kept by big business, repeated every stander against Local 365 membership and its officers, in the effort to set the public against the union. The War Labor Board did its bit by placing the union's closed shop on trial for six months. The forces of big business are trying to this day to railroad Tom De Lorenzo to jail because he militantly fights to defend the interests of the Brewster workers through their union.

The forces of big business and

their stooges in Congress got nowhere in their attempt to smash Local 365. Every slander, every attempt to disrupt, to hinder, to hurt or to smash Local 365 was answered with the firmest solidarity on the part of the Brewster workers in defense of their union

The only way left for these antiunion forces was to strike directly at the Brewster workers. This they do by locking out thousands of Brewster workers who are anxious to hold their jobs.

With what scorn do the Brewster men and women joke to their shop mates about the speeches they heard from Mr. Cox, absentee councilor for the plant, about the need for staying on the job. With what laughter do they view the posters staring them in the face wherever they look about pleading against absenteeism. Was that merely cost-plus propaganda?

What about those "RUSH" jobs? Was that all a joke too?

THE GENERAL OUTLOOK

The cutback in the production of fighter planes foreshadows the picture of the entire country when the war is over and war contracts cease in plant after plant. Today's layoff of thousands of Brewster workers occurs in the midst of the war, when there is supposed to be a labor shortage. When the post-war layoffs occur throughout the nation, millions of workers will find themselves out of work because the owners of industry have failed miserably in their ability to plan production. Estimates by the most conservative people are that by the time our brothers and sons come home from overseas and from the camps and training centers throughout the country, there will be more men out of work than at the lowest point of the depression.

(Continued on page 4)

sell-out for the duration of the war

and "INDEFINITELY THEREAF-

Adding that "we reject any hos-

tility of labor to capital" and "we

must now throw the burden of post-

war employment on our employers,"

Bridges' stomach - turning proposals were greeted joyously by the Daily

Worker-and, no doubt, in the high

councils of every labor-hating, union-

The resolution also proposes that

in return for signing away labor's

most powerful and indispensable

weapon, employers agree to "resort

in no way to any device calculated

to weaken the union in its member-

ship structure or in its leaders and

to the continuation of the basic pro-

visions of union security for the

What "union security" is Bridges

talking about? What union has real

security today? What union hasn't

battered its head bloody against the

We Louse-you-up Board (WLB) and

other government arbitration outfits?

And what profiteering corporation

hasn't moved in for the "kill" against

unions naively upholding the no-

strike "pledge"? Which of them

haven't chopped away at the unions'

grievance machinery and shop stew-

ard system? Which of them have

gone around handing out "mainte-

nance of membership" and "union

war's duration and beyond."

A FEW QUESTIONS

busting corporation in the country.

BULLETIN:-At the time of going to press, announcement was made that War Mobilization Director Byrnes had ordered conferences of all procurement agencies to meet and discuss the matter of new contracts for the Brewster plant. Washington reports disclosed that the President personally intervened, promising that new contracts would be found to keep the men on the job. As a result of this intervention and promise, the union called off the sit-in strike.

Already, the union leaders are hailing this as a victory, or at least a partial victory. We have no doubt that the action taken by the workers, an action which we unqualifiedly support, called nation-wide attention to their situation and finally forced the Administration to at least promise to do something for them. But so far they have been given only promises, and very vague ones at that. There is absolutely nothing concrete to which any one can point. That is why PM, the New York newspaper, wrote:

"As for the possibility of new contracts, the optimistic words from Frankensteen and Byrnes hardly squared with testimony given yesterday before the Military Affairs Sub-

"Although it was a big victory for the union, whose dramatic protest led the White House to act, it doesn't alter the fact that some 7,000 of the company's 12,500 employees will be out of work today and until the company gets new contracts-if it does."

The big fight of the Brewster workers still lies ahead of them. Their fight for existence is not only for themselves, it is for the whole American labor movement.

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The well-planned political attack of the capitalist ruling class and its government against organized labor and the working class has been focused this week on Local 365 of the UAW-CIO and the workers of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp. This foray against Local 365, which began some months back as an anti-labor sniping expedition by Congress, the WLB and the Navy Department, reached its climax with the cancellation of all contracts held by

We say that this is a political attack because that is the only accurate way to characterize the closing down of the Brewster plants by the Navy Department. Local 365 is a militant union. In comparison to a host of other trade union locals it was outstanding in its aggressiveness and its persistent defense of the working class rights of the Brewster workers. This local had voted against the no-strike pledge and defended this position at the last convention of the UAW. The local had gone on record in favor of independent working class political action and a Labor Party.

The president of the local, Thomas De Lorenzo, had appeared before a congressional committee and had stoutly and militantly defended the local, its program, policies and activities. In retaliation for his stand and in order to strike at the local, the ruling class grabbed De Lorenzo through the medium of its legal machinery and dragged him into the capitalist courts. Progressive workers at Brewster who were coming more and more to understand what the real issues were before the working class in the United States, were constantly on the firing line to hold the local to its militant course. Increasing numbers of them were coming to see just what the issue was: A PROBLEM OF PROTECTING THE CLASS INTERESTS OF LABOR AGAINST THE SUFFOCATING OFFENSIVE OF THE CAPITALIST EMPLOYERS OR-GANIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRANGLING LABOR AND RENDER-ING IT IMPOTENT.

That the Brewster managers and owners may not have been a party to these schemes is of no particular importance. They had problems of their own at the time, with which workers can have no especial concern. In a showdown the Brewster owners will act as any other capitalist employers because their interests are identical. In no sense can the difficulties of Brewster management with the Navy Department cause labor to regard its relation to both any differently than the working class approaches its relations to the Navy Department and the capitalist employers as a whole.

THE POLITICS INVOLVED

Many workers themselves will say that there is "politics" in this Brewster closing. Many of them will agree with the statement of Philip Murray in his telegram to Secretary of the Navy Forrestal: "Those in your department initiating the action could not have been blind to the fact that termination of contracts is of the greatest political significance in this election year, particularly when it is demonstrated that the department has not planned for or exhibited any consideration of the people thus thrust out of work....It would be most reassuring to be informed that the Navy's action was not precipitated by Navy Department people unfriendly to the President and Senator Wagner of New York."

Suppose that Murray's suspicions are true. What essential difference would this make? Suppose the plant was closed down as the result of some inside Republican intrigue. This is far-fetched, but even if true, such a tempest in the teapot between Republican and Democratic Party bureaucrats could not possibly be the kind of "politics" that would aid Brewster and other workers to solve their problems.

Murray's inquiry is primarily silly and nonsensical because it is a very weak attempt to cover up the fact that Roosevelt is the head of the government and the leader and boss of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, Forrestal is a member of Roosevelt's cabinet, is his appointee and comes directly under his supervision. What Forrestal and the Navy Department do is what Roosevelt wants done and what he approves, and in fact he has now said so. THIS IS THE MORASS THAT MURRAY FINDS HIMSELF IN SO SOON AFTER THE CIO COMES OUT WITH ITS GLOWING ENDORSEMENT OF ROOSEVELT FOR A FOURTH TERM.

There is "politics" involved in the closing of the Brewster works, and, as we have said, the closing is a political attack on Local 365 and the working class. It is the class politics of the capitalist ruling class against the working class. It is political activity of the ruling class through its government to protect its own class interests. It is not in the interests of the ruling class to permit organizations of workers to proceed unmolested to organize for militant working class economic and political action. The ruling class and its government always will be especially incensed when such bold programs and actions are launched by labor in the midst of the imperialist wars of the

(Continued on page 2)

Bridges--Labor Traitor

By T. R. COBB

Ever first to carry out the latest twist in the scab line of the Communist Party, Harry Bridges, West Coast agent of the Browder Brigade, aroused the entire labor movement of the nation with a shocking pro-

posal to abandon the right to strike in the post-war period.

Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union last week approved a preampledging observance of the no-strike

Local 6 of Bridges' International

ble for all local union contracts

Harry Bridges, Stalinist agent and head of the Longshoremen's & Warehouse Workers Union, has long been one of labor's worst enemies. While always denying that he was a member of the Communist Party, he has never failed to carry out its policies through every change that party made.

of the no-strike pledge into the post-war period, has convicted Bridges as the outstanding anti-labor leader inside the union movement. Bridges asks big business not only to help foist such a murderous and self-defeating proposal on labor, but asks the bosses to help the present leaders (especially those advocating Bridges' policies) to maintain their leadership over the workers!

Party line of support to "free enterprise," the two-party system, capitalism in general, with a proposal that would automatically kill the union movement. It is also in line with Browder's newly-enunciated policy advocating government control of trade unions. No wonder the other labor leaders, who carry out much of Bridges' line now, have shied away from his new proposal and have denounced it.

its guns on Bridges. Bridges has no place in the union movement. The Longshoremen's

Throw Him Out of the Union!

But his recent declaration of policy, advocating the carrying over

The game is clear. Bridges is merely carrying out the Communist

The labor movement, which is at present facing a fight for its life, a fight which will grow more bitter as time goes on, must turn all of

Union should throw this scab out (he just got through scabbing on the Montgomery Ward workers). He should be ousted from the CIO executive board. He is an agent of the bosses in the labor movement!

(Continued on page 3) The SP--A Party of Confusion

By E. LUND

The Socialist Party (Norman Thomas' party) will hold its national convention in Reading, Pa., on June 2-4. The main purpose of the event is to nominate its candidates in the presidential race.

Though the call describes it as the twenty-fourth national convention, this, strictly speaking, is a very formal designation. The Socialist Party of today has about as much in common with the Socialist Party of Eugene V. Debs as the Communist Party of today has with the sincere revolutionists who founded it in 1919.

cialist Party of today is not composed, in the main, of sincere and idealistic people. Quite the contrary; the Socialist Party of today has the unique ability of attracting a most varied collection of humanitarians and believers in "do-good-ism."

There is hardly a current of wellmeaning confusion that is not represented in the Socialist Party. Every serious question finds as many different answers in the Socialist Party as among the liberal population of the country generally.

This does not imply that the So- A CROSS-SECTION OF THE SP When the war crisis faced Amer-

ica before Pearl Harbor, views within the Socialist Party ran from Walter White's "aid to England" brand of intervention all the way to "Keep America Out of War" isolationism that brought Norman Thomas to the same platform with Lindbergh.

The May Day issue of the Socialist Party organ, The Call, reflected a good cross-section of the people who compose the organization and its following. There were greetings from those who see victory being assured

(Continued on page 4)

Straight Talk By Ernest Lund

On May 22, in Basle, Switzerland, there sat down at the council table representatives from Germany, the United States, Great Britain, and other powers.

They were all bankers. They are the board of directors of the Bank of International Settlement.

Axis bankers and United Nations bankers sat side by side to act upon the business of the bank. Its business is to facilitate the payment of debts and reparations still remaining from World War 1.

In the chair, as president, was Thomas McKittrick. He is an American. He is on the board to represent American interests. He is also the president of the First Mutual Bank of New York City.

The capitalist press said almost nothing about his meeting. It was buried in the financial pages of the New York Times.

However, the capitalist press had screaming headlines about a place only a few hundred miles south of Switzerland. Here Germans were meeting Americans also. This place was Anzio. But here it was a meeting across a battlefield, not a council table. The "discussion" took place with shrapnel and machine guns. Death, not dividends, was on the

agenda. In last, week's column I discussed the great degree of class consciousness which the capitalist show in defending their system. The above news about the Bank of International Settlement induces me to return to that subject and expand upon it.

CAPITALIST INTERNATIONALISM

American capitalists show class solidarity in action against the American working class. But that is not all. The capitalists of the world have shown throughout their history that they will unite in time of crisis on a world scale against the forces of world labor and to preserve world capitalism.

The meeting in Basle is an indication of this.

Does this mean that the capitalists Gon't care about who wins the war? No. Such a view is both childish and utterly fantastic.

The capitalists of the various nations are strongly supporting their own governments in the war. American bankers want an American victory over Germany just as much as German bankers want a victory over the United Sattes.

Wall Street sees in an American victory an opportunity for dominating the finance, industry and trade of the whole world.

German bankers see the opportunity in a German victory.

However, there is one thing both German and American capitalists are agreed on. That is that no matter which side wins, capitalism must

That is why we have heard many reparts recently which show that I. G. Farben, Krupp and other German corporations are making preparations -now that they fear Germany will lose-to become junior partners in the great world cartels which American and British capital will organize after the war.

Yes, the war at Anzio is a real war. And the meeting at Basle is a real

The war at Anzio is part of the stupendous, world-shaking conflict to decide who will rule the world.

The meeting at Basle is a sideshow to take care of a few practical business matters to keep international finance from getting all gummed up during the war-because that would be bad for international capitalism.

However, if international capitalism were to crack up somewhere and threaten the whole structure, we would then see, as we have seen so many times in the past, the international solidarity of capitalists as the main business

A CASE IN POINT

When the Russian workers overthrew the rotten ruling class of Russia in 1917, both German and Allied armies invaded Russia to defend capitalism and fight the new workers republic. The Red Army of the Russian workers and peasants fought the Germans in Finland and the Ukraine, the Americans in Archangel, the British in the Crimea, and the Japanese in Siberia.

Some of the most important discussions between Woodrow Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau at the peace conference in Versailles in 1919 were devoted to international capitalism's fight against the workers' government of Russia.

And the people who called most loudly for an invasion of Russia were the defeated capitalists of Russia itself. They were patriotic supporters of the war as long as they were in power. But when the working class took over, they invited foreign bayonets to come in and butcher the men and women defending Russian soil.

ANOTHER INSTANCE

Germany defeated France in 1871. However, when the workers of Paris set up their own government-the Commune-the German Bismarck assisted the Frenchman Thiers in putting down the workers' revolt.

From these examples of history we can draw many valuable lessons for forty-two to eighty-four days. Such

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Thomas On the No-Strike Pledge

By DAVID COOLIDGE

During the past week two international presidents of CIO unions. the United Automobile Workers and the Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers, have appealed to their memberships to close ranks behind the leadership and to abide by the no-strike and other decisions made by the international conventions. These appeals were made by R. J. Thomas of the UAW and John Green of the IUMSWA.

Thomas' statement pertained to the strike at the Chrysler Highland Park plant. The last strike came after sixteen workers had been fired by the company and fourteen officers of the local had been ousted by the international executive board. Picket lines were established and all the gates to the plant blocked. George Addes, following the Communist Party line, was not satisfied with the official action taken by the board. He advised the workers to "break through the picket lines if necessary to get your

NATURE OF UNION CRISIS

The Thomas statement said that the UAW "today faces one of the greatest crises in its history. On the outcome of this crisis will depend the possibilities of our survival in the post-war period." And what is this crisis? Thomas says what in his opinion is the nature of the crisis, but he misses the point completely. He says that the crisis arises from the failure of a minority of the union to "abide by the democratic decisions and mandates of our constitution and

only costs me \$15."

ever, the crisis arises because of an increase in the number of "unauthorized strikes" in spite of the no-strike

pledge given to President Roosevelt. LABOR ACTION is for democratic decisions and we believe that workers should make every effort to abide by all decisions democratically arrived at. But the agreement on the no-strike pledge was not arrived at In a really democratic manner. The pledge was given by Murray, Green and others before the millions of AFL and CIO members were consulted. This pledge of the top leaders was passed on to the international presidents, who went into their unions and by begging, pleading, threatening and sobbing, drugged the rank and file into passive acceptance.

The trade union membership right from the beginning was skeptical about the pledge. Today they are openly and positively against it. They have good reason to be against it. They have learned from their experience that they were taken in by their leaders and sold down the river. They know now that when Murray and the others gave this pledge they were not representing labor's interests but the interests of the employers and the employers' government. Labor knows now that the employers and the government have been and are taking advantage of the no-strike pledge to the detriment of the labor movement and its interests.

Labor was promised that collective bargaining would continue, that there would be no anti-union legislation

the employers would be condoned or tolerated. Not a single promise made by the government or the employers has been kept, not one. Virtually every working class right has been violated, openly and with design. A concerted government-employer drive against the unions has emerged and

is in full swing today. The trade union leadership does nothing to halt this attack. They continue their toadying to Roosevelt and to the WLB, and run like scared rabbits every time some anti-labor demagogue from the backwoods of the South bellows in Congress. In such a situation what can the loyal and militant union members do? Submit quietly and permit the whole labor movement to be disembowelled and thrown to the capitalist vultures and their deputies in Washington?

THOMAS' STATEMENT Thomas hasn't changed his argument one bit: "Public opinion has become inflamed against our union," he bleats. What is this "public opinion"? The millions of workers in the AFL and CIO? Not so. The "public opinion" that is inflamed against the UAW today is the same "public opinion" that has always been inflamed against this militant union. It is the same "public opinion" that will be inflamed against the UAW when and if, after the war, Thomas carries out his promise to "authorize" strikes

In his statement, Thomas, following Murray, descends to the lowest level possible for a labor leader when he whimpers that "already more than 35,000 of our American brothers have been killed in action." What responsibility does labor bear for the present imperialist blood bath that has caused the death of thousands of human beings? None whatsoever. But Thomas will not be moved: "...these figures will be increased many-fold in the months to come. Does any reasonable and responsible person believe that, in the face of these terrible facts, our union can tolerate wildcat strikes in war plants and still survive?"

The only inference that "any reasonable and responsible person" can draw from the inane remarks of President Thomas is that labor has some responsibility for the number of dead and maimed in the present war. Also we ask Thomas to remember the Anaconda Copper Co. and its defective wire, the U. S. Steel Corporation and its defective steel plates, the defective parachutes, the

cartel agreements between Standard Oil of New Jersey and Hitler's Nazi chemical trust, which the Justice Department said verged on treason.

In his statement Thomas has an answer to this: a coward's answer, a poltroonish answer: "This war must be won. If management will not sincerely work toward that end, then labor must do so. We may have to take it on the chin here and there for a time, but if we can present the nation and the returning soldiers with a clean record, we will gain after the war for the sacrifices we are making today."

This is the most reprehensible nonsense. It is desertion of the workers and their interests. Labor has a perfectly clean record, if one gets clean from making sacrifices while capitalist corporations pile up their millions in blood profits. This is the story told by the 35,000 dead American youth. Furthermore, the labor leaders are not taking it on the chin. They have no personal wage problems to settle. They have no income tax problems. The 43 per cent rise in the cost of living works no burden on them. Thomas' \$9,000 and Addes' \$8,500 take care of that. They don't operate under the Little Steel formula.

A CLEAN RECORD

The best way to present the returning soldiers with a "clean record" is to fight the Little Steel formula, the WLB and the designs of the employers against the unions, so that the worker-soldiers will have jobs at high wages when they return, and strong, militant unions to defend these jobs and wages for them. If this is not done, the reward of the returning soldiers will be doughnuts and coffee, confetti and promises that there will be no more war.

These are the facts. Thomas is perhaps too dull to understand. He is not dealing with simple violations of convention decisions or of the union constitution. He is dealing with loyal but angry and militant union members who are alarmed at the situation they face. All the stupid statements that Thomas can make, all the threats of the UAW international board, all the tear-jerking over the no-strike pledge, will get Thomas, Murray and Green exactly nowhere with a working class that is becoming increasing dissatisfied with the retreat ordered by its leaders.

The statement of President Green will be dealt with next week.)

Brewster Sit-In - -

(Continued from page 1)

and more confront labor as the days come and go.

election year" to the working class. They are certainly of great importance to the capitalist ruling class. There significance to the ruling class, however, should be to teach us that it is futile to expect help from Roosevelt and the Democratic Party or the Republican candidate and the Republican Party. All of these events are warnings to the Brewster workers and to all labor to organize a political program and a political party for labor: OF AND BY THE WORKING CLASS.

"CONSIDERATION" FOR THE WORKERS

In his telegram to Forrestal, Murray said that "... the department has not planned for or exhibited any consideration of the people thus thrust out of work." The Navy Department did plan. It planned to get at Local 365 by closing the Brewster plant and throwing thousands of men and women out

In his special announcement to the Brewster workers, Frankensteen said: "The reward for your faithful service in producing the vital Corsair fighter plane is the complete disregard of the Navy to the problems facing you as vital war workers in a non-critical manpower area." This too is just so much twaddle. The implication in this statement is that the Navy Department is obstructing the "war effort," and that the workers at Brewster were engaged

work in order to eat. They organized a strong union in order to have an instrument that would protect their standard of living and get them more in. their pay envelopes. This "faithful service" was like that of the company, the difference being that airplane companies get fat contracts from the government which enable them to make millions in profits without a struggle, while the workers must fight all the way for their puny wages.

WHO DID NOT PLAN?

It was the CIO and the UAW which did not plan. They did not plan to meet the situation which faces all the workers in the country: layoffs, firings, union-breaking and wage cuts. The capitalist employers are planning and their government is planning.

Another great "friend of labor" was brought into the Brewster situation: one Fiorello La Guardia, Mayor of New York. Brewster workers who are veterans of the First and Second Imperialist World Wars went to see the Mayor on the Brewster closing. This member of the American Labor Party was "too busy" to see them. But he had sent a telegram to Washington to see what could be done.

UAW, was winning the applause of the capitalist press for his statement to the UAW membership against "wildcat" strikes. The New York World-Telegram devoted its leading editorial position to running the Thomas statement under the head: "Mr. Thomas Says a Mouthful." And then: "R. J. Thomas is writing this editorial today." Then followed the Thomas statement.

The extremely reactionary New York Sun also devoted its leading editorial to full approval of the Thomas no-strike position. PM, that stupidly contradictory paper of pro-war, pro-Roosevelt, but-we-are-also-for-therank-and-file-of-American-labor ideas, is likewise in agreement with Thomas. They pretend to worry, however, at being in the same company with "some conservative papers" which throw "editorial flowers...at Mr. Thomas." These flowers "are touching but not very relevant," says PM in a great sweat.

The Brewster case is a test for the working class—a test of its understanding and of its ability to lay hold of the political realities of the situation we are confronted with today. There will be many more of these situations as the war goes through its various changes and cycles. The working class cannot meet the onslaughts of its enemies by simply charging the enemy with not permitting us to make planes, or tanks, or guns.

The ruling class and their government will not let the soldiers and sailors go into battle without planes and arms. This is their war and they will certainly see to it that we are armed to fight it. Our job is to see to it that we are armed with strong unions and an independent working class political party to carry on the struggle of our whole class for freedom, peace, security

THE BOX-SCORE

By T. R. COBB

Readers of LABOR ACTION really went on a hitting spree during the month of May and batted home a solid 310 subscriptions, bringing up their average to a respectable figure, but falling short of the 365 clip of January.

The business manager was heartened by the steady thumping of singles, doubles, triples and round-trippers and the general all-around improvement in teamwork. Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and California socked the sub-cards with their old authority, but they were all put in the shade by that New York Sultan of Subs who blasted his way into the Hall of Fame with sixty in one inning.

'A fan in Lomita, Cal., writes: "Find enclosed m.o. for \$3.60 for which please send LABOR ACTION to these addresses. Please send May 8 paper as first copy if you can-that one is a masterpiece." (That was the issue showing S. L. AVERY getting the bum's rush.)

On the letterhead of a national CIO committee comes the following: "Whoever was in charge of distributing LABOR ACTION at the Steel Workers' convention in Cleveland did a wonderful piece of work. Coin enclosed is for a year's subscrip-

Several promising rookies took the field in May and gave every indication of sticking in Labor's Big League. Valdosta, Ga., homered, Wyoming tripled, Streator doubled, and Seattle, Austin, Rochester, Hatboro, Baltimore, Columbus, Springfield, Syracuse, Alhambra, Lemoure, Mumford, Paterson, Wilmington, Mojave, Berkeley, Berwyn, Redondo Beach, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, La Grange and many, many others singled in the clutch.

Al Gates, LABOR ACTION's leading scout, barnstormed the Midwest and other points on the circuit, confabbed with scores of rooters and came up with a long list of new names for our 1944 roster.

All is not rosy for our team's prospects, though. Our pitchers have loads of stuff and early

speed, but they throw their drop too often, exhibit a tendency to coast in the late innings and subsequently get knocked out of the box. Our fielding support is wobbly, lacks hustle and is especially weak on scooping up those grounded subs.

What our team needs most of all is more scientific play. Take, for instance, the brain convolutions of a second baseman playing 115 to 145 feet from home plate. A batted ball hit toward him will reach his hands in from four-fifths of a second to three seconds, depending on the force with which it is hit and the way the ball bounds. His first thought must be direction; his second, speed; his third, how the ball is bounding and whether to back up or come in on it. He knows that the runner can reach first base in three and two-fifths seconds and that to nail his man he must grab the ball, make a half-turn and let loose his throw—all with split-second timing. Co-ordination is what pays off.

Likewise with our infielders and outfielders. We know that lots of hitting is what will eventually bring our team victory, but we've got to concentrate on the fine points of the game. We've got to figure out every plan and every situation. We've got to study the characteristics of every batter we face and take advantage of every break. We've got to get the coaches off the sidelines and onto the field.

And some day we'll be hoisting up that big red pennant that reads: "WON BY LABOR: PEACE, PLENTY, SOCIALISM."

The box-score for the past

New York	103
Philadelphia	
Detroit	27
Chicago	25
National Office	36
Cleveland	20
Missouri	15
Akron	2
Buffalo	18
Reading	3
Canada	.3
	-
Total	310

Labor Organizer Fined

ATLANTA (WDL) - New curbs on the mayor or city council before they Milledgeville, Ga., when R. E. Starnes, field representative of the United Steel Workers of America, CIO, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$150 or serve nine months on the public works gang under a newly . organizational activity. The ordinance places a \$5,000 fee upon licenses to "organize employees of any employer into any group, association, membership, society or file an application for a permit with

union organization were placed in can begin their organizational work. Starnes' attorneys immediately paid the fine and appealed the case. They stated they were prepared to take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court should the Georgia court uphold the ordinance.

Morris Milgram, national secretary passed city ordinance curbing union of the Workers Defense League, called the Milledgeville ordinance an "outrage" and a "flagrant violation of the civil rights inherent in the Constitution." He stated that the Workers Defense League was preunion." Union organizers must first pared to file an amicus brief if the case goes to the U.S. Supreme Court.

LABOR ACTION fights for the interests of labor in the shops, mines, mills and offices; forearms you with facts, analyses and a PROGRAM. Here's how to get your copy

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Introductory Offer-Only 25¢ for Six Months Clip here and mail with twenty-five cents for your Sub TODAY

LABOR ACTION 114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.

Yes, I'd like to receive LABOR ACTION.

Enclosed find twenty-five cents to cover full not of min introductions his minusely acha-

COST OF F	ny introductory six-month subscription.
Name _	
Address	
City	State
ANGER CAN LARD	and among a physical man areas and a consequence of the consequence of

Readers may use this blank to subscribe for friends or shopmates. Send in the quarter and we'll do the rest! If you are a subscriber whose sub expires with Vol. 8, No. 23, send in your renewal with thirty-five cents. This is your last issue!

Ken-Rad Plant Seizure Parallels Ward Case

Charge It To Cost-Plus

ton and, after an evening of cocktails, dinner and talking

over business—to say nothing of entertainment—called for

excess profits tax bracket. If I didn't pay the check, the

government would get half of it anyway, so the dinner really

ty-five per cent bracket, so the dinner will only cost me

contract. I can charge this to expenses and make \$3.00 on

it."-Peter Edson in the New York World-Telegram.

the check. It came to something over \$30.

The story goes that three war contractors met in Wash-

"Let me take it," sai dthe first. "I'm in the fifty per cent

"No," said the second. "Let me take it. I'm in the eigh-

"Don't be funny!" said the third. "I've got a cost-plus

LOUISVILLE—In the second case of cials represents voluntary betrayal of its kind - government seizure of a plant for management's refusal to comply with a War Labor Board ruling - the Ken-Rad Tube & Lamp Corp., Owensboro, Ky., has indicated its unity of purpose with Montgomery Ward in wrecking the legal gains won by labor through its resolute and endless trade union struggles of

the past decade. The Ken-Rad plant, one of two in the United States making metallic radio tubes for the Signal Corps, refused to comply with an April WLB directive, ordering wage increases affecting 3,200 employees and retroactive pay of more than \$1,000,000, affecting 9,000 employees and former

employees. When a presidential order directed the Army to seize the plant, the company filed suit in the U.S. District Court, seeking to enjoin Army administration from putting into effect the WLB wage orders. Military occupation of the plant and four feeder plants was taken in mid-April. The court decision upheld the seizure, but virtually ignored the main issuewhether or not the WLB decision was legal and enforceable.

ROLE OF UNION OFFICIALS

The policy of the union officials in the Ken-Rad dispute was the standard one handed down by the trade union hierarchy - complete reliance on Roosevelt and what remains of New Deal institutions. In terms of collective bargaining, this means not to strike: or if the workers insist on striking, hoping for government seizure of the plant so the workers can be told, as Peter Nold, regional director of the UAW-CIO told the Ken-Rad workers: "We're in the Army and we seem to have won our fight, and we want to stay in the plant and pitch." Thus the trade union bureaucrats, WITH NO ASSUR-ANCE THAT THE WORKERS DE-MANDS WILL BE MET, repeat the mouthings of capitalists, capitalist politicians and the misled middle class-all of whom draw their incomes only so long as the workers

In keeping with this policy, the union officials furnished the basis for settling the dispute—the basis being the surrender of several of the demands conceded even by the anti-labor WLB. They surrendered to the company retroactive pay for former employees and the extension of the learning period for workers from an act on the part of the union offi-

the interests of the union membership, and opportunism to the extent that by surrendering retroactive pay for former employees they indicate a narrow regard of the interests of workers as a whole.

After the company agreed to these terms, the plant was readily turned back to its management.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

Although the company based its original injunction case on the alleged illegality and nonenforceability of the WLB rulings, the court justified government seizure on the grounds that the President acted in accordance with his emergency powers and that it did "not think that the determination of this case depends upon whether the order of the WLB was valid or invalid." Thus, as in the Montgomery Ward case when the court refused to reveal its findings after the Army withdrew its troops, the court again by-passed the

Under these circumstances, it is impossible to say in disputes of the Ken-Rad type that "we seem to have won our fight." In the first place, every worker who has watched his union mediate demands through the WLB knows how meager the "grants" from this board are. In the past the bosses have been only too willing to deal with the WLB, which with all its affiliated agencies represents the most elaborate scheme of procrastination in dealing with labor's demmands ever devised. Using the Little Steel formula as its rifle, this board has been mowing down workers' demands like ducks at a side-show. Only, as in the miners' case, when labor has given organized and sustained resistance has the WLB "relented."

In the second place, by placing its reliance on Roosevelt, the trade union officialdom is betraying the masses of workers it claims to represent. Labor won, strengthened, and has maintained its rights to collective bargaining by means of the weapon the capitalist fears most-the strike. Now that this weapon has been suspended, the capitalists have taken the offensive against labor's right to collective bargaining. The lesson is clear: LABOR MUST RE-SCIND ITS NO-STRIKE PLEDGE. The capitalists are not using it to win their war of imperialism as much as they are using it to win their war against organized labor.

ruling class. This is the issue at Brewster, and this is the issue that will more All of these events should be of the "greatest political significance in this

of work. It has similar plans for other militant trade union locals.

in a "labor of love." Such talk simply doesn't make sense.

The workers at Brewster were working for wages because they must

While all these events were transpiring R. J. Thomas, president of the



-Reprinted from "Justice."

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Illinois District No. 12 UMW Calls For Autonomy

A call for a conference, to demand the complete autonomy of the Illinois District No. 12 of the United Mine Workers of America, has been distributed to every UMW local in that state. The conference is to be held in Springfield on June 4.

The decision to call the conference was made at a meeting sponsored by three UMW locals located in and around Springfield and was held at the Leland Hotel of that city on May 8th. It was attended by close to 250 miners. It was stressed at this meeting that this was in no way intended as a move to split the UMW but that it was a fight "within the union, and there is no thought of forming a new union." Temporary officers were elected to issue the call for the state-wide conference.

According to the call, the conference is to be held 'for the purpose of deciding a course the membership will follow in making demands for complete restoration of district autonomy."

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

conferences called by the rank and

file, or by a section of the union million members of the UMW. for leadership, for some very specific purpose. In the past, the UMW rank and file certainly had its quota of conferences. And it certainly needs a few today in its fight to regain some of the democracy that has been taken away from it by the leadership. But there are some things about this coming conference that just don't smell

In 1933 when the Illinois coal fields were in open warfare and a section of the miners had formed the Progressive Mine Workers, John L. Lewis and his International Executive Board took away the autonomy of District 12 and with it its power of electing its own district officers and the handling of its financial

Since that time the Illinois locals of the UMW have constantly petitioned the International Executive Board for a return to their complete autonomy. But Lewis and his board have maintained the attitude that District 12 "is not competent to The labor movement has seen many handle its own affairs." This same excuse holds for most of the half only about 100,000 of them are in districts that have their own autonomy. As late as March of this year, various UMW locals in Illinois were writing to other UMW locals in the same state, urging them to joint action for the restoration of their district's au-

Disturbed by these moves, the district president, Ray Edmundson, a Lewis appointee, wrote on March 15 to all the locals that "It is definitely a violation of the mandates and policies of District 12 (Illinois) of the UMW to circularize other local unions with reference to the internal affairs of our union. Violations of policy of this kind is what brought about division within our union in days gone by. It will not be tolerated by this office."

But within six weeks after he wrote this letter, this same Ray Edmundson resigned as district president, conducted the meeting at the Leland Hotel, and is now the leader in circularizing the locals with a call to the June 4 conference to take action on "the internal affairs of our union."

WHAT IS EDMUNDSON'S ROLE?

Why this sudden change in Edmundson? For years one of Lewis' boys at \$8,000 a year, he suddenly quits to return to the mines, and work for \$59 a week. And immediately following his resignation, he jumps with both feet into the struggle for the restoration of the district's autonomy, which he has fought against for eleven years.

It is not too difficult to understand a situation where an appointed union official quits his appointed post in order to aid the union members in their fight against the leadership on one or more legitimate issues. But Edmundson's past in the UMW does not permit that interpretation.

In the early thirties, when the various sub-districts in Illinois were openly defying Lewis and his policies, Edmundson resigned as president of Sub-District No. 9, and became one of the loudest in the denunciations against Lewis. He was one of the leaders at the Staunton Illinois meeting and aided in issuing the call for the Belleville convention, where the rank and file elected him president. But with the signing

Bridges, Labor Traitor --

tives in the ranks of labor.

of the Illinois union agreement by Lewis, when hell broke loose, Edmundson deserted the rank and file and accepted from Lewis the post of provisional district president, the post he resigned from this year.

When, where and how he had got back into the good graces of Lewis and had made the deal to desert the rank and file was a question often asked. But that is unimportant. The real point is that he did go along with the rank and file, took leadership and used it for his own personal betterment.

Edmundson's past has rightly caused much speculation about the reasons behind his resignation and the motives for his calling for autonomy at this time.

The miners in Illinois, and in other districts, have been increasing their demands for autonomy and the return of democracy in the UMW. This is a fight where the miners must not only apply the most effective organizational methods, but they must be doubly vigilant that this struggle is not side-tracked for the advancement of any individuals at the ex-

Low-Down On the Chrysler Strike

DETROIT-On May 28, members of Chrysler Local 490, UAW-CIO, voted to end the second strike in two weeks at the Highland Park plant of the Chrysler Corporation. Despite the name-calling, intimidation and dictatorial action of the international officers of the UAW, the men remained firm in their opposition to the no-strike pledge and in their support of their local union officers who had been removed by the International Executive Board.

CAUSE OF THE STRIKE

The dispute began when the company fired two stewards and fourteen other men for preventing the distribution of Pepsi-Cola being bottled in a plant that was struck by the CIO. The company had previously implied that it would not allow the scab product to enter the plant and the men demanded that the delivery man leave and followed him out to see that he did. One steward was fired that day at the end of the shift. The rest were stopped at the gate the next morning by company spotters.

This provocation, combined with previously unsettled grievances, led to the walkout of 6,000 workers at the Highland Park and other plants of the Chrysler Corporation on May

The international officers of the UAW, led by George Addes, secretary-treasurer, immediately resorted to their usual threats to end the strike. Addes issued a statement in which he charged that the walkout was a violation of the no-strike pledge, that the strike was turning public opinion against the union and

He threatened that the local would be taken over by an administrator.

The local executive board, led by William Jenkins, president, made it clear that it was not intimidated by these threats and that any return to work would be decided by the strikers themselves. A meeting was called for May 21 to vote on the question of return to work.

Addes and Walter Reuther, international vice-president of the UAW, addressed the meeting and were roundly booed for demanding a return to work before the sixteen workers were reinstated. The mass meeting voted three to one for continuing the strike. Jenkins said: "It was not surprising to me. The men want the Army to take over."

LOCAL STANDS FIRM

When it became obvious that the rank and file was solidly behind Jenkins and the local executive board, the international officers cast aside all pretense of democracy and called a special meeting of the international executive board to try the officers of Local 490. This unprecedented dictatorial action was taken against the expressed wishes of the local membership. At the same time, Addes demanded that the strikers break their own picket line and return to work. The men, however, had more sense and union solidarity than Addes, and respected the strike vote of the membership.

On May 22, in an attempt to preserve the autonomy of the local, the executive board of Local 490 voted a return to work. This did not stop the international executive board from continuing with their farcical trial.

The international was forced to cancel a meeting that was called for May 23 over the head of the local union when it became clear that no one would show up at the meeting. But they went ahead with their trial.

The result of the trial was a foregone conclusion. The whole local executive board was removed from office and Leo Lamotte, Detroit East Side regional director and national Chrysler director of the UAW, was appointed administrator over the local for sixty days. Lamotte is the man whose removal as Chrysler director has been demanded by pracfically every Chrysler local in Detroit as a result of his strike-breaking and union-busting activities.

The day after the decision of the international executive board became known, the workers at Highland Park rallied to the support of their local officers and picket lines once again formed at the plant gates. At once R. J. Thomas and Addes made the front pages with new threats-this time of expulsion from the union. The men, however, remained out until, at a meeting held on May 28, which was supposedly called off by the international, they voted to return to work.

At this meeting, speakers expressed their opposition to renewal of the no-strike pledge, gave full support to their ousted union officers, voiced their solidarity with the international union and charged that the Chrysler Corp., "by attempting to take advantage of the no-strike pledge, is responsible for the incidents of the past two weeks at the Highland Park plant."

With their local taken over by the

international and with no support forthcoming from other locals in the international, the men had no choice other than to return to work. But they did not go back to work empty-

LESSONS OF THE STRIKE

They have exposed for all to see the anti-union nature of the no-strike pledge. They have demonstrated that the policies of Thomas, Addes and Reuther and their dictatorial, strike-breaking tactics are just the wild ravings of men who know they have lost the support of the rank and file. They have shown the road to victory to the whole union movement -removal of the no-strike pledge and the election of international officers who will fight for the union, not against it.

The matter is not yet settled. In sixty days, Local 490 will again elect its own officers. It is certain that this election will be a vindication of William Jenkins and the local executive board. Local 490 will also elect delegates to the international convention in September. These delegates will know what to do when the no-strike pledge is brought to a

What every member of the UAW must understand is that Local 490 cannot carry on the fight alone. Every local in the international must give its support to Local 490 and the ousted officers. Above all, every worker must prepare NOW for the next convention. Elect delegates who are pledged to removing the no-strike pledge and who will counter the anti-union offensive of big business with a labor offensive.

Bridges hastened to make a united front against the Montgomery Ward

No worker will ever forget that despite the fact that the Ward walkout was officially supported by the international union involved and by virtually the entire CIO with moral and financial aid, Harry Bridges outdid all the rest of the scabbers, lead-

(Continued from page 1)

security" and the "closed shop"? Se-

well Avery, for instance, with whom

ing even the Daily Worker and other spokesmen for the free - booting thieves of "free enterprise." Precisely after the war, when the profit-bloated companies will throw millions of workers into the streets. slash the wages of those lucky enough to have jobs, launch unionbusting campaigns by pitting returned servicemen against their brothers, utilize fascist goon squads against the unions and racial minorities, and otherwise attempt to or-

ganize widespread reaction, Bridges

offers to serve up to these "gentle-

men" the labor movement of the

THE GREATEST CRIME

United States.

If the no-strike pledge during wartime is a piece of stupidity, causing , the union movement infinite harm, to give up the right to strike for decent conditions in the post-war period would be nothing short of the greatest crime ever committed against the labor movement in the history of its existence in this country.

From the first railroad and steel strikes in 1877, from the miners and the "Molly Maguires," from the Car-. penters and Cigarmakers and the Knights of Labor, from the great strike for the eight-hour day on May 1. 1886, in Chicago, to the Haymarket Affair, from Homestead to Debs' railroad strike and the great struggles in textiles and steel, from the historic sit-downs in auto and the growth of the CIO to the heroic mine strike of 1943 - the right to strike and the will to strike have been the means by which millions of working men and women have sought to wrest a decent livelihood from their capitalistic, absentee mas-

These struggles, far from decreasing after the war, will be immensely increased. Without the democratic right to strike, labor will be hopelessly ground to bits.

Even R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers Union, who earned the enmity of thousands of workers for publicly placing the onus of company - provoked wildcat strikes on the victims of corporation arrogance, realizes this.

After learning of Bridges' proposal, Thomas commented:

"The idea that labor should 'indefinitely' surrender its right to strike is a ridiculous and defeatist proposal. The labor movement cannot possibly survive if it throws away indefinitely its most effective weapon.

"There will be vital issues after the war. There will be a day of reckoning for some employers who have taken advantage of labor's nostrike pledge. Labor does not intend to go into that period with its hands tied behind its back."

On the other hand, Thomas thinks it is OK for labor to go into its present struggles minus tis "most effective weapon" and "with its hands tied behind its back." Apparently it makes no difference if labor is slugged NOW, "for the good of the country" no doubt-and to save his political boss, FDR, from embarrassment from the reactionary capitalists and their anti-union newspapers.

THE BROWDER BOYS

Bridge's anti-labor proposal is a direct consequence of the avowed purpose of the Communist Party to bargain away the working class of this country to the National Association of Manufacturers-in return for post-war business favors by that body to Russia. It marks a trial balloon

for more shocking "suggestions" ture Bridges' trial balloon promptly. from Stalin's American representa-

LABOR ACTION has it on unimpeachable authority that in a recent talk to CP functionaries in the Book-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Earl Browder advocated government control of all unions! Thus does the loudest booster of the "United Nonsense" prepare the groundwork for the totalitarian administration of our free unions-just like they do in Russiaand in Germany - where there are NO UNIONS, NO STRIKES and NO DEMOCRACY!

· Progressive workers must punc-

Resolutions should be introduced in all local unions condemning the Bridges' resolution as dangerous, and detrimental to the continued existence of the trade union movement in the United States. The overwhelming majority of American workers must make it plain that Harry Bridges does not speak for a movement that wants to live, grow, and achieve workers' victory. He speaks for the shipping interests, the auto magnates, the steel barons, the financial monopolies and the whole big business world which fattens off the backs of American labor.

A Cock-Eyed Set-Up

By WALTER WEISS

The agents of big business, unlike Philip Murray and other "appeasing" labor leaders, operate on the basis that the best defense is a strong attack. According to statistics from capitalist sources, industrial profits for the first quarter of 1944 are up six per cent over last year's first quarter. That means profits are at still another all-time high.

Do the capitalists apologize for this? On the contrary. They solemnly point out that the percentage of profit on sales is very low, grievously low. Of course, sales are tremendous and, being guaranteed by the government. involve absolutely no risk. Still, the corporation heads don't like that low

BOWLES WILL ACCOMMODATE

That isn't all. They go before a congressional committee and demand that the OPA confine itself to controlling prices and stop tampering with profits. Chester Bowles, OPA head, denies that OPA has ever done anything to control profits. He says he would be glad to have the price control law amended to forbid any possibility of profit control.

In fact, says Mr. Bowles, the OPA only considers profits when "some firm says its profits are too low." He might add that OPA not only doesn't try to keep profits down but even hides statistics on the subject from the public! No wonder. These statistics show that profits of meat packers, to take one example, are up over three hundred per cent above peacetime levels.

An ordinary citizen might think there is some connection between price control and profit control. Higher prices-bigger profits. The capitalists look at it this way: If their profits on certain items zoom, the prices oughtn't to be cut, since that would be profit control, not price control. Get the idea? If profits on other items are low-even if a company is coining money on its business as a whole-the low-profit items should have their ceilings raised.

But total profits of the company are too high already, you say. The company should be patriotic and not complain, you say. You are, dear friend, all wet-by capitalist standards. For you are trying in a most un-American way to control profits instead of controlling (that is, raising) individual prices.

TO ILLUSTRATE THE POINT

Take the steel industry. As Philip Murray has proved, the wartime profits are colossal. Even so pro-business an organ as Time Magazine (May 15) is unimpressed with the sufferings of this industry. It said: "Despite loud walls from the steel industry that it is selling many basic products such as plates at less than cost, it managed to hold the line fairly well."

Yet the steel magnates informed OPA that, even if the workers received no wage increases, the industry must have price boosts on certain items. OPA agreed, and decided to raise the prices of at least four products. The daily press has neglected this "news," which has been published in such trade papers as Iron Age and the Journal of Commerce.

However, adds this latter paper (issue of May 17), OPA has held up the price increases, probably because of the WLB hearings on steel wages; in other words, probably because OPA doesn't dare to infuriate the steel workers at this particular time. If any of the CIO demands are met, continues the Journal, more extensive price rises will, OF COURSE, be necessary.

In the meantime, until industry-wide boosts can be approved, individual producers who are "suffering" can apply for "relief." Some have done so with success. Relief for still others is in the cards.

A DIFFERENT STORY. .

That's how the government operates for the capitalists. As for the steel workers, they are going into debt, on the average, to the tune of \$2.50 weekly. Don't they need a raise? Of course not. The employers must endure price control, so it's only fair for the workers to accept wage control (meaning wages whose purchasing power keeps getting lower).

It's a cock-eyed set-up, isn't it? But what else can you expect when the government belongs to the capitalists and the labor leaders consider it their duty to keep the workers voting for that anti-labor government?

May 'New International' Contains the Following:

A Blow at the Fourth International, by Max Shachtman Engels' War Articles, by Leon Trotsky Rising Tide of Labor in Britain, by Michael Drum Maurice William and Marxism, by Joseph Leonard Spain, 1936-A Study in Soviets-II, by Mirlam Gould China Under Japanese Domination—IV, by Ria Stone In Stalin's Prisons-V, by A. Ciliga Inside Cover: The Notebook Labor Problems at the Steel Workers Convention, by David

that war production was being hurt. They were out for blood and got it. Of Special Interest to Women

By this time the consumer has learned to expect from the War Food Administration nothing but practical jokes.

Whenever it gets big-hearted and offers something extra special, we housewives have to be careful lest it be like one of those April fool cigars that explode in the face of the smoker. When a supply of butter was thrown on the market not long ago, its quality was suited more for pigs than for people; a quantity of eggs re-

leased for civilian use was of such dubious quality that dealers refused to buy them; canned milk sent to public institutions out of government stocks made patients sick. It's about as funny as a crutch! Now the practical joker has made cheaper meats ration-free. And what's the result? The

papers all announce that the housewife is shunning these meats, expressing a decided preference for roasts and steaks.

Of course, we have a preference for roasts and The prices force us to put our preferences in the back seat. So, if the working class housewife

is turning up her nose at the cheaper and rationfree meats, THERE IS A GOOD REASON. Maybe the up-turned nose can be accounted for by the kind and quality of the meat rather than the snootiness of the housewife. And that is ex-

actly the case! The New York Times reports that the quality of several carloads of spring lamb from the Southwest "was rather poor"-"a large percentage grad-

ing commercial and utility." The New York Post writes that "it was admitted that many carloads of newly-arrived lamb, pork and mutton are not of the best quality."

The War Food Administration—as is the case with all the other government agencies controlling war and civilian supplies-is honeycombed with dollar-a-year men connected with big business. The pattern of the actions taken by the WFA indicates very clearly who is benefitting by these practical jokes of which the consumer has become

Tremendous government orders are placed with the big dairy, farm and packing house corporations-naturally through the "good offices" of the dollar-a-year men-at prices yielding a pretty penny of profit. The orders placed through the dollara-year men are actually greater than the govern-

ment needs; storage space is filled to overflowing; then the poorer grades or the stuff long in storage is released to the consumer. That accounts for the inferior quality of the butter, eggs, milk, meat that the WFA has so "generously" allowed us

It's time to put a stop to such practical jokes that make only the big capitalists laugh as they stack away their profits!

The battle fronts of World War II are piled high with corpses and the earth is soaked with human blood. But the German high command is reported to be already preparing for World War III. The rock-bottom necessity for waging a war is soldiers. This is where the women come in on the ground floor, so to speak. The ruling class of Germany is exhorting the people to have children.

"Every stout bey born in 1943 can become a brave soldier in 1963. Every new-born healthy boy is one strong soldier more in twenty years." So states a new instruction manual issued by the German high command, according to an Associ-

ated Press dispatch from Stockholm. Boys of eighteen and less are encouraged to marry and "do their duty" before they go to the front because "Then even if the present war is lost, tomorrow's war can be won by the children of today's soldiers." German parents are warned by the authorities against advising their adolescent boys not to marry.

But the German high command and the German ruling class are not alone in fighting World War II with one eye cocked to get a head start for World War III. In its own way, every great nation is doing exactly this. If the preparations for World War III are not so open in the United tates, it is because the material and human resources here are so tremendous. The American birth rate is still high and American casualties are still counted in the hundreds of thousands, whereas the German birth rate has fallen off and German casualties run into many millions.

In this country, therefore, the preparations for World War III are in the chemical and engineering laboratories, where more perfect instruments destruction are being developed. Preparations are going on in the halls of Congress, where it is planned to pass war-making laws such as one for the universal military training of American youth.

By Susan Green

We read in the papers the most horrible accounts of the present slaughter, like the story told by a first aid man on the Italian front, who said: When I reached the other shore I found bodies piled up like the carcasses of hogs which used to die from cholera in Iowa a long time ago. I hesitated to walk across the bodies, and a fellow on the other side yelled: 'Walk on 'em; you can't hurt 'em now.' "

This is the awful thing that is happening now, and while it happens, both sides are planning and preparing for it to happen again—in even more devastating fashion—to the next generation.

The plans of the Allies to break up the German nation and put it under military rule won't end wars. History has taught that this kind of "settlement" is like putting a lid on a volcano. But even if the "menace of German aggression" were removed permanently, the cause of wars would still

There is, for instance, the rivalary between Great Britain and America, which is making news in a way more outstanding than the war news itself. For it foreshadows that the competition for markets, natural resources, domination of the airways-the the same things for which the German ruling class allowed Hitler to organize the Nazi war machine-will have the same result.

What shall we do to prevent this? The last sentence of the platform of the Workers Party reads as follows: "A socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism, recurrent wars, fascist barbarism, oppression and exploitation, and establish a new order of freedom, plenty, peace and security, and world brotherhood!"

Yes, a socialist world will prevent World War III. To get it, all the working people of the world must unite against their present ruling classes! American mothers whose hearts burst with pain at the thought of American boys "piled up like the carcasses of hogs" - German parents whose protest against the war is expressed in the advice they give their boys not to bring new lives into the world as they go forth to give up their own-English, Russian, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese little people who are together the victims of the war brought about by capitalist competition for profits and world power-all must make common cause against capitalism and world imperial-

That is what we can and must do!

Editorials-

Browder's Venture Into Economics

Earl Browder, being a person who, when he turns his coat, turns it all the way, is tackling the problem of preserving the capitalist system in a very fundamental fashion.

Every two-penny economist understands how vital to the capitalist system-under which wages allow the workers to buy only part of what they produce—is the ability of the capitalists to export wealth of which labor is thus really robbed. Mr. Browder understands this too, and while Mr. Bridges on the labor front seeks to solve some of the capitalists' problems by having labor permanently give up its right to strike, Mr. Browder is concerned with the economic headaches of capitalism.

At the recent convention of the American Communists at which the Communist. Party was buried and the Communist Political Association was born full-grown, Mr. Browder opined: "I have estimated that we require new foreign markets of about forty billions per annum, above what we would obtain in the course of business-as-usual, in order to guarantee with any seriousness the continued full operation of our economy" -"our" economy is the capitalist economy which the Stalinists now clasp to their bosoms.

LABOR ACTION A Paper in the Interests of Labor

Published Weekly by the LABOR ACTION PUBLISHING ASSN. New York 11, N. Y. 114 West 14th Street (Third floor)

June 5, 1944

Vol. 8, No. 23 ALBERT GATES, Editor

GERTRUDE SHAW, Managing Editor Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a Year 75 Cents for Canada, New York and Foreign Re-entered as second-class matter May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

"Orthodox economists have assured me," continued Mr. Browder, "that it is quite impossible to realize foreign markets of such magnitude, but I am unable to accept their verdict. . . ."

Thus boldly spake "Economist" Browder. Below speak some incontrovertible economic facts:

The highest pre-war export business of the United States never even reached the nine billion mark. Senator Kilgore, before a meeting of the National Council of American Importers, warned that only ten billions of export trade as good as spells doom for American business, and the placed the export goal at twenty-five billion in order to keep up the wartime level of production. But the Department of Commerce, with its nose busy sniffing out all the possibilities for American post-war export trade, estimates that these possibilities can add up to no more than ten billions. Total export trade of the whole world was something over thirty-two and one-half billion in the boom year of 1928, and in 1938 was only less than twenty-two billion.

Mr. Browder's optimism is five times that of the Department of Commerce and twice that of Senator Kilgore. And he thinks that the United States can do more than twice the export business done by the entire world in 1938. In another part of his speech, Browder topped his own optimism, talking about the "development of the world markets on a huge scale, ten times the size of the pre-war markets."

There is indeed no limit to Mr. Browder's imaginative flights in his devoted effort to solve the basic problem of the capitalist

Furthermore, there is another angle. It is pertinent to ask: If the quest for foreign expansion on the pre-war basis of a meager ten - billion - dollar top export trade, could not stand the competition threatened by Nazi Germany, and the explosion of World War II resulted, how will the desperate quest for the fantastic markets five and ten times as great, keep the world peace

that Mr. Browder says he wants - along with the preservation of capitalism?

We still remember the very Marxian pronouncement of the capitalist politician, Woodrow Wilson - after World War I ended: "Is there a man or woman, let me say, is there a child, who does not know that the seed of war in the modern world is industrial and commercial rivalry?"

But to Browder there are no facts of life -only orders from Moscow, the latest being to help preserve the unpreservable capitalist system.

Another Smelly War Scandal

John D. Corrigan is a lieutenant comborne & Wells. He has been suspended as a naval officer due to the muck raked up

It would seem that the firm was paying its representative in the Navy a yearly salary of \$12,000 for services there rendered -and besides, as half owner of the firm, Corrigan was getting half of all profits. That's what one might call real incentive pay. At any rate, that is the way Corrigan

He used confidential Navy information to tip off his firm as to possible new clients; he visited plants as a "production expediter" for the Navy, criticized their production output, and then miraculously his firm of engineering experts would be hired to remedy the alleged fault; he helped clients of his firm to get additional war contracts, innocently explaining: "I didn't think it was outside my duty." One of the contracts he produced for his firm he himself called "the firm's meal ticket."

ers who are getting rich out of this war!

mander in the Navy-and also half owner of the engineering firm of Corrigan, Osby the Truman Senate Investigating Com-

felt about it.

But please remember that it's the work-

Allies Ignore Critical Refugee Question The British White Paper went into

By JESSIE KAAREN

When the Nazis decided to take over Hungary more systematically and thoroughly in order to insure a tighter front against the expected invasion of Europe by the Allies, the news wires began to burn once more with stories of anti-Semitic raids, confiscation of Jewish property, laws parring Jews from emi the evacuation of Hungarian Jews from their homes to ghettos, concentration camps and "extermination" centers. A late dispatch from Cairo released by the Yugoslav government in exile says that the Hungarian authorities are sending groups of young women to the eastern European front for the "amusement of German soldiers." Other groups of women are being sent to Germany

for forced labor. There were about one million Jews in Hungary, including among them former refugees from Poland and other blitzed out countries. The Nazi technique of making Europe "Judenrein" is by this time very much routinized, and in the space of a few months, the Hungarian authorities accomplished what previously it had taken years to do. The Hungarian Jews were evicted from their homes, from their places of employment, and from their shops. They were locked behind ghetto walls. Their ablebodied men were taken to labor battalions and hundreds of thousands were shipped off to certain death in

Poland. A fiendish "improvement" was added to the routine. The ghettos were set up in industrial towns which were certain to be visited by Allied air raiders, a challenge to which the Allies have responded by saying that they will continue to bomb whatever objectives they consider necessary, regardless of the fact that Jews are being held there as hostages.

THE WAR REFUGEE BOARD

Preceding by several months this latest development in Hungary, when the situation of the Jewish and other refugees was already so desperate that it could no longer be ignored, President Roosevelt set up his War Refugee Board. This was done with a great many noble speeches and without any practical program whatsoever. The board said that it would try to rescue as many refugees as possible from the Nazis and that it would help provide a refuge for the homeless. The inauguration of this agency was happily greeted by many Jewish organizations who saw in it government agency with prestige and power enough to do away with all the red tape that had hampered their own refugee operations during the last five years.

The director of the War Refugee Board, John W. Pehle, appointed by the President himself, issued statements to the effect that conditions were so bad for the Jews of Europe that if something were not done immediately to rescue them, there would be no Jewish people left in Europe. He said another very interesting thing-that it was possible to bring people out of Nazi-occupied countries, implying that it was feasible to set up a sort of underground escape system.

Although there is no publicity to confirm what followed, it is easy to deduce what course the board took in the next few months of its existence. It came up against the same blank wall that the private agencies had met with. If the "democratic" and "humanitarian" countries of the United Nations would not permit refugee immigration within their borders or within the countries under their domination, there was no way that the war victims could be

Palestine to Jewish immigration, and the United States tacitly agreed to the measure. The United States itself will not permit immigration to this country. Great Britain has similar barriers. Australia and Canada, two countries in need of additional population, discuss the question more or less sympathetically but they evidently don't dare come to any conclusion. The South American countries, most of which come within the American "sphere of influence," are opposed to refugee immigration and a few of them are even currently embarked on small-scale anti-Semitic forays. There is, therefore, not a single country in the world where

effect April 1, closing the doors of

For the last few months, the War Refugee Board has kept rather quiet. It took credit for inspiring the warning recently sent by Roosevelt and Churchill to the Nazis to cease persecuting the Jews or else stand ready to be held accountable for their actions after the war is over. And that's where the board's activities seem to end.

FREE PORTS

refugees can go.

Recently, however, a new rescue scheme has come to the forefront. It originated with Samuel Grafton, columnist of the New York Post, and calls for the establishment of "free refugee ports" in the United States. It suggests that army barracks or centers akin to those built for the Japanese can be used for European refugees brought to this country under strict police supervision to insure that they do not try to establish themselves in the country. After the war, these people are to return to their native countries.

The Jewish Labor Committee actively supports this proposal. The

CIO sent a message to the President recommending that it be adopted, and the AFL did the same. A few of the large New York dailies have also endorsed the plan, as did the recent International Labor Office confer-

But there are no signs that the President is seriously considering it. A few of the statements coming from Jewish organizations which

seem to take the wish for the fact, assume that the United States government favors the idea because of certain hints dropped by the War Refugee Board that it considers itself the logical agency to carry out such a plan, if it is adopted. On the other hand, there is a

wealth of evidence to prove that the United Nations do not intend to do anything more about the refugee problem than to render lip service to it. In fact, James G. McDonald, chairman of President Roosevelt's Advisory Committee on Political Refugees, admitted as much. He said recently that the United States, Britain and France had paid only "lip service" to the problem of the victims of Nazi persecution, and that diplomats "are today acting again as if refugee problems were relatively minor matters."

So cynical is the approach to the refugee problem by the governments of the United Nations that it seems as though they are waiting for the Nazis to settle the problem for them -the fewer live refugees there are, the less embarrassing they are to the "humanitarian" authors of the Atlantic Charter.

The demand upon their governments for the removal of all barriers to free and unfettered immigration of refugees must be made and won by the organized workers of the

Socialist Party To Convene--

by the United Nations. There were greetings from dozens of socialists in conscientious objectors' camps. There were greetings from courageous but mistaken socialists who are serving prison terms for their refusal to serve in the Army because of their opposition to the war. Then there was a greeting from one socialist who could not wait for the war before enlisting in the National Guard

All call themselves socialists—all are well-meaning.

One finds greetings from ardent Quakers, ardent co-operators and ardent Social Action Methodists. One also find greetings from two war manufacturers and from at least one trade union bureaucrat who is trusted by less people in the labor movement than is Laval by the French people. Among the other trade unionists the best known are holding jobs by appointment from the topjobs that last as long as the appointees keep quiet about the no-strike pledge and support to Roosevelt.

However, there are other trade unionists in the Socialist Party who are workers from the shop or officers of their locals by vote of their fellow workers. These are generally serious and consistently progressive in their trade union views. The courageous speech of Mark Brown at the recent convention of the Steel Workers Union in opposition to the no-strike pledge, is an example of this. In northern New Jersey, Detroit and a few other places, the Socialist Party contains active unionists, devoted to the working class. However, their progressive activities have little or no relation to their membership in the Socialist Party, with its unbelievable muddle-headedness in matters of program and organization.

NO CLEAR-CUT POSITION

Despite a close reading of the SP "Call," it is extremely difficult to find out where the party stands on any specific question. Usually, it has no position. Try as one will, one is unable to discover what the party position is on the Second International and a perspective for re-uniting the international working class; on the class nature of the Soviet Union; on the nature of the present war; on Russia's role in the war. It has no clear attitude toward the United Nations; toward conscientious objectors and pacifism generally; on how socialism is to be achieved; on the role and functioning of socialists in the labor movement; and on a myriad of other questions.

Not that most of these questions have not been discussed at one time or another in the organization. But the very nature of the party membership is such that a definite position on these questions is impossible to arrive at. Nor does the national executive committee think it important enough to try to establish a party position. Does it perhaps fear that this would lead to splitting the party into six different camps? If the EC were serious about this problem, it would provide a convention agenda that would permit discussion and decision.

THE CONVENTION AGENDA

The agenda of the forthcoming Reading convention provides time for everything: a keynote speech; a welcome speech; election of eight different committees (six of which will never complete their work or find time for a report to the convention); a report by the national secretary on the state of the party (all in thirty minutes!); messages and greetings from fraternal delegates; a public meeting; nominations of party candidates and acceptance speeches; and sundries sandwiched in. Where, in the midst of this busy three-day agenda, the delegates will get down to serious discussions of what the Socialist Party stands for these days

and where it is going, is a mystery! These questions will, as usual, be referred to the incoming NEC. Here they will lie dormant for the next year. A discussion will go on in the ranks, desultory or lively, depending on the locality and the critical nature of the problem. However, the party will have no position.

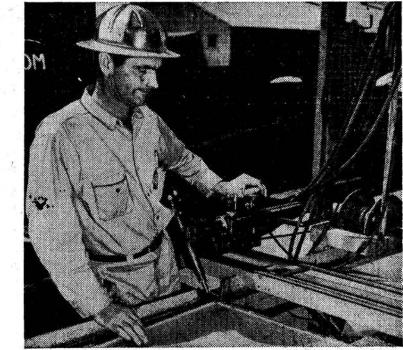
Meanwhile, its public position will, as always, be stated by Norman Thomas without consulting the party (speaking as "an individual," of course). Many of the left-wingers will grumble and be dissatisfied. They will make threats about caucuses and internal bulletins and electing a "left wing" NEC next time. Thus it has been for these many years. It seems to have gotten into the blood of the party. Neither the virtue and wisdom of the gods nor the designs and Machiavellian maneuvers of the evil spirits can ever make this party anything else than it is.

And just what it is, is hard to say. What it is not comes more easily. It is not a Marxist party. It is not working-class in its composition. It is not socialist, except in the broadest meaning of the term. It is not a class-struggle party. It is not a genuine internationalist party. It is not clear about what it wants or how to get it. It is not disciplined in action.

What have we left? The SP definitely is composed of nice people with good intentions. Within it throbs a great heart that encompasses all 'good causes"-no matter how contradictory and confused—that aim at uplifting mankind. But that is not

Worker by Brain and Brawn

(Continued from page 1)



L. C. Lightner, Metal Worker, Devises Scheme to Save Time

FOR A NEW WORLD

Here's Proof That Labor Can Rely On Itself

By NANCY NATHAN

Jimmy Durante, popular comedian, has a gag that always brings laughs. "Everybody wants to get into the act," he explodes, as one of his show people, impersonating some crackpot, horns in on the jovial proceedings of his radio show.

Well, everybody has a new world to offer these days-including every crackpot. Everybody wants to horn in on fixing up the old world-which indeed needs plenty of fixing. And, important to note, most of the fixersfrom the capitalist politicians in high places to the well-meaning liberals who want to reform the capitalist politicians-aren't too definite about what will constitute their new world.

SOMETHING DEFINITE

Readers of LABOR ACTION and sympathizers of the Workers Party know that whatever else our faults may be, indefiniteness about the kind of new world we stand for is not one of them. We stand for a socialist world based on a brand new arrangement of production. Instead of capitalist private ownership of industry, we want government ownership of industry-BUT A SPECIAL KIND OF GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, NAMELY, WORKERS' GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Another feature of our new world is that THE WORKERS THEMSELVES will control industry and production under this workers' government. The workers, through their democratically elected committees responsible to the workers and subject to recall by them, will run their plants. This is the basic scheme, to mesh in with a nationally worked out plan of production of consumer goods and public works to serve nothing else but the needs of

the population for necessities and luxuries of life. LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party have proved again and again that without this new production basis there can be no new world-for any scheme that leaves the capitalist profit-grubbers in possession of industry, LEAVE ALSO THE CAUSE OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, INSECU-

RITY AND WAR. CAN WE DO IT?

That sounds okay and like elementary common sense to masses of workers, but they have a mental reservation growing out of lack of self-confidence. Can we do it? they wonder. This new socialist world means that we, the workers, take over the job of running the government and controlling production. Can we do it?

In this column, which discusses the need for a new social system, we have shown how working men have risen from the ranks to high places in their unions, and now have as much knowledge and know-how about national afairs as it is possible for any man or w

There is Reuther of the Auto Workers Union, whose scheme for converting the automobile industry from peace to war production was so outstanding and comprehensive a piece of planning that the capitalists quickly buried it for fear that the country might get the idea that a labor man knows more than the capitalists.

Then there is Golden of the Steel Workers Union, a man who knows so much about the steel industry in all its ramifications and in all its relations to industry as a whole, that he is constantly offered high-paying jobs by the

Neither of these labor men, to be sure, is guided by the goal of a new socialist world; they believe in collaborating with the capitalists-even in this imperialist war. But such knowledge and know-how exists in the ranks of labor-ready to be converted from capitalist production to socialist produc-

But workers still remain hesitant. After all, these are top labor men. How many are there, anyway? What do the rank and file workers know about production as a whole? Could they really carry out the socialist idea of workers' control of industry?

THE ANSWER IS: "YES!"

For all these doubts and misgivings, there are absolutely no grounds! The real abilities of rank and file workers in the field of production have never yet been fully released. It is the aim of the capitalist system to keep the workers in the minor role of working stiffs, and nothing more. But whenever the workers get a chance to show their real stuff, they come acrossand good!

At the head of this column is the picture of L. C. Lightner, worker at the Consolidated Steel Corp., Wilmington, Cal. Lightner is a ship fitter, a member of the Metal Trades Council. He is one of the many workers who received honorable awards in the war production drive. He made a suggestion which saves many hundreds of hours in fitting the ships built at Consolidated.

It will, we're afraid, never be fully known to what extent the rank and file worker contributed not only his brawn but his brain to accomplish the feat of American war production. The labor-management committees, primarily organized as a speed-up device, also became a grab-bag for workers' suggestions—sometimes acknowledged; often not acknowledged, but used just

In March of this year there was an exhibit in Washington in the Department of Commerce auditorium. It was arranged to show the value of workers' suggestions in production. Awards were given to workers from greatly diversified industries.

"MILLIONS OF IDEAS" Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, spoke on this

occasion. He said "MILLIONS OF IDEAS HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERED BY "The tens of thousands that have been studied, accepted and put into practice have saved untold millions of man-hours, have conserved vital ma-

terials and have sped the weapons of war ever faster to our fighting men." We all know that the capitalists have been the chief beneficiaries of the ideas submitted by the workers-their huge war profits are the evidence. We know that the workers' "reward" has been the wage freeze-at a point far below the rise in the cost of living. We know that the products turned out better and more quickly because of workers' ideas, have been used to settle the disputes of international imperialists through the medium of this most

BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE RANK AND FILE OF WORKING MEN AND WOMEN HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW IN PRO-DUCTION.

ONLY A TOKEN

This demonstration of their ability is only a token of what they could really do when they are no longer the underdogs of the production process -when the industries are owned by a workers' government-when industrial management and production planning is the job of the workers them-

The workers have every pason for confidence in themselves. They can stand on their own feet-without the "support" of capitalists, their politicians and the well-meaning liberal hangers-on. They have what it takes to build the socialist world-WHICH IS THE ONLY KIND THAT CAN REALLY BE

A Brewster Worker Tells the Story --

(Continued from page 1)

Many union leaders have predicted, from their intimate knowledge of production, that from twenty to twenty-five million workers, at a minimum, will enter the ranks of the unemployed at the close of the war, because the so-called "captains of industry" have found themselves in-

capable of planning production. Congress has already considered legislation to compensate the industrial barons for any loss they may encounter. Congress rejected, however, the Kilgore amendment, which -while not adequate-would do at least something to take care of workers during the period when their present jobs ended and they were being forced to wait for new ones.

THE UNION'S PROBLEMS

workers.

What now? every Brewster worker asks himself. Today, as they are thrown out of work, there has been no provision to tide them over until they can secure new jobs. That is why the trade union movement and Local 365 in particular has seriously demanded severance pay for laid-off

The question of severance pay for Brewster workers is now before the WLB for consideration. The union would be wise to demand that the company give that severance pay NOW when the workers are being thrown out on the streets. Let the company pay off now-not wait for the dilly-dallying WLB decision to pay tomorrow-for it is today that the laid-off workers need the money.

continue to fight for jobs for its members. Whether in the form of a new contract for the manufacture of airplanes, or for the manufacture of any other goods, the men and women of Brewster want and must have work. Every effort must be made to get that work for them.

The local and the international union have the duty and task of aiding their laid-off members by representing them in obtaining work at decent wages wherever they can. A UNIT OF UNEMPLOYED BREW-STER WORKERS SHOULD BE FORMED WITH THIS SOLE TASK.

More than just that. It is up to every member of Local 365 to consider social legislation to take care of Brewster workers who are laid

The union has fought and must off, and every other man and woman who is laid off in the near future when layoffs occur in every shop in every part of the nation. Labor must obtain the thirty-hour

week today at no reduction in pay, to provide more work in the post-war Labor must also demand a mini-

mum annual wage for all workers.

India in Revolt By Henry Judd

25 Cents Postpaid WORKERS PARTY 114 W. 14, New York 11, N. Y.