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LABOR ACTION

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ONE CENT

JUNE 19, 1944

**CONGRESS RIPS UP PRICE ACT** 

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

# Ward Union Faces **New Avery Fight**

#### By T. R. COBB

Sewell Avery, sixty-nine-year-old chairman of Montgomery Ward, flanked by a small army of attorneys and assorted stooges, paraded into the hearings of a special House investigating committee last week like a conquering hero, tricked the union representatives at the hearings into a fantastic debate on the merits of the War Labor Board and left Washington in "a blaze of glory," confident that he had won another round in his battle against his 78,000 employees.

Shrewdly turning the hearings into an anti-labor circus. Avery ditched his "I'm for unions but against the closed shop" routine and switched into the raucous song and dance of rabid, anti-union reaction. He attacked the labor movement as a "racket," swiped Pegler's pet word to decribe its leaders as "unioneers" and complained bitterly that the government (which aided him even to the extent of handing back his plant to him before a single issue was settled) was a "dictatorship."

While Avery took the offensive, union representatives confined themselves to a recitation of the facts in the case. Samuel Wolchok, president of the CIO Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees, testified that Ward's, which show a \$20,000,000 profit last year, has slugged it out with the union all the way down the line, dragging it into over one hundred cases before the NLRB and the WLB, fighting five of the cases in federal courts.

#### UNION GRIEVANCES MANY

As Walter Weiss pointed out in last week's LABOR ACTION, the union has a long list of "unfinished business" to struggle with since the much ballyhooed but fraudulent "seizure" of the Ward properties by the government.

It has one hundred and fifty grievances placed against the company which still remain unsettled. The twenty-two members of the union who were dismissed while the plant was in government hands have not returned to the company's payrolls. Even as the flag of the United States flew over the Ward plant, company officials were carrying out their policies of firing and intimidating union militants. Avery, despite his anti-New Deal blasts, ought to get down on his knees and thank Roosevelt and Biddle to the heavens. Their farcical

seizure and subsequent withdrawal of the Army from the Chicago Ward plant merely, gave Avery the opportunity to marshall all his forces for a final assault on the union.

The reactionary press, ever on the side of the "underdog," trotted out the figure of noble Sewell Avery as a martyr of "free enterprise." Then the hate-labor watchdogs in Congress started their familiar howling and arranged a special investigation into the Ward "seizure."

#### THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

One fact, clearer than all the others in the case, now stands out in bold. relief. The government went in as a strike-breaker in the Ward case and emerged successful in its efforts. Biddle's brief, which justified the seizure on the grounds that Ward was a company engaged in war work, was a double-edged weapon which was used to its most devastating purpose against the union!

After winning the election by an overwhelming majority, the union finds itself in a worse position than it did before it struck for its rights! Now it is enmeshed in the strangulating coils of WLB procedure, hav-, ing accepted both the powers and the "legitimacy" of the Board's and Biddle's rulings. It must once again turn to "Savior of Labor" Roosevelt for presidential order-a distinct unlikelihood at this stage of the fourth term campaign.

Avery's political advisers in the boards of directors of leading corporations must have given him some priceless savvy for him to be putting on the kind of show he has. They must have told him, with complete accuracy, that Roosevelt will now yield to any kind of stiff fight on the part of big business. If Roosevelt ventures another "seizure" it would only serve to speed up the wheels of the merry-go-round

A résumé of the whole Ward case leads us to believe that Roosevelt will repeat his "plague on both your houses" policy as he did in the Little Why Labor Needs A Party of Its Own!



## Labor Must Prepare Now to **Block Price Gougers at Capital**

(Since the Allied landings on the Normandy coast, few people are aware that a perhaps equally serious invasion was taking place on the home front-an invasion that will deeply affect the worker-soldiers who will return from "over there" as well as the millions of workers and farmers and their children who are now bearing the economic brunt of the war. In contrast to the deliberate concealment of these facts by the capitalist press under countless reams of invasion copy, we received the following article, written in the form of a military communique.—Editor.)

Under the convenient cover of the European invasion, profithungry manufacturers, big farmers, landlords, and their mouthpieces in Congress rolled up their vast offensive weapons on the beachheads of Washington, D. C., last week and let loose a shattering barrage against the living standards of the American people.

### **High Court Frees** Fascists; Refuses to **Review Labor Case**

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George Novack, secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, has issued the following statement:

"The rulings just handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, setting aside the convictions in the Hartzel and Baumgartner cases, stand in glaring contrast to the refusal of these same justices in December, 1943, even to consider the appeal of the eighteen CIO truck drivers and Socialist Workers Party leaders in the Minneapolis Labor Case. Although Hartzel and Baumgartner were convicted under the espionage act of 1917, and the eighteen union and Trotskyist leaders were convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act of 1940, these cases involve nothing but utterances, although of a diametrically opposite political character. The former were avowedly pro-fascist while the Minneapolis defendants are Marxist and

pro-labor. "In the Hartzel-Baumgartner cases

The profiteers, in the uniforms of "Democrats" and "Republicans," attacked on a wide front, finally centering their main blows against an already lifeless OPA line, winning price increase after price increase at the expense of their enemy, the workers, farmhands and white collar "slaves" of the United States, who make up the overwhelming majority of the consumer army.

Leading the frontal assault was Senator Bankhead, Alabama polltaxer, who rammed through an increase on the price of cotton textiles, which will boost the cost of work clothes, children's garments and all cheaper lines of cotton goods by an estimated twenty per cent. This consolidates previous victories of the textile manufacturers, who have raked in fabulous profits since hostilities against the cost of living first began. They have realized nine times the profit they made in 1939.

The success of these operations by the cotton capitalists led the last remaining oppositonists in the OPA-to predict that every vested interest in the country would now bring up its mobile units to carry out annihilating raids on the few vestiges of "price control" in the nation.

OTHER AMENDMENTS

iteers.

Steel strike of 1937, which in an unequal struggle of the union against both the government and the Ward company means utter defeat for the union and a complete victory for management.

While the WLB voted eight to one in favor of ordering an extension of the terms in the old Ward contract, pending negotiation of a new one, (Continued on page 2)

# **Calls For Action** In Tresca Murder

BOSTON, June 7-Pointed questions about the Carlo Tresca murder case, unsolved after sixteen months, are put up to Mayor La Guardia of New York City in an open letter published here today in The Countercurrent, anti-fascist monthly.

Spread across a page and signed by Aldino Felicani, associate editor of that paper, the letter is headed: "WHAT ABOUT THE TRESCA CASE? Are Dark Forces Shielding the Guilty?" Because the Mayor was known as a friend of Tresca, editor of the radical Italian-language journal, Il Martello (The Hammer), Felicani voices surprise at finding in the news reports' of his murder "scant evidence of concern" by Mr. La Guardia.

Tresca was shot down in the New York dimout on January 11, 1943. District Attorney Hogan has been asked at different times to investigate possible implication of fascists, ex-fascists and communists. The Countercurrent editor's letter hints that Mr. Hogan's office may not have gone far enough in its inquiry along these lines, and urges action by Mayor La Guardia.

"The special circumstances of Tresca's life as a crusading editor and his death at the hands of an assassin," Felicani declares in that communication, "indicates that this killing was a political crime, with international factors....

"Many members of the labor movement in New York City and Boston, and many liberals in both cities who knew Carlo Tresca personally or who were familiar with his militant activ-

ities against totalitarianism, are asking questions pertinent now:

"Have the clues in this case been investigated to the utmost detail? "Is the course of justice being obstructed by the same dark forces which hired Carlo Tresca's assassin? "Is there some political reason why the Tresca mystery has not been

solved? "Would it complicate our international relations, or embarrass anyone in the coming election campaign, if the forces which inspired that murder were revealed at this time?...

"In view of the persistent stories of conflict between the District Attorney's office and the police in the Tresca case, you could, and in all justice you should, make certain that the police department conduct its own complete investigation of every lead to evidence in that affair.

"We suggest that if that department interviewed carefully all persons known to have been close to Carlo Tresca, and in a position to know about those whom he regarded as his enemies, it might run into some illuminating facts that the District Attorney's office ... has not brought to light.

"You, as chief executive of the City of New York, have potent resources at your command. You could perform a shining public service as well as an obvious duty if you would use those resources to identify and apprehend Tresca's assassin and those who instigated that killing."

Felicani, too, was Tresca's friend and associated with him particularly in the long fight to save Sacco and Vanzetti from the electric chair.

### Longshoreman Sends An Open Letter **On Harry Bridges' New Scab Policy**

#### San Pedro, June 6, 1944.

Dear Harry Bridges:

I see you have finally gone and done it now-a permanent honeymoon with the shipowners. I kind of thought you were working up to it with the way you have been behaving in the past few years.

You remember the good old days of the "Yanks Are Not Coming" when you were calling the shipowners a bunch of war-mongering skunks.

First: You pushed through your famous "Bridges Plan" setting up the Maritime Industry Board and giving them the POWER TO SUPERSEDE OUR CONTRACT. Remember the picket lines it cost to get that contract?

Second: Twice when the contract came up for renewal you failed to ask for a wage raise. Shipyard workers, miners, steel workers and even aircraft workers have all gotten raises. But what about us?

Third: Bou fanatically supported the no-strike pledge and opposed all work stoppages without consulting the membership. Fortunately for the union, the rank and file has better sense and has not hesitated to take job action when conditions were threatened. We would still be arbitrating over the ten cents an hour penalty on cement if we hadn't refused to work without penalty.

Fourth: You came out for the national labor draft. Again without consulting the membership. Even Willie Green of the AFL was opposed to it along with the entire CIO.

Recently I see where you and your international lique opposed the Chicago Montgomery Ward strike. How de you like the victory the workers won by not following your advice?

Now you want to end all strikes forever. Just because you have had a softening of the brain, do you

think the shipowners are suffering from the same disease? Maybe you think you can get them to outlaw all layoffs, wage cuts and CHISELING ON CONDI-TIONS, or aren't you interested?

I see by the latest issue of The Dispatcher where you are kind of worried about those "terrible Trotskyites." Could it be that they remember what a union is for?

Remember when Hearst called the whole union "communist" for fighting the shipowners? Now you are showing Willie a few tricks. But whether we were called "communists" in the past or "Trotskyites" today, we are still going to fight for our union.

It would seem from your record, these Trotskyites have got you pegged. They say you are more interested in carrying out Uncle Joe Stalin's orders than in maintaining conditions on the waterfront. Even Dorothy Thompson observes the reaction to your proposals. She says the leading labor leaders of both the CIO and AFL see in your proposal: "A Moscow line of conservatism; of abandoning the right of labor to raise wages and improve working conditions in behalf of a better understanding between the United tates and the Soviet Union. They believe that labor without the right to strike will be impotent." Say, Harry, Dorothy Thompson a Trotskyite, too?

Well, Bridges, what can we expect next? While we still have a union left, I think it's about time we gave you a dose of the same medicine you once helped give to Joe Ryan-a swift kick in the pants. We don't all hold pie-card jobs. Some of us still have to work on the waterfront to make a living. And WE EX-PECT TO WORK ON THE WATERFRONT UNDER UNION CONDITIONS.

(Signed) A Longshoreman.

involving anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi views and utterances, the Supreme Court has upset the lower court's verdict of 'guilty.' Yet it has three times refused to hear our appeal in the Minneapolis Labor Case, which concerns the prosecution of CIO members and Socialist Workers Party leaders for their working class activities and revolutionary socialist opinions

"What other conclusion can be drawn from these different decisions of the U.. Supreme Court except this? According to the majority of the justices, it is deemed permissible to disseminate race hatred and Hitlerite propaganda while it is a crime to propagate the ideas of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, or to exercise free speech in defense of the democratic rights of labor.

"This latest action of the Supreme Court accentuates the injustice committed against the eighteen CIO and **Bocialist Workers Party leaders now** serving twelve to sixteen month prison terms as the first victims of the vicious Smith "Gag" Act. Our committee is appealing to President Roosevelt to rectify their injustice by pardoning the eighteen.

"Already almost three hundred labor bodies representing over a million and a half American workers, have backed our fight to free the eighteen. Among them, are such international unions as the United Textile Workers of America, CIQ; United Transport Service Employees, CIO; United Retail, Wholesale & Department tore Employees, CIO; and the International Ladies Garment Union.

Forces led by Senator A. B. Chandler (D., Ky.) and Senator Sinclair Weeks (R., Mass.) threw down a huge smokescreen for the big retail and department store interests by pushing through an amendment setting up "ignorance of price regulations" as a valid defense for violators. This maneuver, viewed objectively, will make enforcement of ceilings more ludicrous than previously and will leave the American consumer to the tender mercies of chiseling prof-

While the Senate was running roughshod over these sham governmental "defenses," a real estate lobby threw in a well-heeled division against rent controls, pressing for an additional ten per cent increase over the helpless tenants. The landlords are flush and cocky from having achieved an almost complete curtailment of services, repainting and improvements, not to mention an eighty per cent boost in the rental price of bungalows and cabins at summer resorts.

Not content with having skyrocketed in the Senate the cost of living, the profiteers sent in reinforcements of "Democrats" and "Republicans" into the House of Representatives. where these forces laid crippling booby traps.

An amendment sponsored by Rep. Dirksen (R., ll.) and passed by the House jammed open the courts to validity tests of the whole "price control" set-up. This virtually sealed the doom of even partial enforcement as it provides the profit-chiselers with (Continued on page 2)

# **Mass Meeting Supports Minneapolis Appeal**

Between four and five hundred workers gathered at Hotel Diplomat on Thursday, June 8, for the meeting of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, called in behalf of the im-

prisoned defendants in the now celebrated Minneapolis case. Speakers at the meeting included Thomas De Lorenzo, president of

UAW-CIO Local 365 (Brewster); Brother Bruchter, representing Samuel Wolchok, president of the United Retail, Wholesale & Department Store Employees international; Roger Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Norman Thomas,

presidenial candidate for the socialist Party: Daniel Bell, associate editor of the New Leader, and Albert Gates. editor of LABOR ACTION. George Novak, national secretary of the CRDC, was the principal speaker, making a report on histcoast to coast tour in behalf of the Minneapolis defendants.

The meeting was opened by Chairman George Baldanzi, executive vice-president of the Textile Workers Union of America.

All the speakers dealt with the Minneapolis case and its many-sided importance to the whole labor move-

ment. Taken together, their speeches were a summary of the case itself, revealing how Daniel Tobin obtained assistance of the Administration in Washington to get rid of his opponents in the famous Local 544 of the Teamsters Union. Having failed to oust the militant unionists in a fair and square union tussle, he went to the Administration to invoke the aid of the President and the FBI.

Out of this union fight arose the Minneapolis case, in which eighteen leaders of the Teamsters Union, which went over to the CIO, and the Socialist Workers Party, were sen-

tenced to prison, some for twelve months and others for eighteen months. They were convicted under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act of 1940, an unconstitutional action and in violation of the Bill of Rights.

The aforementioned speakers all pointed out how the Smith Act could be used against any and all sections of the labor movement, especially since the Supreme Court has three times refused to review the Minne-

apolis case. The Communist Party and Daily Worker came in for sharp denunciation by all the speakers for their miserable role in the early days of the case and their agitation now to keep the men in jail. Baldwin pointed out that the Smith Act was adopted originally as a measure against the American Stalinists. This was in the days of the Hitler-Stalin past. Only a change in line saved hem from the severest persecution under the bill. Now they are the most active supporters of the bill, he stated. Gates pointed out that the real significance of the case could be determined by the attitude of the Daily Worker and made reference to the

(Continued on page 4)

#### Page 2

#### LABOR ACTION



"Across these Pennsylvania hills there is a great body of men and women who, due to the selfishness of their own ill-advised and greedy leaders, sit-in in one of the citadels that must be stormed by the forces of their own consciences and patriotic thinking if the war effort is to proceed on schedule and faith be kept with our war dead."

These words were spoken about the men and women who "stayed in" at the Brewster plant in Hatboro, Pa., on Memorial Day to work in an attempt to save their jobs.

They were spoken at a Memorial Day ceremony of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Doylestown, near Hatboro. The speaker who spoke them was a certain Lieut.-Comdr. Earl Estes of the Navy. His words were prominently displayed on the front page of the New York Times right next to the news story about Brewster.

Estes also advised the Brewster workers to "hit the sawdust trail which leads to the mourners' bench, where they can purge their hearts and minds of the very selfishness which, whether true or not, many of our fighting men believe motivates similar actions."

Many of these "selfish" men and women at Brewster were working for nothing on Memorial Day, a holiday, while Estes was standing out in the sunshine talking to an audience of small business men and lawyers who were taking the day off.

#### BEHIND HIS UNIFORM

Who is this man Estes? Would his remarks hit the front pages of the big papers if he did not wear the Navy uniform?

#### Of course not.

Because when Estes comes out from hiding behind the uniform we see at once the reason for his hatred of working people who fight for their rights.

In private life Estes is a big Texas oil man and newspaper publisher. No wonder, you say. Of course, no

wonder. The New York Times headline says: "Navy Officer Scores 'Sit-In' Selfishness.

What if the New York Times had been honest (which is really impossible for a capitalist paper)? It would have said: "Texas Oil Man and Publisher Scores 'Sit-In' Selfishness."

But that would impress no one. That's hardly news. What else would one expect from an oil man and publisher?

It is expected that an oil man and publisher will stand in class solidarity with the rest of the capitalist class against the demands of labor. Just as it is expected that a worker who has a brain will stand in class solidarity with the rest of the working class in struggle against capital.

Therefore, it is necessary for Estes to speak as a Navy man. Therefore, it is necessary for Estes to pretend

By C. T. WOLF Throwing overboard their own suicidal no-strike pledge and defying the labor-wrecking Smith - Connally Act, the San Francisco headquarters branch of the Sailors Union of the Pacific (SUP) recently gave out with a war cry of "Hit the Bricks" that summoned to seamen's minds fond memories of the militant days of 1934, 1936 and 1937. "Hit, the Bricks," in sailors' language, means "strike," and that's what these merchant seamen, crowding the SUP hall, unanimously proclaimed to the government Maritime War Emergency Board (MWEB) and the shipowners as the only alternative should

their secretary, Harry Lundeberg, return from Washington without favorable action on the full restitution of the seamen's war risk pay cuts. Returning from long and danger-

ous trips into combat zones, running the combined enemy activity of submarines, planes and mines, and surviving the increasing breaking-up in mid-ocean of Liberty ships, these militant merchant seamen declared the "heat was on" when they found their bonus was cut by from 33 to 70 per cent in the major waters latticed by American vessels.

In New York, too, an excited and defiant assemblage of scattered groups of seamen about the hall of the SUP gave vent to their anger at the brazen and illegal attempt of the shipowners, the government and the Stalinist - controlled National Maritime Union (NMU), arbitrarily cutting of the sailor's payoffs.

#### BUNK ABOUT HIGH WAGES

As various CIO and AFL unions began throwing their support behind the sailors and their international, the Seafarers International Union (SIU), AFL, the facts of the case became apparent to all seamen and the justification of their beef. As the submarine activity increases (the figures for torpedoings for March are much greater than for February), the government matches every increase of sinkings with a decrease in sailors' wages. In April, after having cut the war bonus twice, the WMEB cut the

age for the sailors plying combat bonus a third time, making their pay so substandard that the sailors finally areas.

'Hit the Bricks'--Sailors Vote to Strike!

revolted Although almost every shoreside worker has received a wage increase since the commencement of this Second World War and the cost of living has skyrocketed above and beyond the means of peacetime incomes, the merchant seamen, these "heroes in dungarees," have received no wage increase since Pearl Harbor. The only manner in which the seamen

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

It took quite a struggle and a minor strike on the part of the militant seamen to even get this meager handout. When in December, 1941, a mediatory board was voluntarily created by the unions and the shipowners to settle any war risk dispute between them and it was okayed by Roosevelt, the sailors had to buck up against a new obstacle.

This board, the Maritime War

## NMU Rings Cash Register for CP

Are the officers and pie-card artists of the National Maritime Union partial to the treasury of the Communist Party?

"Perish forbid!" as Archy, of Duffy's Tavern, would exclaim.

"Red-baiters!" as Joe (No-Coffee-Time) Curran, NMU president, would scream.

But if the hard-working merchant seaman, who pays his dues to the NMU for the purpose of obtaining better working conditions, would take a gander at the swindle sheet of his "union" he would "take the deep six," which in the parlance of the sea means he would dump the Stalinist Jonahs overboard.

A list of expenditures by the NMU during the past four years, as published in he "Great Lakes Seafarer," official organ of the Seafarers International Union, AFL, pays tribute to the magnanimity wih which Curran & Co. dish out their members' dough.

Earl Browder Fund	\$43,000
Harry Bridges Fund	
NMU Subsidy to the Daily Worker for five mon	nths
at \$18,000 per month	90,000
Abraham Lincoln Brigade (AFTER the Spanish	Civil
War)	
Russian Relief Fund	76,000
There are other "minor contributions" which bring	g the grand total
up to \$432,829.	
P.SThe NMU has no money to fight the bonus	s slashers of the

Maritime War Emergency Board.

P.P.S.-The NMU has no money to fight for a basic pay increase for sailors, who haven't received one since peacetime.

could face the cost of living ashore was in the form of a risk bonus. If a sailor risked his life in defectively built ships in war zones with inadequate protection and returned, then he would receive an approximate BONUS OF ONE HUNDRED PER CENT of his peacetime pay. This bonus and wage combined amounted to about \$200 a month on the aver-

Emergency Board, finding no dispute lodged with them, brazenly ignored the limitations of their statement of principles and exercised on their authority decrees reducing the meager pay of the seamen.

The fact that these unauthorized cuts were recognized and unwillingly accepted by the sailors is due in great measure to the bloc of the ship-

owners and the Stalinist NMU. (Curran, of the NMU, stated before the

June 6 meeting of the MWEB that the cut of the bonus was a trivial matter and his organization, the NMU, was not concerned with the restoration of the bonus for seamen.) A wage increase would not only be highly desirable but is a necessity for

#### SAILORS FIGHTING BACK

The NMU collusion with the shipowners has not only brought government pay cuts to the seamen but it has also brought the active participation of AFL prexy William Green and AFL General Counsel Padway in behalf of the SUP-SIU. Leveling their attack both on the NMU and the government MWEB, they attacked the legality of the board's extra-legal actions and demanded the restitution of the bonus cut. The seamen officers' unions, the Master, Mates & Pilots Association, AFL, and the Marine Engineers Benevolent Association, CIO, have also backed the SUP-SIU attack on the MWEB. The Greater Detroit and Wayne County CIO Council as well as the AFL Longshoremens Union protested the "reduction of the seamen's present low wage scale." Everything is set. Whether these rumblings will culminate into a militant display of the strength and determination of these men for redress of their grievances with a picket line, or whether it will be just another "jaw-beef," depends largely on how the SUP-SIU members effectively bring pressure on their union leaders to comply with their voted decisions. Since the issuance of their threat-

ened strike vote, there has been a meeting and a rejoinder from the government MWEB on the SUP demand to rescind the bonus cut. The government MWEB has answered the sailors' demand with an emphatic "No!" From the report of the MWEB meeting, the sailors must savvy by now that Lundeberg has returned from Washington without even the slightest restitution of the bonus cut and from now on it's squarely up to themselves to carry on in the spirit of their own "Hit the Bricks" vote.

### The Ghosts Return

Another illustration comes from a sure the maintenance of order, the New York Times correspondent's story from Italy: "The AMG officers must seek the cooperation of town officials and while as a rule the official is of the Fascist Party, he is allowed to perform his usual duties under AMG supervision. . . . At all events, even the old order is considered better than no order at all."

WORLD EVENTS

By Europacus

old liberals and reformist socialists

were taken out of the moth balls

and again put into power. This new

cabinet is among the most curious

political phenomena of recent years.

who left the scene after the victory

of fascism staging all over again the

same play which they enacted more

than twenty years ago. Here are the

ministers of the Giolitti cabinet who,

after Mussolini's victory, simply dis-

appeared without ever making at-

tempts to resist. Here are those who

sat in Giolitti's cabinet when he made

a deal with Mussolini in 1920, think-

ing that he would be able to use

Mussolini against D'Annunzio. Here

is Bonomi, the reformist socialist,

who had been excluded from the Ital-

ian Socialist Party before the First

World War because he favored the

imperialist expansion of Italy in

North Africa. Here they are, all hap-

pily together again. One would have

expected to see them together in a

wax figure cabinet, but certainly not

The ghosts return-but life will

hardly be easy for these ghosts on

the real earth of Italy. The Italian

masses in the North will hardly tol-

erate these representatives of a "new

Italy" with an average age of sixty-

five. The Bonomi cabinet is a comic

interlude in the grand drama of the

Italian Revolution which started a

year ago. But it is only an interlude.

Only with terror can these venerable

gentlemen look to the day when the

to speak kindly words about Spain.

... The internal matters of Spain are

a matter for Spaniards themselves.

... We will not allow any form of

fascism in any country with which

cism is quite okay as long as it will

go along with us, says Churchill. As

a matter of fact, Stalin's Russia, where

"the discipline and military etiquette

are unsurpassed," is all right too-as

long as the vital sea lanes of the

British Empire are safeguarded. In-

deed, "the war has become less ideo-

we have been at war." Spanish fas-

in a government in 1944.

Here are the very same people

The Badoglio regime found a swift and rather inglorious end. Shortly after the fall of Rome, Badoglio tried to reform his cabinet and include some of the liberal leaders who had remained in Rome...but was faced with the ugly realization that nobody any longer wanted to go along with him ..... except the Stalinists, who supported him loyally till the end. All-liberals and socialists declared that the new cabinet could not include any former fascists.

Why this sudden outburst of energy and courage on the part of those who had been quite obedient in Naples? The explanation is easy. The atmosphere among the masses of Rome was evidently such that all felt that a new Badoglio government would not have the slightest chance of survival. What had been possible in the politically backward South of Italy was not longer feasible in the capital. It might be said, in addition, that what is still possible in Rome will not be acceptable in the industrial north, where the large working masses with strong socialist tendencies are concentrated.

Since Badoglio could no longer workers of Turin and Milan will be serve, since he could no longer inable to have their say.

### This Anti-Fascist War

There is nothing more refreshing from time to time than a Churchill speech. Here at least is a man who no longer feels the need of making any fuss about the character of the war. Do not count on him for pious phrases and high-sounding declarations. No wonder that our liberal press was shocked like an old spinster who suddenly realizes that the adored knight in shining armor wears rather dirty underwear.

Says Churchill: "As this war has progressed, it has become less ideological in character. I am here today

# THE BOX-SCORE

logical."

is not only to reason why, but shipyard worker in San Pedro is also to carp and cry, here writes that instead of taking a comes our corny custodian of vitamin pill a day to keep himthe "press corner" with one of self physically and mentally on his most plasma-curdling com- the beam, he gets a LABOR ACplaints of the season. It's only the latter part of June, yet it takes no Detective Hawkshaw to tell us that many of our friends are taking a premature breather. If the heat isn't bothering them, the humiliation should. (And if you don't care for this corn, brothers and sisters, you can heave a bushelful of LABOR ACTION subs at

Going on the theory that ours obtaining new subscriptions. A TION sub a day. The feeling of

pride and achievement it gives

him is amazing, and he recom-

mends the practice to every

How many of our sharp-

shooters have the audacity to

set their sights on such a goal?

**ONE SUB A DAY!** Think what

that would mean if only a

HANDFUL of men and women

reader of the paper.

# **Cutbacks Force Change to Worse Jobs**

#### By JIMMIE LITTLE

The cut-backs in war contracts are increasing. The pressure is now being applied to force women back to the routine, low-paid jobs as much as possible. On every hand the factories are suddenly finding it convenient to transfer women from the skilled jobs such as shaper operator, milling machine operator, etc., to such semi-skilled jobs as drill press operators, band saw operators, etc. In many instances the transfers are to assembly work of the simplest kind, such as the girl whose job it derous lie that women are only trainis to tighten the third and fifth nut

against the rotten schemes of the bosses must be fought over and over, again and again, but the facts of what is involved in this latest anti-union drive are not clear to the women workers. The main theme upon which they will attempt to cut wages will be the cry that women are not worth as much as men, even when the same amount of work of the same pens. quality is being produced by them. The record of the women workers during the past two years belies this type of slander and also the slan-

hire a woman to do the routine work formerly done by the male worker. The woman who originally quit the job. after diligently searching for the same type of work (for which she is well trained), finally has to accept something not quite so good, "temporarily, of course," until something better come up-which rarely hap-

Many will quit work for good. But meager savings are used up fast and soon they will return to the labor market. Again it is to the routine, unskilled work that the woman

woman was receiving. In turn he will many places in the country be expanded to properly care for the children twenty-four hours a day, if necessary. It was practical to establish the child care centers to produce for war. Is it not just as important to expand them for peace?

The woman worker will also demand that she be treated as an equal in the shop when advancement to higher paid jobs is open. She will only be able to win these demands if she does not shirk her responsibilities to her union. It is her duty to get into a union-not as just a card-bearing member, but actively-

to speak for "our fighting men."

#### VOICE OF BIG BUSINESS

Does Estes speak in behalf of the oil workers of Texas who are now serving in the armed forces?

Estes and his former employees now wear the same uniform but that does not make their interests the same Estes will come back after the war and still be an oil man and publisher. If times are bad, he will shut down his oil wells and go to Palm Beach. His workers will go on relief.

The armed forces, we must remember, have within them the same people who make up the population. We find all classes of people represented. Estes leaves his desk and becomes an officer. John Jones leaves the oil Defies Boards derrick and becomes G. I. Jones.

From Estes' speech we see that he still thinks and talks like a laborhating capitalist. The uniform only serves as camouflage.

But what about G. I. Jones? Does he still think and talk like a union man?

Estes would like to have us believe that he speaks for "our fighting men." Estes would like G. I. Jones to believe that the working people are his enemies. Estes, the capitalist in uniform, would like to pit the workers in uniform against their brothers and fathers at home. Estes would like to hand out his capitalist propaganda as coming from the ten million men in uniform.

#### LABOR MUST REPLY

And, it is sad to note, many men in uniform have fallen for this disguised anti-labor propaganda. A few of them, of course, are just sawdust heads who always fell for company propaganda, even when at home on the job. But many are union men who knew better at home.

The responsibility for this progress of capitalist lies among service men rests upon the unions themselves. What have they seriously done to offset the news monopoly of antilabor propaganda? With millions of dollars in the treasuries of the labor movement, why can't we have a CIO daily newspaper? Why can't we have a network of union-owned broadcasting stations? Why can't we have union-owned film studios?

A progressive labor movement would have these means of public education.

And what an answer we could give Lieut.-Comdr. "Oil Man" Estes!

as the part passes by on the assembly line-not that this task isn't difficult, for the time allowed is measured in tenths of a second. If the required number of parts is not turned out in the time allowed, the worker is told that her services are no longer required.

THE WAGE CUTTING PROCESS All of us realize that the fight

## Ward Workers Up a Tree as Avery

#### (Continued from page 1)

Avery laughs at the little bureaucrats and defies them to engage in open battle. What the WLB will do about this defiance is not altogether certain. Noted for swift, punitive action against labor, this smug band of employers' representatives and "labor zombies" flops around in flabbergasted impotence, looking banefully at the White House for a helping hand.

What about the thousands of Ward workers, whose average wage is sixty cents an hour, and whose magnificent strike brought them within an inch of victory before that victory was blocked from its reach by the government? Their first strike won the support of the national CIO and of the entire labor movement in the country, with the notable exceptions of the Communist Party, Harry Bridges and similar scabs. If the rank and file in the Ward union makes its voice heard, the leadership of the CIO must inevitably consider plans for a renewal of the struggle against Avery in the only tried and tesed manner-the way of the halfmillion miners. The Ward case can become the great showdown between labor and union-busting management if the CIO leadership wills it.

If the Ward workers come out on strike again it will compel the WLB to expose its true colors. Will it order the strikers back to work on their "war jobs" while countenancing the defiance of Sewell Avery? If it does, then the CIO may be compelled to order its members off the board.

able for a few comparatively lowpaid, unskilled, routine jobs. Those who have entered industry only in the past two years and have skilled jobs, now are very angry at the way their good boss is suddenly a very bad boss. So they quit to go and find a good boss again. The boss will then take an unskilled male worker and start breaking him in at a much lower rate of pay than the

worker is relegated. This is particulatly so if the boss knows that the worker must have work.

#### WHERE THE UNION COMES IN

The woman worker who is a member of a union will demand that the union protect her right to the job of Mer highest skill and seniority. She will also demand that the child care centers that have been set up in

and help it win its demands. She will educate the other women around her to the fact that it is their union and that they are expected, in return for having equal rights in the union, to have equal responsibilities; to make sure it is a fighting, progressive union on guard to protect all the workers' rights regardless of race, sex, color or creed.

**Congress Stooges** my po' haid.) **Raise Living Costs, End Price Controls** 

#### (Continued from page 1)

an opportunity to evade prosecution. Another grenade, thrown by Rep. Sumner (R., 11.), wiped out the \$50 mandatory fine and triple damages provisions of the present "Price Control" Act.

Only one fighting program seems capable of hurling back these shocktroops of reaction and unless this program is adopted by the labor movement and its allies, the people of the United States will face a long period of blackness and despair.

That program, unambiguous in language and content, has been forged by the Workers Party, and calls for:

A higher, not a lower, standard of living! For a \$1.00-an-hour minimum wage law, with time and a half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and equal pay for equal work for all industrial and agricultural workers! An "escalator clause" in all wage contracts, hitching wages to the rising cost of living, plus a margin for comforts-a "costplus" wage!

Down with control of rationing and price-fixing by the monopolists and the government bureaucrats! For democratic control of rationing and price-fixing by joint committees of working class organizations, farmers' organizations, cooperatives and consumers' organizations and housewives' leagues.

For a break with bankrupt and reactionary capitalist politics and politicians and complete independence of labor from them! No political support to the Roosevelt government! For a party that is labor's own, an Independent Labor Party, based on the unions and controlled by them!

New subs for the first two weeks of the month just topped the century mark, and unless we get a swift transfusion of same from the life-giving working class we'll have a relapse into serious thought about it. From California, the land of numerous nostrums, comes a

corking common-sense plan for

of LABOR ACTION carried out such a plan! How many readers volunteer to join the ONE SUB A DAY CLUB? Let's start NOW. If you join the club and don't make your quota, write us anyway about your results. We'll print an honor roll of individuals and branches that hit the

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One hundred years ago in Ireland there was a band of men who

called themselves the "Molly Maguires." They took their name from

the woman who led them, the widow, Molly Maguire. They fought

against landlords and tax collectors who squeezed from the Irish peas.

ant the biggest part of his small income. The "Mollies" answered the

oppression of British rule with direct action. Landlords and govern-

ment tax collectors were beaten up or left dead in ditches. Rents and

taxes could not be collected. When the British government in Ireland

began to hunt down the "Mollies," hundreds of them fled to America.

of other Irish immigrants. Conditions in the New World were little bet-

ter than in the Old. Wages in the mines were low, hours long. The mine

bosses were indifferent to the safety of the men, and hundreds lost

their lives in cave-ins every year. The mine owners cheated the men,

who were paid by the ton or carload, in measuring and weighing coal.

"Ancient Order of Hibernians," a secret organization for protection

against the mine owners. Using the same weapons they had used against

the British, the "Mollies," as they were popularly called, became a force

in the mine fields. They intimidated the owners and their foremen into

The mine owners retaliated by sending into the organization stool-

Speaking thirty years after their execution, Eugene V. Debs, the

pigeons of Irish descent-detectives of the notorious Pinkerton agency.

In this way they were able to have executed by law ten leading "Mol-

great socialist leader, said of the Mollies: "They all protested their in-

nocence and all died game .... Not one of them was a murderer at

heart....Their methods were drastic, but it must be remembered that

their lot was hard and brutalizing; that they were the neglected chil-

dren of poverty, the product of a wretched environment. The men

who perished on the scaffold were labor leaders, the first martyrs to

granting raises and better working conditions.

lies" and send fourteen others to jail for long terms.

the class struggle in the United States."

The "Mollies" in the coal fields organized the Irish miners into the

They settled in the Pennsylvania coal fields, together with thousands

#### By RUTH PHILIPS

#### WHAT WILL THE UNION DO?

## From Hitler to U.S. Chamber of Commerce No Mystery in Communist Flip-Flops -- Party Serves Stalin

#### By DAVID COOLIDGE

The Communist Political Association, once known as the Communist Party, has traveled, in three short years, from an alliance with Hitler and the Gestapo to one with Eric Johnston and his United States Chamber of Commerce. They are ready also to work with the police: federal, state or municipal. Their leader, Earl Browder, has come out full blast for capitalism, especially big capitalism (and the bigger the better).

Browder is opposed to Dewey for President because this is a big capitalist country and Dewey is not big enough to be President of a big capitalist country! He would do all right for Sweden, Costa Rica or Belgium perhaps. But for the United States. Roosevelt is their man. He is the only man big enough to head such a big capitalist country as the United States.

President Browder of the Communist Political Association is mightily concerned today with the European invasion by the United Nations. "The great day of liberation has struck," according to Browder. The Allies have already "liberated Rome."

On the home front Browder's advice is: "Everybody in his place, everybody doing his share. Not one minute must be lost; not one ounce of effort wasted." Anyone who wastes a minute "does the enemy's work." This admonition presumably is for all the people.

But Browder has some special advice and warning for the labor leader: "His is the supreme obligation to produce and produce and produce. History has called upon him to weld all men and classes who want victory, into the indissoluble whole. The working alass will cast from its midst any false leader who seek to interrupt production ....."

#### TRAITORS TO LABOR

Browder and his Communist Political Association set the example by joining hands with the big capitalist oppressors of labor, the WLB and whole Roosevelt government. Harry Bridges, one of Browder's

men, joins in the chase by proclaiming that unions should agree not to strike even after the war is over.

Browder wants the working class to suspend the class struggle and "weld all men and classes ... into the indissoluble whole." He and his **Communist Political Association tell** the workers at Ford's to forget this old scoundrel's blackjacks, sluggers and anti-Semitism.

He tells the Negro and white sharecroppers of the South to make their peace with the cotton planters, to be willing to go back to their seventyfive cents a day wage of three years ago and to be satisfied with the misorable hovels of the cotton plantations.

The steel workers are admonished to forget about their demand for a seventeen cents an hour wage increase and toil away in the mills for whatever wage the steel barons see fit to pay.

The shipyard workers, who have been given the bum's rush by the WLB, are to grin and bear it. All labor is to "produce, produce and produce" like slaves, for "the great day of liberation has struck."

Browder, like some of the pro-war labor leaders, has nothing to say about the big employers and the war profiteers. He can't because he is now on their side. He is a defender of capitalism and has forced himself into bed with Morgan, Ford, Mellon, Rockefeller, Weir and du Pont. He and his Communist Political Association want to "weld all men and classes ..... together: tenant farmer and cotton planter, shipyard worker and Grace of Bethlehem Steel, steel worker and corporation president.

Browder and the Communist Political Association have a cure for any worker who is not willing to submit. He knows a way out for the big capitalist employers. The workers are to be called "seditionists" and "traitors"; "their place is behind bars; theirs must be a traitor's fate." This is Browder's hint to the government and the big capitalist employers on how to handle militant workers who refuse to be slaves. Browder didn't invent this little

scheme, but he knows how it operates. The big capitalist knew these oppressive tactics before Browder was born. The capitalist ruling class has used the club, the gun, the jail and the gallows against militant and revolutionary workers all through the history of capitalism.

Browder is fully aware of the ways that can be used to strangle unions and oppress militant workers and revolutionists. He knows how Stalin did it. He understands how to use the police, the frame-up, kidnapping and murder. That's the way Stahin

did it in Russia when he faced opposition from militant workers and revolutionists. Browder and his Communist Political Association want to import Stalin's methods into the U.S. BEFORE THE LINE CHANGED

But while Browder and his ex-"Communist" Party are yelling for the "doom of the Hitlerites," about "our national destiny," "the unity of our nation," "our Commander-in-Chief, President Roosevelt," "our troops," and "we Communists" who "stand side by side with all patriots." we can't forget another Browder

another period of "we Communists." Listen to this same Earl Browder speaking in Philadelphia on September 29, 1939:

"What kind of war is this, for what is it being fought.... The Communist Party has issued as the slogan of the day: 'Keep America Out of the Imperialist War.'... Both sides (England and Germany-Ed.) are equally guilty.... The American people do not want to cast in their fate with the rotten and corrupt British and French Empires.... The fight for a peace policy in the United States today is ... a fight to keep the United States out of any involvement in this imperialist war, that means, to keep the United States from any involvement not only in a military way but from any involvement in economic and political support and sympathy. The victory of either one of these gangs of imperialist bandits will be a defeat for the people of their own country and for the people of the world. The only possible victory of the people will be the overthrowing of the bandits at the head of both camps. We can support neither one side nor the other in the imperialist war. The former distinction between the fascist and democratic nations has lost the meaning it once had, and is rapidly losing any serious political meaning at all."

On the matter of war profits, Browder had the following to say in this same speech: "The longer it lasts the more profits. Even President Roosevelt made his bow to this motive in his message to Congress.... Profits from this war will not do America any good. . . . Forces . . . will drag America into the war, when profits can no longer be made only from Europe but will have to be squeezed out of the blood of American boys. ... top this imperialist war!-before they have a chance to drag us into it." This was Browder in 1939. At its 1940 convention, the Com-

munist Party told its members to oppose the war. The party platform said that its members were to "combat the imperialist policies and acts of the President, the State Department and Congress to spread the war and

to involve the United States in it.... Not a cent, not a gun, not a man for war preparations and the imperialist war.... Resist the militarization and armaments program of the Administration and Congress.'

This was Browder and the Communist Party in 1940. Then the cry was "Stop this imperialist war!" Now "he who whispers 'negotiated peace' is a traitor and deserves a traitor's end." Then it was "resist the militarization and armaments program" of Roosevelt. Today it is "produce and produce and produce ... "; cast out "any false leader who seeks to interrupt production."

#### THE HITLER-STALIN PACT

Those were the days of the Hitler-Stalin pact which Browder and the Communist Political Association would like to have us forget. They would like us to forget this blood pact between the fascist butcher Hitler and his friend in the Kremlin, Stalin. Browder today would like to wipe out the fact that this criminal contract between Stalin and fascism gave the go-sign to Hitler to invade Poland and initiate the Second Imperialist World War. Browder would like us to forget that Molotov, Stalin's Foreign Minister, said that "fascism is a matter of taste."

Why this double talk from Browder and the Communist Political Association? Why was this war imperialist in 1940 and a war of liberation in 1944. Wasn't England fighting Germany in 1940 and wasn't the United States supporting England then, even before Japan attacked at Pearl Harbor? Aren't American capitalists seeking profits today from the war just as they were in 1939-40? Are the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers any friendlier to labor today than they were in 1939-40? Is Roosevelt a greater democrat than he was in 1939? Is the Roosevelt of the national service act more pro-labor than the Roosevelt of the New Deal? How can the British army in Greece or Africa be an imperialist army and suddenly become a democratic army of libera-

tion in Italy and France? What had

changed capitalism in the past four or five years? The workers should have been against capitalism and monopolies in 1939, but according to Browder we should support Eric Johnston and his United States Chamber of Commerce in 1944.

Page 3

Browder can chant once more: "Our line's been changed again." The line was changed when Germany crossed the border into Russia in June, 1941. When fascist and imperialist Germany attacked totalitarian Russia in 1941, the war changed, according to Browder and the Communist Party. It was no longer an imperialist war but a great crusade for world democracy, with the totalitar-

ian butcher, Stalin, wearing the crown of the world's greatest democrat. England still held India and Africa, the U.S. was out to grab whatever could be wrenched from England or any other power; the kings and queens and presidents of Norway, Holland, Belgium and Czecho-Slovakia were panting to return to Europe and resume operations exploiting their own workers and the colonial peoples. But, according to Browder, the war was now no longer imperialist but a magnificent crusade for democracy, religion, the rights of small nations and the brotherhood of man. And all this was true because, and only because, Germany had invaded Stalin's Russia!

The only answer that can be given to this swift somersault is the one we give: Browder and the American Communist Party changed because Stalin changed.

#### LABOR MUST SPURN THEM

How can labor have any confidence in these people? How can any worker join with or follow them? What shall it profit the working class to follow a gang like Browder's, which seeks to tie them to "imperialist war," to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and to American capitalism? Who are the real traitors? The Browders with their Communist Political Association and their praise of capitalism and imperialism. They are the traitors whom the working class "will cast from its midst"!

### His Majesty's Loyal Opposition ---

# **The British Empire's Little Helpers**

#### By J. R. JOHNSON -

American labor should get to know something about Emmanuel Shinwell. He is one of the big names in the British Labor Party today. He is not a member of the Churchill coalition government, and frequently attacks it. This gives him a certain popularity. For let no one be deceived. Large sections of the British orkers know how bankrupt for labor's future is a man like Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labor, against whose labor policy there have been so many strikes. The workers have shown their distrust of Herbert Morrison, the labor leader and Home Secretary, by voting him out of the leadership at the last Labor Conference; also by the demonstrations they staged against him when he released Mosley, the ally of Hitler. Men like Attlee, the titular head of the Labor Party, and Walter Citrine, the general secretary of the Trade Union Congress, were known pretty well for what they were even before the war. Attlee would drop out of the party tomorrow and few would miss him.

#### WHAT DOES HE STAND FOR?

What exactly is the policy of Mr. Shinwell today? He has recently exposed himself in a way that should be carefully noted. Facing the miserable future of

British imperialism against Stalinist Russia and American imperialism, Churchill gathered together the dominion premiers just before the injunior partner, but as an equal." vasion, first to fool the people every-While British labor is stirring with where with the idea of Empire unity a tremendous ferment as to exactly and, secondly, to try to build a huge Empire bloc against the steady strangulation at the hands of his dear friends. Stalin and Roosevelt. But the job is a hard one and almost hopeless, because Canada. Australia and New Zealand know that if there are any pickings at all, they will get them in the shelter of the American Eagle and not by following the limping British Lion. Has Shinwell anything different to ily. propose? Not he. On May Day he writes a featured article in the reactionary Daily Mail. "Frankly, I doubt whether we can He comes out for Churchill's policy

#### wealth of Nations, with resources capable of almost unbelivable development, with a territory equal to that of the United States and Soviet Russia combined, with a courage and sagacity to promote a real unity of purpose and a spirit tempered in the flames of war, and we can then enter with confidence into economic discussions with other nations, not as a Roosevelt.

never known before, only in order more securely to tie the workers to the Democratic Party. He has to hide himself there. He has no program for America different from Roosevelt's. Like Shinwell, Hillman sees the rising tide of labor and, like Murray, he is scared to death of it. His remedy is—a fourth term for

# Labor Defense Committee Aids British Trotskyists

before been seen in Great Britain. Victims of a fierce anti-labor witchhunt instigated by Tories and an assortment of "His Majesty's Loyal Laborites," four members of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International, will stand trial sometime this month on charges that they violated the infamous Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act of 1927, which forbids strikes.

years' imprisonment.

tion.

country.

British courts.

leged offenders.

CASE IN PARLIAMENT

because the police had not completed

their investigations against other al-

benefits of any democratic code, and

at the moment when they were in

prison, before they had been tried.

the newspapers were permitted, with-

out any action being taken against

them at all, to commit contempt of

court to an extent which had never

"These poor people had none of the

They piled up public hatred, they vented indignation and they slandered and abused these people at the very moment when they were committed for trial. No action was taken by this venal government to protect them in any way. The whole thing is disgraceful, and shows the extent to which public morale has degenerated under the leadership we have

Don McGregor, London Workers Committee; M. Kavanagh, D. Beech, Arthur Ballard and D. Ballantine. As a result of the committ'e initial efforts, sharply worded resolutions from local unions and district union councils are beginning to deluge its London office.

The Slough Trades Council passed a resolution protesting against the arrests, condemning the action of



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But Shinwell not only preached socialism in years gone by but has done his best to constitute some sort of opposition to the all-powerful Churchill government in the House of Commons.

expect more than provisional conclusions. And I shall be equally frank and say that I wish with all my heart it could be otherwise." in the crudest form:

"But give us a British Common-

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Wille for complete and in a	A CALENDARY CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR

how its ideas for a new Britain in a new world. will come into shape, Shinwell, the former socialist and present loud oppositionist, is in reality at one with the die-hard defender

of imperialist Britain. He endorses the economic policies which brought two world wars, the great economic depression and fascism, all within twenty-five years. British labor is not going to accept that eas-

Yet. is Shinwell "the same" as Churchill? No such thing. There is one fundamental difference. Churchill is a political leader of British imperialism, responsible to the Conservative Party. Shinwell is responsible to the British Labor Party. Despite his "criticism' of the government and the labor leaders in it, he is perfectly aware of the temper of the British workers. Nothing is more striking than the absence of socialism in the recent pronouncements of many British labor leaders.

Today one of the greatest defenders of Britain's colonial empire is Herbert Morrison. When the shameless injustice of Britain's policy in India sent a wave of pro-Indian feeling through the British masses, the Labor Party leaders gave support as never before to Churchill, whom in less strenuous times they had denounced as one of the greatest enemies of the Indian people. It is too dangerous today to play

with socialistic fire. It is clear that Shinwell has nothing to offer except the old order. And it is equally certain that the British workers do not want that old order. Shinwell is on a hot spot and that spot is going to get hotter and hotter.

SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS HERE American labor can learn much from what is taking place in Britain. Precisely because he has no program except Churchill's capitalistic program, all Shinwell's militancy turns out to be a fake, and Churchill laughs openly at his opposition. In fact today the British labor leaders seek to protect themselves from the great crises ahead by tieing themselves as closely as possible to the

policies of the Churchill government. We witness similar things in the United States. As the workers show their hostility to the strain of the war and the persecutions of the capitalist class, Hillman organizes politi-

SOME VARIATIONS

Yet, just as there is a difference between Churchill and Shinwell, there is also a difference between the position of Shinwell and the position of Hillman. All observers agree that British labor is bursing with anxiety to break the political truce in Britain between the Conservative Party and the Labor Party. British labor wishes to recapture its lost independence in order to work out the problems of the future in its own party, independent and purged of the alliance with the Conservatives.

British labor wants to face its leaders with the question: "Little men. what now?" More than that, at various conferences, the British workers are working out programs and interpreting such programs as the Beveridge Plan in their own way and preparing to use them for their own purposes. The time will come when not only Bevin and Morrison but Shinwell will have to explain their plans. British labor is itching to drag them out from behind the smoke of Churchills cigar and make them speak up for themselves.

American labor needs to make similar preparation. The strikes in both countries show the temper of the workers. The rush to shelter themselves in capitalist parties and capitalist programs shows how sensitive to the workers' growing impatience are many of the leaders of labor, particularly in America. The thing to do, now, is to drag them out. Put them on the spot. Bring them to a political convention of labor and face them with a labor program.

#### POLITICAL ACTION NEEDED

To oppose them by striking, against their instructions, and yet at the same time allow them to hide their poliical bankruptcy in the capitalist parties, is to expose them with one hand and then cover them up with the other. It will be a bad day for Shinwell when he has to face British labor. It will be an equally bad day for Hillman and the rest when they have to face American labor and explain what are their plans for a political party of organized labor. That is the hot spot they seek to avoid. That is the hot spot we must put them on.

Labor will never be able to control its leaders, or even know clearly what they really think. until it pulls cal action of the workers on a scale them away from capitalist politics.

It was the first time the law has at the present time." been used since it was first enacted

These remarks were particularly after the historic British general aimed at Bevin and Herbert Horristrike of 1926. The entire labor moveson, Minister of Home Security, both ment of Britain, including the presof whom are responsible for the ent Minister of Labor, Ernest Bevin, campaign of persecution against attacked the act for years as a fasmilitant workers in Britain. cistic assault on the rights of the working class. Today Bevin not only

#### STATE OF LABOR MOVEMENT

Strikes of miners and bus drivers. frames up the British Trotskyists on slow-downs and protests have octhe basis of the act, but on April 17 promulgated an order making "incurred all over the country recently in a growing movement of opposition citement to strike" punishable by five against low wages and inflationary The arrested members of the RCP prices.

Quick to fall in with the lynch, are James (Jock) Haston, general spirit of the newspapers against the secretary of the party; Rawling (Roy) Tearse, national secretary of just demands of the British working the Militant Workers Federation of class, Bevin and Morrison, who were Glasgow; Lambert Heaton Lee, forchosen for their jobs as chief stoolmer mine organizer, and Ann Keen. pigeons and finks by the Tories and secretary of the London district seccapitalists, rushed forward to stem the rising tide of labor militancy. Their arrests were preceded by Their frame-up of the British Trottwo raids on the Paddington headskyists aims to guarantine the unions quarters of the RCP by Scotland and labor movement in general from the "virus of revolutionaries" (read. Yard detectives, and a wild campaign of lies against the defendants in the best fighters and leaders of the Brit-

capitalist and Stalinist press, similar ish workers). It is heartening to report that leadto the one currently being conducted against "wildcat" strikers in this ing sections of the British labor movement and prominent individuals have come to the defense of the four imprisoned Trotskyists. Recognizing When first arrested, the defendants the implications of the arrests as a were denied aid for a period of direct assault on the whole labor weeks, causing Aneurin Bevan, leftmovement and its post-war future, wing Laborite MP, to get up in Parand prodded by rank and file resoluliament and launch a frontal attack tions for action on the case, they on the government for this unprecehave formed a broad defense group dented procedure on the part of the called the "Anti-Labor Laws Victims Defense Committee." Bevan said: "The other day a num-

#### MAKE-UP OF THE COMMITTEE ber of so-called Trotskyists were ar-

The provisional committee of the rested. The right honorable gentleman, the Home Secretary, might look ALLVDC, as listed in the Socialist up what he was being called in the Appeal, official organ of the British last war-also the right honorable Trotskyists, includes the following: gentleman, the Minister of Labor. James Maxton, Independent Labor The language, or its content, remains Party MP, chairman; V. Sastry, Fedthe same; the individuals differ. eration of Indian Associations, secre-These poor people were imprisoned tar; W. G. Cove, MP, treasurer; Rev. in Newcastle, kept on remand for R. Sorenson, S. Silverman, Rhys Datwenty-one days, and then tried in vies, J. McGovern, Fenner Brockway, camera, and the explanation was Walter Padley, all MPs; Ted Grant, given that they were tried in camera RCP: G. Pittock-Buss. Bob Turner.

Bevin in using the Trade Disputes Act, and calling upon the TUC to launch a national campaign for the repeal of the Act and warning the government against further encroachments on the rights of the workers. The Slough ETU passed a similar resolution as also did the Merthyr Vale Lodge, largest miners' lodge in South Wales. The Thornton Heath. London brench of the AEU, passed a similar resolution and donated five pounds sterling toward the defense of the comrades. The Edmonton Trades Council sent one pound sterling toward the defense of the vic-

tims of the Trades Disputes Act. The Glasgow District Committee of the AEU passed a resolution protesting against the arrest of Roy Tearse and condemning the use of the Trade Disputes Act and the introduction of the new regulation 1AA.

From all this it is clear that the desperate attempts of the British capitalist class to clamp down on the rising militancy of the British workers and silence its revolutionary vanguard is being met with all the fighting spirit that the class-conscious elements can muster. Not even the despicable Bevin Defense Regulaion 1AA, which was ordered to club strikers into a submissive fear of imprisonment, can long hold the profoundly dissatisfied British workers in check. Nor the contemptible Communist Party, whose representatives in Parliament urged that the Trotskyist newspaper be denied its regular ration of newsprint, deliberately ignoring the well known fact that this vicious maneuver was pulled on the British Daily Worker just a few short years back.

Though we have our disagreements with the Revolutionary Communist Party (Trotskyists) of Great Britain. LABOR ACTION stands in firm solidarity with the four arrested comrades. They are the victims of a reactionary plot on the part of the Churchill Tory government and its "Laborite" satellites like Bevin and Morrison to stifle and suppress the awakened labor movement of Britain.



#### EDITORIAL PAGE

## Editorials Once Again, the

**Brewster Fight** 

They're still talking about the Brewster sit-in strike against the cancellation of their contract by the Navy Department. The strike was unusual in that it revealed a new method of struggle for their jobs by organized workers. But the strike was called off by the union when it reached a high point because promises were given the men by officials in Washington, including the President, that something would be done for the workers to keep them on the job.

It is now almost three weeks since the workers left the plant, and the plain truth is that nothing hah been done for them! The men are either unemployed or have obtained other jobs at lower rates of pay. The latest report to appear in the press reveals that out of five to six thousand men laid off only a little more than a thousand obtained new jobs, the majority of them at lower wages than they made at Brewster's. Thus the Brewster workers traded their excellent fighting position for promises which have failed to materialize.

We will return to this aspect of the Brewster situation at another time. At the moment we will discuss the union's action from a different angle, namely, its relation to the boys in uniform.

#### CAMPAIGN AGAINST LABOR

According to the yellow press, the men in the services are strongly anti-labor as a result of some strikes and other actions engaged in by organized workers. We don't believe it holds for all the servicemen, because we know that there are at least two million unionists in the armed forces.

That there are such anti-labor sentiments in the services we have no doubt. To the extent that it does exist it arises for one or two important reasons, which are related:

Too much anti-labor propaganda reaches the servicemen in the yellow press and in individual activities of some government officials, military officials and politicians. The capitalist press, especially representing as it does the opinions of big business, has carried on a willful and malicious campaign against labor.

On the other hand, the labor movement itself has done little to counteract this propaganda and to demonstrate that whatever struggles the worker engages in now, is really in the interest of all workers, those now on the job and those workers now in uniform. The recent attempts made, for example, by the CIO to change this situation have been late in coming and not alto-

come home. They sounded the warning that if the "captains" of industry have their way, the war workers will face mass unemployment, privation and worse when the cutbacks begin on a large scale.

This will affect not only war workers, but the millions of workers now in uniform. What will the boys come back to? Unemployment? Many of them are in desperate fear of this specter.

The Brewster men were fighting, in this single isolated instance, against the anarchy which prevails in this economic system of capitalism: use the worker while you need him and can profit from his labor; throw him out into the street when it is no longer profitable to use him.

The labor movement needs to prepare now for the immediate future. It needs to organize the fight now to guarantee full employment, government planning, postwar construction, a guaranteed annual wage, utilization of the enormous industries .of this country to produce for the people whether or not it is profitable for the minority of big business profiteers.

## Ship Owners **And Sailors**

Merchant sailors who couldn't figure out why the Maritime War Emergency Board refused to consider a restitution of their seventy per cent bonus cut can possibly find some consolation in the knowledge that some fellow Americans are receiving a little something for the sailors risking their lowpaid necks.

According to the testimony before the House Merchant Marine sub-committee, nineteen operators of GOVERNMENT-OWNED shipyards already have received fees totaling more than \$174,000,000. Minimum remaining fees under contract will bring the total to a sweet \$228,234,-832.

This sum represents TEN TIMES their private invested capital, or an average of more than twelve million dollars per operator. But what's more, even Admiral Land, head of the Merchant Marine, comes to the sub-committee to defend this tremendous unearned profit. Says Lond: "These shipbuilders have done one of the greatest managerial jobs in history. They have provided the 'know-how.' . . . If there is to be a percentage basis for paying them (the operators), I think it should be on brains and not a percentage on capital."

But what of the percentage for the sailors, Admiral? Certainly \$130 to \$180 a month, the new wage and bonus rate, is a very low rate for providing the brains and know-how to sail those tubs, some of which have been breaking up in mid-ocean. Why didn't you come to testify for the seamen as you did for the shipowners, Admiral? The seamen didn't ask for millions but only to get back their previous rate of \$200 per month. Is it because they have no private or public invested capital to provide a percentage? Or is their percentage already earned in the 5,634 dead or missing who did a bad managerial job of dodging torpedoes and bombs?

## Fourth of a Series-Father Coughlin

LABOR ACTION

# **Apostle of American Fascism**

#### By REVA CRAINE

Another plank in Coughlin's platform, though not officially listed, but nevertheless one which is constantly emphasized and stressed, is anti-Semitism. Coughlin has denied from time to time that he is "against the Jews," yet on every possible occasion during his silver price campaign he has spoken about "Gentile silver" as opposed to "Jewish gold." He constantly denounces the "international bankers" without specifying by name the leading bankers of the United States, most of whom are not Jewish. While he was busy condemning the bankers, he counted among his friends Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the Rockefeller Chase National Bank: was on intimate terms with Robert M. Harris of the New York Cotton Exchange and George Le Blanc, described by Coughlin as "perhaps the world's

foremost gold trader." The purpose behind his attack on the "international bankers" is not to point out the fundamental antagonism between the working class and the capitalist class, but to deflect the dissatisfaction of the former with the real culprits into the channels of anti-Semitism and racial hatred.

The National Union for Social Justice adopted a sixteen-point program which was an elaboration of what we have described above. In 1939, Coughlin wrote in Social Justice: "Practically all the sixteen princi-

ples of social justice are being put into practice in Italy and Germany."

While this is not exactly true, especially with that plank which called for conscription of wealth in time of war, a livng annual wage, etc., Coughln here revealed what the PURPOSE of his sixteen principles is-to institute a fascist regime in this country. He has spoken in favor of a corporate state on the Italian model and against democratic government, which he labeled as "majorityism."

#### FOUNDER OF CHRISTIAN FRONT

In 1938, Coughlin embarked on a new venture. Through Social Justice, which weekly spewed forth its anti - Semitic, anti - labor venom, he sponsored the organization of the Christian Front. This organization

was to be the training school for the coming fascist gangs in the United States. In the main, it was composed of discontented middle class elements who were attracted by Coughlin's demagogy and promises. Its purpose was to "combat communism," which actually meant to combat the organized labor movement. For a period of time, the Christian Front goon squads spent their time breaking up

these hoodlums were not difficult to deal with. During the two years during which the Christian Front operated in this manner, many workers came to learn that they could not rely upon government agencies to protect them from the fascist gangsters. In New York City, for example, it was a common occurrence for the police to stand by and merely look on while these gangs proceeded to break up workers' meetings. A good number of the policemen themselves were membersss of the Christion Front: others cooperated with the Fronters.

In 1939, the workers of New York City showed how it was possible to deal effectively with fascist hoodlums. The Christian Front decided to organize a parade for Father Coughlin. This was shortly after the famous anti-Nazi demonstration called and organized by members of the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party to which 100,000 workers turned out.

In response to the proposed "Manifestation of Christianity," as the Coughlinite parade was to be called, the leaders of the anti-Nazi demonstration issued a call to the workers of the city to prevent such a march. The call itself was enough to make Coughlin and his Christian Fronters change their minds and call off their "manifestation." For, confronted with the organized force of labor, consciously combatting fascism, the fascist gangs cannot stand up and fight. In 1940, when members of the

Christian Front were under arrest, charged with conspiracy to overthrow the United States government, Coughlin repudiated the organization. No one seriously believed this repudiation, but it saved his own neck and kept him out of the courts. He acted in the same way later when Social Justice was banned from the mails and when he gave up publication of his paper to avoid facing trial for sedition. In this way, he has been able to continue his activity underground until recently, when he began "preaching" again in his

Although Coughlin has been repudiated by individuals connected with the Catholic church, he has never been officially denounced or thrown out. The church has refused to take responsibility for him, but it has never seen fit to expel him, thus indicating to thousands and thousands of Catholics that Coughlinism is quite in keeping with at least some of the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Coughlin's New York henchman is the Rev. Edward Curran. president of the International Catholic Truth Society, and in New England, Francis Moran headed the Christian Front.

Among some of the notables who have supported Coughlin, or with whom he worked closely, are James H. Rand, Jr., of Remington-Rand, notorious for its anti-labor policies; Vincent Bendix of Bendix Aviation; the former Borough President of Queens, George Harvey, defender of the Christian Fronters: Henry Ford, Walter P. Chrysler and William Randolph Hearst. He has had dealings with Merwin K. Hart, agent of Franco in the United States. Joe Mc-Williams and Silver Shirter Pelley have also sung his praises.

Coughlin's Catholicism may stand in the way of his becoming THE leader of a unified fascist movement, if and when such is organized in this country. But now that he is back in circulation, we can be sure that he will contribute all he can to the spreading of fascist doctrines, and sponsoring fascist organizations, utilizing his priesthood for this purpose. In this way, he is an important factor in the general fascist network and bears watching.

# Discrimination in U.S. Army **Upheld by Supreme Court**

NEW YORK-The United States Su- in selecting our thirteen million Nepreme Court has refused to review the Winfred Lynn case, involving racial discrimination in selection for the American Army. The Court's refusal even to hear the case was unexpected, since one of the three judges in the lower court had ruled in Lynn's

gro citizens for the armed forces or are the military authorities acting illegally?

At the time that Winfred Lynn was ordered overseas, Mr. Hays protested to the Adjutant General and received the following reply, dated February favor. The Supreme Court evidently 9, from Major General J. A. Ulio:

ored People, the Workers Defense League and the March on Washington Movement will file supplementary amicus curiae briefs.

Wilfred H. Kerr, co-chairman of the Lynn Committee, has issued the following statement: "Our committee will carry on the fight. The Supreme Court is adjourning shortly and the The Question Is: Who is Really The Bureaucratic Monkey on a Stick?

#### By WALTER WEISS

Breaking the temporary calm on the labor scene which the invasion had produced, George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, on June 8 raised the important question-a very serious question, not a joke at all- of who's a monkey and a prostitute too.

According to the New York Times, the scene was a closed meeting of the labor research workers, from which reporters were barred, held under the auspices of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

Meany described a top official of the bureau as "bureaucratic monkey on a stick." The bureau as a whole, he charged, "has prostituted its research functions to an administrative objective" and "has identified itself with the objectives of a specific political administration." He was supported in his charges by one of Philip Murray's right-hand men in the CIO, Research Director Ruttenberg of the United Steel Workers.

#### WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK

The political administration is, of course, the Roosevelt Administration. Yet, to judge from the report in the New York Times, Meany, who is so good at calling names, did not venture to pronounce the sacred syllables of the President's name. A prime objective of the administration is, as Meany pointed out, to keep wages frozen, while prices continue to rise. The Bureau of Labor Statistics assists in this task by grossly underestimating the increase in living costs.

What Meany says about the Labor Department, he and other labor leaders, AFL and CIO, can say and have said, although in somewhat less colorful language, about the Navy Department, the War Department, the Director of War Mobilization, the Director of Economic Stabilization, the Office of Price Administration, the War Manpower Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the War Labor Board.

All these agencies are almost completely filled with good, reliable capitalists, who feel that labor should sacrifice everything to win the war. Whenever Commander-in-Chief Roosevelt pulls a string, they respond like monkeys on a stick. They punish "wildcat" strikers, raise prices for suffering capitalists, freeze wages, demand and impose forced labor, and-falsify facts and statistics. But they do all these things without pangs of conscience. They are winning the war-for the capitalists. Roosevelt never has to pull very hard on the string.

#### WHAT BROTHER MEANY DOES

Now it happens that Brother Meany and some of his fellow labor leaders are also part of this show, as members of the War Labor Board. Unlike the capitalists, they sometimes dislike the acts that are put on. The others jump around happily, whenever the boss gives an order. Meany and his brothers often whine a little-but in the end jump too. They scold the other "monkeys," but they always praise the boss of the show and before outsiders (that is, the workers) they defend the show itself.

Come, Brother Meany, let's face the facts directly. Those fellows are hired by, and are working for, the government or their companies or both. Naturally they follow orders of the big boss of the



gether effective in practice. An important reason for this ineffectiveness is that the official leadership of the union movements have themselves fought the union militants with a shortsightedness that is tantamount to a betrayal of the fundamental interests of the labor movement.

#### WHAT LABOR FIGHTS FOR

What is the labor movement and its militants fighting for? A decent standard of living, for one thing! Maintenance and increase of wage levels to meet the increasing cost of living. It is fighting to prevent big business from wiping out improved working conditions gained in the pre-war years through the fight of the union movement. It is fighting to prevent long hours of work after the war and to preserve the rights of all who work in order to live.

The labor movement is fighting for job security, a higher standard of living, shorter hours, decent conditions of labor, better wages, post-war planning. And this fight is not only in the interest of the workers at home it is even more a fight for the workers in uniform when they return from the wars. The ex-serviceman who has been discharged and is back in industry knows these facts and understands them completely. If all servicemen do not understand this, it is because no genuine effort has been made to bring these facts to their attention.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF BREWSTER

Take the Brewster case. It is one of the finest examples to show that the workers here are really fighting for all workers. The Brewster case was but another demonstration of the utter callousness which exists in official quarters on the problems of labor. If government agencies and big business show themselves unable and incompetent to solve the problems of the worker, they certainly show how utterly competent and able they are to solve the problems of big business-and they do:

When the Brewster workers sat in to demand job security, they were fighting for every soldier and sailor in the services. They were fighting not only for their own security, but for the security of the boys when they

1.34

## Now It's Budd's

A few weeks ago the thousands of workers in the E. G. Budd Manufacturing Co. of Philadelphia and Bustleton, Pa., did not think that the problem of unemployment would concern them for a long time to come. The company had Army and Navy contracts to manufacture eight hundred stainless steel cargo planes.

Then, out of the clear blue sky, the Army cancels its order for six hundred planes and the Navy follows suit with a cancellation of its contract for one hundred and seventy-five planes. This leaves only twenty-five planes to be built.

Yesterday it was Brewster. Today it is E. G. Budd. And tomorrow ...?



regarded the Lynn case as "too hot to handle."

The Lynn Committee to Abolish Segregation in the Armed Forces revealed on June 1 the Supreme Court's reason for refusing to review the case. The clerk of the court informed Arthur Garfield Hays, Lynn's attorney, by telephone: "The petition for a writ of certiorari is denied on the ground that the case is moot, it appearing that petitioner is no longer in respondent's custody."

In less technical language, the court holds that the Lynn case is "moot"-that is, it cannot now be decided one way or the another - because the "petitioner" (Winfred Lynn) is no longer in the "custody" of the "respondent" (Colonel Downer, commandant at Camp Upton, N. Y., at the time Lynn originally brought his suit). This amazing pronouncement of the Supreme Court, which bids fair to make legal history, ignores the REASON Lynn is no longer in Colonel Downer's custody, which is, of course, that he is a soldier in the Army and was ordered overseas to the Pacific area several months ago. The government's right hand, the Supreme Court, apparently takes no responsibility for what the government's left hand, the Army, is doing.

Thus was born the Supreme Court's great Moot Suit. This issue, of course, has been pulled out of a hat at the last moment. The question of "mootness" was not even raised in the lower courts. The entire purpose of the court's maneuver is therefore to avoid the issues: Does the court sanction discrimination and segregation

(Continued from page 1)

"Should the unit to which he (Winfred Lynn) is assigned be ordered to proceed outside the continental United States and he is qualified for the duties to which assigned, he will not be removed from his unit."

The attorneys for Winfred Lynn will file a petition for a rehearing immediately and the National Assoif any, of the clause against discrimiciation for the Advancement of Colnation in the 1940 Draft Act."

Right Up Pegler's ... Alley

Is Westbrook Pegler listening? Can Mr. P. swallow just one small spoonful of his own brand of poison?

Well, here goes:

for the CRDC.

pardon.

Novak told the audience of the

new support coming to the case from

various sections of the labor move-

lent their financial and moral aid to

the case and more are coming. The

CRDC is now engaged in a nation-

wide campaign for a presidential

Over a hundred unions have now

At the special hearings on the Ward seizure, James Carey, national secretary of the CIO, turned on charges of "labor racketeering" by labor-hater Sewell Avery with the declaration that there are more racketeers in the Congress of the United States than in the labor unions.

Then, as if by previous arrangement. Carey's assertion was proved last week by as smelly a scandal as ever seeped out of the Foul Odor Factory on Capitol Hill.

Congressman Richard M. Kleberg, Texas Democrat and multi-millionaire owner of the fabulous 1,125,000 acre King Ranch in the Lone Star state, was accused by the mother of a thirteen-year-old Capitol page boy of taking a \$39.00 monthly kickback from the boy's \$129.00 monthly salary. The wealthy Texas congressman did not deny the charge, but passed the buck to one of his secretaries.

Kleberg is a notorious reactionary, consistently supports repressive legislation against working people and labor unions and "impartially" works for economic advantages for the cattle ranch owners, of whom he is the biggest and richest of all.

Some slimy racket, eh what, Mr. Pegler?

But that's peanuts compared to the large-scale swindles conducted by a majority of the present members of Congress. As stooges for corporations, bankers, landowners and America's Sixty Families, they have legislated literally billions and billions of the people's money into the treasuries of their masters.

Capitalism is still the biggest and dirtiest racket on earth.

whole outfit. How about you? You are hired by case will not be finally decided until the fall. In the meantime we must fight for the right to have the highest court in the land review this crucial case. The Negro and the progressive people of this country want to know why segregation is not discrimination and what is the meaning.

(at least, you are paid by) workers in unions. Whom do you tell them to vote for? Whose orders do you obey? Whose show, of which you are part, do you always praise, at the same time that you whine (usually behind closed doors) about other members of the cast?

In short, Brother Meany, who is really behaving like a monkey?

### A Capitalist Comment / **On Unemployment**

"Business is business. The objective of industry is to make money.... One of the easiest ways to cut, down expenses being to cut down salary and wage rolls, we of course lay off men right and left. If elderly workers have become less nimble because of their long years of service, they are the logical ones to be dropped first. Naturally, the greater resources at the command of the enlarged combinations are unstintingly used to acquire the very latest labor-saving machinery, enabling us to dismiss still more wage earners. In our eyes, the most valuable executive is the one who can produce the most with the least amount of labor-the smallest number of workers and the smallest payroll. Our up-to-the-minute methods make it feasible for us to dispense with enormous numbers of workers; it is not uncommon for us to install one machine which enables half a dozen men to do what formerly took half a hundred or even a hundred.

"Yes, we know that through our creation of gigantic enterprises ... we have caused grave dislocation of employment; but instead of being criticized for all this technological unemployment, we should be commended, since it is conclusive proof of our mastery of the science of management. What happens to all the hordes of workers we release is not our concern. Our responsibility begins and ends with running our business with surpassing efficiency, which means a minimu mof human la-

Manufacturers) and draw the line and contributed to the work of the sharp, the better for all of us." With organization. In closing his report on these remarks he introduced Novak. the work of the committee, Novak who proceeded to report on his tour

### made an appeal for funds, which resulted in a collection of over \$400.

#### **New York Readers!** ment. More and more unions have

LABOR ACTION may now be purchased in Harlem at:

Lenox Avenue and 125th Street Newsstand, Southwest Corner.

"No, the unemployment thus created does not enter in any way into our calculations. Our bounden duty is to exercise every ounce of ingenuity we possess to do away with jobs, not to create them. Our objective is money, more and more money; not more and more men, but fewer and fewer men.

"We are much to engrossed in increasing profits to give a thought to what happens because of our reducing the number of workers. How to take care of unemployment is a problem for others to solve. Let George do that .... We haven't the time to bother with it. It isn't our worry."-Forbes Magazine, quoted by the AFM in support of motion to dismiss the case of the United States versus the Federation in Federal Court.