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L'ABOR ACTION

JULY 29, 1946

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

RALLIES SWELL DEMAND FOR ACTION ON PRICES!

Out in the Open!



We go to press too early to report on the success of the buyers strikes and demonstrations called for July 23. Preliminary reports indicate a wide and successful response. In New York, severe rains reduced the effectiveness of the outdoor demonstrations, but there is every indication that retail sales were seriously affected by the organized refusal of the people to be bilked by inflated prices.

Sentiment for the demonstration and the buyers strike indicate a general readiness to undertake aggressive and organized action. As the reports from various cities prove, the demonstrations which attracted large numbers of people show that the working people of this country are prepared to fight the price swindle. The fight must be carried further-to the organization of Popular Price Control Committees. Local reports follow.

Detroit

·· ·

DETROIT—Cadillac Square on July 16 was jammed by an enormous crowd, estimated at about 200,000 people, who rallied in support of the call initiated by the UAW and supported by dozens of other labor organizations, veterans groups, Negro organizations and many others for a mass demonstration in protest against the end of OPA and for the restoration of price controls. Skyrocketing prices proved to thousands who ordinarily hold aloof from the ordinary day to day activities of their unions that mass action by the working people themselves was the only possible reply to the continuous and continuing attacks upon labor by a Congress which obviously is serving the needs of big business.

The response to the UAW call was magnificent. This is especially noteCleveland

By GERRY MCDERMOTT

CLEVELAND, July 20 - Over two thousand CIO workers demonstrated on July 16 in downtown Cleveland against soaring prices. Called by the **Cleveland District UAW-CIO as part** of the nation-wide UAW protest, the meeting was attended by auto, steel, electrical, and other CIO workers as well as housewives and consumers. The buyers' strike called by the meeting had an immediate city-wide effect. Retail stores the following day reportd the lowest volume of sales for the day in many years. Within a few days, food prices, especially in working class neighborhoods, had reached the lowest point yet recorded since big business's Congress scrapped OPA.

Small food merchants have given ample evidence that their sympathies lie with the working people of Cleveland. In numerous statements to the daily papers, they have indicated that they are charged scandalously high prices by the big food combines, and are helpless by themselves to control prices. Many small merchants publicly advised their customers to participate in a buyers' strike. Most aggressive action along this line was taken by the Kosher Butchers Association, which threatened to close their stores rather than charge the public the outrageous prices dictated by the meat barons. Except for the buyers' strike, the UAW officials who addressed the price demonstration had no solution to offer the working people of Cleveland except bombastic oratory. All speakers called for the inevitable letters to congressmen, although the flood of letters which has already deluged Cleveland congressmen did not stop them for a second from voting against OPA. **UAW Regional director Paul Miley** inadvertently showed what the PAC policy of supporting candidates of capitalist parties has come to, when he told the demonstrators, "They couldn't lick us on the picket line, they couldn't lick us in the corporations where we're organized, but it looks like they licked us in the national legislature."

Order your copy today of the new eight-page LABOR ACTION. Remember: the first issue appears next week!

CIO Board's Price Program Is off the Mark

By EMANUEL GARRETT

The CIO Executive Board which met last week advanced a program to meet the price situation. It is so far off the mark, in its essential aspects, that we propose to subject it to detailed criticism in our next issue. We can do no more in this issue than briefly outline this program and our criticism of it.

There is no doubt of the fact that

Campaign to **Hold Rents** In Chicago

CHICAGO, July 17-"I will fight higher prices. I will not pay higher rents. I will buy only what I absolutely need. I will not scab by paying higher prices to profiteers."

Some 3,000 members of the United Auto Workers took this pledge at the Ashland Auditorium here early yesterday, after walking off their jobs to attend the meeting.

Joseph Mattson, UAW regional director, told the meeting that the same energetic fight made to get wage increases must be repeated to keep prices down. "If we don't get price control," he said, "we will have to go out for more wages, not because we like to strike but because of the simple economics of the thing."

The inflationary spiral continues here.

Livestock prices continue to rise. Steers on the South Chicago market hit a new all-time high at \$25.75 a 100 pounds. Hogs jumped to \$20.50 a 100 pounds, highest price in 27 years. The price of milk in Chicago now is 201/2 cents a quart. During the first 16 days of July, 806 eviction suits were filed by landlords.

of the situation. For example, president Murray charged that "essential living costs" have risen approximately 40 per cent in the last two months, 25 per cent since OPA lapsed. And, as the CIO's Union News Service reports, the Board "uttered a grim warning that inflation and economic chaos endanger the safety and security of 140,000,000 American people." Unfortunately, its proposals, and those of the CIO's Cost of Living Committee published several days after the Board report, are lacking in an equal measure of "grimness."

MAJOR PROPOSAL IS BAD

In a statement that includes a number of valuable, though limited, proposals, the Board calls for a labormanagement conference as the major plank in its program.

"We call upon the President of the United States," says the resolution, "to call before him in immediate con- record of the last several years of ed by the government (management's

Murray and the CIO Board are aware ference, representatives of American labor and industry to the end that the demand and need for immediate wage increases may be given full and official recognition, and to the end that the crisis created by the drive to cripple and destroy price control may be met quickly through adequate guarantees for a stabilized national economy." The last part of this sentence can

be interpreted to mean anything, or nothing, and therefore we omit comment on it. It is the first part, especially as it relates to a scandalous "offer" made by Murray in his press conference, that demands critical, and severly critical, attention. We are referring to the labor-management conference.

For the CIO to go out for wage increases, is a necessary step. But it is ful, many-millioned organization of drained of all consequence, when it is workers, looking towards Truman, tolinked with a labor-management con- wards "labor - management" agreeference. Labor has at its disposal the ment at a conference actively attend-

ence at which Murray reported the Board's program, reference was made, according to the CIO news, to the "fiasco of last year's union-management confab." Fiasco! That's putting it mildly. The story of this winter's strike

labor-management, conferences, And

the record is a clear one. These con-

ferences did not, could not serve la-

bor. In fact, at the very press confer-

wave is again being repeated. Readers will recall that while hundreds of workers were either on the picket line, or ready to join a picket line, Murray was waltzing around the White House "in conference with Truman." The result was that labor's picket lines gains were stolen from labor in Washington. Here we have it again: Murray, the head of a power-

government!) instead of looking towards the strength that resides in the ranks of the CIO.

A SCANDALOUS OFFER

There is a place for labor to confer with management-at the negotiating table, the two sides meeting as the opponents they are, labor versus capital, the strength of one pitted against the strength of the other. Wage increases are necessary; and Murray, the union man, knows how to get them.

Labor - management conferences serve no purpose other than to deceive workers into thinking that something valuable is being done for them. Management, that is the profiteers, the monopolists, are not deceived.

What makes this all the more hairraising is that at his press conference, Murray spoke of a . . . no-strike (Continued on page 2)

Union Action on Prices Effective

By DAVID COOLIDGE

Reports coming to The New York Times from its correspondents in "key centers," reveal the fact that labor's drive led by the UAW (CIO) against the price gouging of the big capitalists, is beginning to bring results.

This isn't the way the Times puts it of course. This big capitalist daily, like less pretentious organs of big business around the country, is more subtle. In a two-column head for July 21 the Times admits that "Consumers Fight Price Rise,' 'but adds "Not in 'Buyers' Strikes.'" According to the Times, its own survey shows that the public is merely "more selective," "hoarding is absent," but "organized resistance is negligible."

WHY NO "HOARDING" NOW?

According to the "corner grocers" interviewed by the Times buyers have have no relation to what the Times end of OPA appear to be settling back

standards and less inclined to buy for hoarding purposes." That is to say housewives and others are mainly concerned with quality and not with prices. They believe that business is entitled to a fair profit and of course ground meat at 75 cents a pound gives only a "fair profit." There is some falling off in sales due, not to any buyers strike, but to the fact that housewives are not "hoarding."

And why aren't they hoarding? The answer is implicit in the Times story and very simple. Housewives are not "hoarding" because there is no need for hoarding. There is plenty of butter in the stores, so why hoard? From reading the Times story one would be led to believe that the price of butter and meat, and very low real wages It is all very simple according to

calls "hoarding."

become more "insistent on quality the Times. The OPA is out and the in the face of buying resistance." The country has returned to normalcy. Free competition is with us again since the government at Washington took its bureaucratic hands off. Overnight the big capitalist manufacturers and processors began to produce. The Times would have not believed that all of the beef, butter, shirts and hosiery now on the shelves have been produced since the elimination of OPA: that not a single capitalist manufacturer has done any "hoarding" throughout 1946: that their warehouses and refrigerators and granaries have been empty; that its millions of workers who were coming around every day put in 40 hours a week twiddling their thumbs; that it was all a vast feather-bedding operation.

"Prices of some foods," says the Times, "which rose steeply with the

gentleness and caution of the Times are superb: some prices are "settling back." "Not in buyers' strikes," but due to the inexorable, benign and self-correcting operations of "our system of free enterprise." There is "buying resistance," but this is concerned with quality only, never with price. This "buying resistance" is not a buyers' strike. The Times would perhaps explain the difference by saying that there is no violence, no bricks are being thrown, housewives are not yet storming the meat markets.

In New York City, the merchants report that there is nothing to this buyers strike propaganda, there are "only changes of buying habits" among the masses. One creamery company reported that the drop in the price of butter was due to "restoration of open market conditions and (Continued on page 2)

worthy because the preparations for the demonstration were very bad and the instructions to the local unions were unclear. All local unions had been authorized to stop work for several hours in order to ensure mass participation by their membership, but while companies like Briggs and Chrysler were entirely shut down, the plants of the General Motors Company and the Ford Motors Company remained open and in operation. The workers in many small shops organized by the UAW remained at (Continued on page 2)



PHILADELPHIA, July 22-Public indignation against rising prices remained at high pitch in this city. Protest meetings, picketing, and buyers' strikes seemed to have some effect, for certain commodities glutted the market and the prices began to level

Most dramatic illustration of labor's protest against high prices took place at the Budd Manufacturing Plant on July 16 when the UAW local called a buyers' strike against the rise in the cost of box lunches in the company cafeteria. Only one lunch was purchased instead of the usual 2000! A strike against milk prices was called in all CIO shops for July 19 and received good support.

Consumers associations have arisen spontaneously in many neighborhoods and have integrated their activities with those of organized labor. In several instances the Workers Party helped to bring the consumer groups into contact with the union move-

ment. Picketing was continued at stores which had raised their prices most conspicuously and merchants were signing and posting stickers pledging the unions and the customers that they would not raise their prices above OPA ceilings.

Many individual merchants were advertising in the newspapers that they would keep prices down. Collectively, however, through their retail associations they were printing full page declarations that the price rises are necessary.

Few seemed inclined to believe recent editorials which blamed the 181/2 cent an hour wage increases for the inflationary trends. In fact there is great support for further wage increase demands.

Militants who attended the demonstration were presented with a program to stop price profiteering, however. LABOR ACTION, containing the Manifesto of the Workers Party on the price situation, was distributed at the demonstration and was well received.



BUFFALO, July 20-Last night a conference was called by various labor. veteran, and consumer organizations to initiate a fight against the rising cost of living. All groups present agreed to call a demonstration in Lafayette Square on July 25 at which Walter Reuther is to be the principal speaker. A self-imposed Emergency Citizens Committee consisting of churchmen, professional groups, representatives from the Communist and American Labor parties, veterans organizations, consumer groups and some top union officials from this area sought to mobilize organized labor in Buffalo behind this demonstration.

After unanimous agreement with the committees' program for a buyers strike and demonstration, a floor discussion of additions to the committees' program of action immediately

(Continued on page 2)

Page 2

Chicago

LABOR ACTION

July 29, 1946

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

A Boss's Dictionary



Lumber Union Committees **Check on Prices** you waiting for? Come to 114 West

By DAVID MORGAN

PORTLAND - The Executive Committee of the Northwest Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers. AFL. passed a resolution at a meeting in Portland, July 16, calling on all LSW-AFL local unions to set up price committees immediately for the purpose of detecting and publicizing all price increases in their respective communities.

The committee advised local unions to consider carefully the reports of price increases, rendered from time to time by their price committees, and take appropriate action to inform the public so that consumers may be guided accordingly.

The general strategy recommended was for the local unions to advertise through leaflets and open meetings those stores who are found by the committee to be price gouging.

Picketing merchants who have raised prices was also recommended. This picketing is not intended to keep customers out of the stores, but is to serve the purpose of informing the general public of the policy of price gouging being carried on by so many merchants.

"This is a splendid way for our union to take the lead in protecting not only its own members, but the public as well, against inflationary price increases," said Kenneth Davis, Executive Secretary of the Council. "By such actions we can render a service to the whole community, as well as keeping our own wages from being gobbled up by unreasonable price increases."

It was explained that a price increase is equivalent to a wage cut, and any merchant or landlord who boosts prices is as unfair to the working people as the employer who cuts wages.

up tenants committees on a "block than essential commodities and conby block" basis. Previously this cluded with: "I will not scab on my League had been a liberal "paper" organization only, "handing out advice." The union decision, however, if carried through could well build it into a powerful organization fighting for the needs of the tenants against rent gouging and evictions. to attend union meetings protesting

The audience took an oath not to pay higher rents, not to buy other

ness and the government. Five thousand of these workers met at the Ashland auditorium to hear **Detroit Rally -** union leaders present the program of the UAW, in spite of the fact that

many companies threatened workers with disciplinary action for "viglation of contract." The meeting voted for various reso-

CHICAGO - Approximately 30,000

Chicago area workers of the UAW

shut down plants on July 16 in order

the inflationary attacks on big busi-

' lutions: to demand a new OPA bill restoring the price structure of June 30, for renewal of subsidies and calling on President Truman again to veto the present bill in Congress.

The UAW endorsed the Chicago Tenants League, saying the union would "take the initiative" in setting



(Continued from page 1) brought out a serious cleavage bctween the union militants, notably the Bell Aircraft and steel workers, and the consumer and veteran organizations backed by the committee.

A local 501, UAW, resolution demanding automatic wage and salary increases to meet the rising cost of living, and requests from other unionists to reopen wage contracts throughout the Buffalo area, met with the disapproval of the middle class elements.

The veterans and consumers argued that as salaried employees, white collar workers, professionals, students, etc., they did not have powerful industrial unions to fight to increase their income and thus demanded that the fight be confined solely to the price front. Behind this argument, of course, was the unreasonable fear promoted by NAM propaganda that wage increases would lead to price increases.

Instead of following the lead of auto workers in the Detroit demonstration where consumer groups were asked to support organized labor in the fight against the profiteers by an all front fight which include buyers' strikes, demands for wage increases and the policing of prices by housewives and union shop committees; instead of this, the committee sought to restrict the program merely to a buyers strike.

The responsibility for the meeting breaking up with labor divided from the consumer and veteran groups lies with the committee which did nothing to eliminate the false fears that price increases are caused by wage

fellow citizens by paying to profiteers." After a continuations committee was set up to push these plans ahead, the audience had to listen to a Democratic politician who denounced Republican Governor Green for not calling a session of the state legislature to pass state rent control meas-

(Continued from page 1)

work for lack of clear instructions from their local officers who in turn lacked clear directives from the national officers. Each committeeman in these plants acted on his own initiative instructing his men to walk out or to stay on the job as he saw fit. Nevertheless, thousands and thousands of workers walked out of work despite lack of direction from their leaders.

Thousands gathered on the East and West Side of town under the banners of their local unions to parade en masse into the Square carrying banners and shouting slogans for the restoration of price controls. All the participants came in a fighting mood. The leaders of the UAW all spoke, including Walter Reuther, George Addes, Richard Leonard, R. J. Thomas and others. Their attacks on antilabor Congressmen were wildly applauded. Their references .however ambiguous and vague, to "action" were vigorously cheered.

It is just because the demonstrators came to the rally full of enthusiasm and ready for action that thousands of them returned to their homes and to their shops puzzled and wondering about the next steps; for the demonstration fell flat in its essential aspect. No clear direction was given to these tens of thousands who came in the expectation of receiving such instructions for what to do next. All speakers concentrated on three

main points: 1) the question of buyers strikes; 2) political action; 3) resistance to rent increases.

Reuther called for a buyers strike for the next day on meat, and this appeal has already met with response as the sales of meat in this area dropped. However, the demonstrators have been told: "buy only the minimum of food, milk, and absolute necessities until Congress enacts a price control law with teeth in it and the administration staffs OPA with men with guts enough to resist big business pressure." At the same time, however, the leaders of the CIO have already indicated that they have given up hope of Congress enacting ANY effective price control law and are bas-

absence of any effective law This leaves the buyers strikes, which are

Nationwide Rallies Swell Demand for Action on Prices - -

designed to achieve such action by Congress, hanging in mid-air. Political action as usual was on

every CIO leader's tongue. "If Congress does not pass an effective price control law," the demonstrators were told, "we will mobilize at the polls in November and get rid of this reactionary Congress." But this too falls flat. This yery Congress was elected in 1944 after an all out campaign by the PAC to elect "friends of labor," the so-called "progressives" in the two old parties. And the same CIO leaders today who denounce this Congress as reactionary hailed its election in 1944 as a great victory for labor. Clearly, political action is needed but not the old type of political action. It is obvious now. The policy of supporting Democratic and Republican friends of labor is bankrupt. What we need is a new policy. . the formation of an Independent Labor Party. But nothing was heard of this at the demonstration and only a few days ago the Michigan PAC announced that it would continue to support "good" Democrats and Republicans.

The announced policy of the UAW for fighting rent increases has been and still is: Form mass flying squadrons to resist evictions and refuse to pay rent increases! This is an excellent idea but it was cast into a cloud of uncertainty by the demonstration. Leonard, speaking on this very point, said: "Don't pay any increases in rent ... UNTIL CONGRESS PASSES AN OPA BILL." Such a formulation can only mean this: we will refuse to pay rent increases in order to put pressure on Congress, but if it does pass some kind of OPA bill we will give up the fight against rent increases. A fifteen per cent increase in rents has been legalized by the Michigan State Legislature. Congress, even if it should pass some kind of disemboweled OPA bill, will very possibly put rent control into the hands of the States. Leonard has already indicated his readiness to accept this settlement, and one should not be surprised therefore that few local unions are taking the proposal for the formation

ures. At the same time he praised Truman to the skies. The devoted unionists who attended

this rally deserved better than they got. The issues were presented neither well nor vigorously. No mention was made of the Reuther demand on Philip Murray for a national conference of CIO, AFL and the Brotherhoods, because the Stalinists played a * erans Committee an emergency conmajor role in organizing the meeting. Futile threats about "action at the polls" against the reactionaries in

Congress will never bring any genuine progress for labor, so long as they remain on the basis of supporting liberal Republicans and Democrats. Park in downtown Newark on July 24 If the rally's resolution on workers

committees in the neighborhoods against rent gouging and price profiteers is made into a reality, a forward step will have been taken.

(Continued from page 1) . pledge! It's incredible, but true. We quote from the CIO News: "Murray said the unions might consider the granting of a no-strike pledge to show their good faith." Good faith! Good faith, indeed! After the experience of the war years, after the indignation it justly aroused among tens of thousands of union militants, to speak again of a no-strike pledge, in, however "iffy" a sense, shows not "good faith" but criminal idiocy.

And what does he mean by saying that the "unions" might possibly be willing to consider the monstrosity of a no-strike pledge? What unions, and what part of the unions?-the officialdom, or the ranks who had more than a belly-full of the no-strike pledge during the war?

REST OF PROGRAM

The rest of the program has its good points, and "unclear" points:

(1) An eleventh hour plea to Congress to pass a price control bill free of crippling amendments. OK. But the actions of Congress have demonstrated that labor must organize its own price control action together with consumer representatives.

(2) A demand that Truman veto any bill that would be a fraud. OK. But it appears as though Truman is prepared to sign just such a fraud.

(3) A call for action to hold those in Congress who fought OPA responsible for their acts in the next election campaign. OK. But not in Murray's way!

We have gained nothing if we oppose one capitalist politician in order to support another capiltalist politito support another capiltalist politi-cian who may have voted for OPA but committed a hundred other Hearings on Freeport Case crimes against labor. Regardless of

living must be kept down." Is that action? Hardly! Undoubtedly, small merchants can be made to work together with the unions, for their common interest. In fact, labor must align with it the little merchant. But committees to "make clear" why prices must be kept down is arrant nonsense. Shall a committee explain this to Armour or Swift? Action, not explanations, by popular price control committees is required-the kind of action the UAW is speaking about

Newark

Newark labor is gradually moving

into action on the price situtation. On

the initiative of the Greater Newark

CIO Council and the American Vet-

ference was held on two days' notice,

which resulted in the setting up of

the Essex Council for Economic Sta-

bilization to plan and carry on a fight

nounced plans for a rally in Military

at 7:00 P.M., to be followed on the

26th by a "Buy Nothing Day." Mean-

while consumers are asked to buy

only necessities. The CIO Council has

The new Council has already an-

against inflation.

justment of "pensions, social security

(6) A warning that workers' wages and purchasing power must be protected in the period before the termination of contracts and before the development of a stabilized national economy, OK, But how? FIVE MORE POINTS

The Cost of Living Committee further proposes in its "Labor's Consumer Program" the following five points: (1) Don't buy anything you can do without.

(2) The point on explaining to merchants and landlords, discussed above. (3) "Organize shopping committees to check prices and report price gougers to the public." OK. But the situation doesn't call for shopping committees, but for price control committees of which the above will be one duty.

selling.

when it says it will resist evictions. (5) A demand for immediate read-

payments and other fixed sources of incomes." OK!

(4) Prepare for direct buying and ON THOSE INSTRUMENTS THAT REPRESENT US DIRECTLY.

CIO Price Plan Off Mark - make clear to them why the cost of

(5) "Be ready to use picket lines if you need them, to tell the public what the facts are, and whom not to support." OK. But that's a pretty limited use for picket lines. WHAT IS MISSING?

of living.

Nowhere in the report of the Board meeting is there reference to the request made by the UAW for a national conference of all unions to discuss action on the price situation. To our way of thinking, that is the kind of step the CIO should have taken, the kind of conference it should call. Un-

of Newark and Union County CIO

workers could be the mightiest show

of labor strength seen in New Jarsey

Have you signed the Workers Party

nominating petition yet? What are

14th Street and get a petition today.

since the foundation of the CIO.

like the labor-management proposal, it would have meaning in labor's behalf. Nowhere in the Board report is

there a proposal to link a demand for wage increases with a genuine program to PREVENT price increases. We are speaking of the kind of program put forward by the GM strikers and which we have called the GM Program. This program remains the basic element in any real campaign to control prices-at their source. Nowhere is there mention of a plan

to organize real POPULAR PRICE CONTROL COMMITTEES. Buyers strikes are an excellent demonstration. But the situation demands systematic, organized activity by those who are most vitally concerned. It is proper to demand a good price, control bill of Congress, but we cannot put our reliance there-even should it produce something that more or less resembles price control. OUR RELI-ANCE MUST NECESSARILY REST

increases.

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BOSTON

LABOR ACTION Educational Forum. Otisfield Hall, Dorchester, Mass. Wednesday-8 P. M.

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time they swing into action, it is felt, the union leaders may have already accepted the idea of rent increases. But there are local unions which are going ahead nevertheless and we may still see mass fights against evictions.

of flying squadrons seriously. By the

The program of the Workers Party for price control and for the fight for higher wages to meet the rising cost of living was presented to the demonstrators in LABOR ACTION. More than 10,000 copies of the paper were

LABOR ACTION HEADQUARTERS in Newark at 248 Market St. distributed by members of the Work-ers Party of Detroit. The distributors ers Party of Detroit. The distributors shouted: "Stop Price Profiteering. Control Prices by Union Committees." As the workers heard these slogans they crowded around and eagerly sought to get copies of the paper. Of all the material distributed by the many organizations which participated on Tuesday, LABOR ACTION stood alone with an effective and practical program for price control.

their votes on OPA, capitalist politicians are just that-capitalist politicians. Labor needs an Independent Labor Party, and its own candidates running on the ticket of that party. That isn't in Murray's program, nor will it be until such a time as the pressure for independent labor political action compels Murray to pay heed, or disregards him if he fails to do so.

(4) A plea for buyers strikes and community action "by every available weapon," OK. But the CIO Board, and the Cost of Living Committee, did not specify what this community action should be, or did so in such a way as to give it only the meekest kind of meaning.

Says the Cost-of-Living Committee report: "Get your union to call on the individual merchants or landlords, and on their organization heads, to

After months of insistent demands on the part of the New York Committee for Justice in Freeport that justice be done in the now-famous Ferguson case, Governor Dewey has finally ordered additional hearings on the case. These hearings, held last week in New York City, were merely a repetition of the Nassau County Grand Jury hearing which found that Romeika, the cop who shot and killed two Negro veterans, had "done his duty."

Witnesses testified that the four Ferguson brothers were refused service in a bus terminal tearoom. Charles Ferguson, bitter and angry, let fly a few choice words at the manager and was led away by his brothers. The manager complained to the cop and the four brothers were lined up

heads.

Charles who used "loud and abusive language." Charles lowered his hands and Romeika fired "without aim" as the Fergusons "came at him" The Medical Examiner testified that the bullets could not have been fired

"aimlessly." Eyewitnesses said that the cop raised his arm, took deliberate aim and shot first one brother and then turned and shot the other.

The cop said he was threatened by

Frank Williams, attorney for the NAACP, declared that the line of questioning was an attempt to "whitewash" Romeika. He demanded that the investigation be conducted along lines that will reveal the real cause of the Freeport murders.

The "Freeport case" is not merely a case of a cop with bad aim or hasty against the outside wall of the teatemper. It is part of the pattern of disroom with their hands above their crimination that exists throughout the country as more and more Negroes

return to their homes seeking the free, decent life they were promised in return for service in the armed forces. The city of Freeport maintains a special segregated elementary school for Negro children. It also has the KKK. Columbia, Tennessee, was turned into an armed camp because a Negro navy veteran tried to defend his mother against a white man. In South Carolina another Negro veteran lost both his eyes because he "answered back." Freedom and equality for the Negro means a strengthening and unification of the entire working class.

must make known that they will not stand for this barbaric treatment of the Negro people. That is the reason why they must protest the murder of the Fergusons and take steps to see that such acts are ended once and for all.

That is the reason why the workers

Union Action Against Price Rises Seen Effective - vited to participate and are asked to

For information of other Workers Party branches and LABOR ACTION (Continued from page 1) offices, write to the National Office, 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y. not to any buyers strike." Another dealer reported that any drop in The Socialist Youth League, youth section of the Workers Party, has youth units in the following citles: Manhattan, N. Y.; Brooklyn, N. Y.;

war." One department store official Philadelphia, Pa.; Baltimore, Md.; Bos-ton, Mass.; Detroit, Mich.; Chicago, said that "buyers' strikes so far rep-Ill.; Cleveland, Ohio; Madison, Wis.; resent merely propaganda talk by the union, which ... should be offset by If you live in any of these cities and counter-propaganda." desire to attend the youth meetings, write to the Socialist Youth League, This same executive admitted that

"in foodstuffs...prices undoubtedly have risen, but I believe, compare favorably with former black-market prices." This is really making merry with "our system of free enterprise." This is known as capitalism putting its best foot forward and revealing its most delightful aspects.

"NO STRIKE," BUT - - -

In Boston there is no "buyers strike," of course, but the Emergency Committee of Citizens and Labor are preparing "to participate in a buyers' strike next Tuesday." Boston merchants perhaps feel that this is unnecessary for they have pledged themselves to "absorb added costs as far as humanly possible."

In Philadelphia there is no buyers strike but the Mid-City Reading. Ter- council is putting on a vegetarian prominal Market was picketed for three gram. Housewives are urged to boydays. We take it that each of the pick-

eters had filled a basket from this market before the picketing began and were only walking the picket line to protest against the "quality" of the meat and butter they had purchased.

"In Camden, also, there is "no buyers' strike." Local 1, of the Shipbuilding Workers (CIO) only picketed 100 food stores. This had "dramatic results" says the Times. The storekeepers agreed to cooperate with the union against rising wholesale prices. In Washington, "while organized buyers' strikes ... have been mostly in the way of scattered ... picketing ... housewives . . . simply leave highprice butter in the refrigerators and costly meats on the counters. These tactics must force prices down somewhat, retailers agree." There is something wrong in this part of the Times story. Either these housewives have hoards of butter and meat at home or dic affair. they don't like the quality of the meat and butter in Washington.

In Atlanta there is no buyers strike; . the customers are only "becoming hard to please." Either the Atlanta workers have butter and meat stored away at home from the war years or they are very snooty about the quality of Atlanta butter and meat.

The St. Louis CIO industrial union cott meat and butter. Meat sales have

dropped and "slow-moving meat" has been marked down. In Chicago butter was reduced, and according to the Times' "no buyers strike" survey, this was a reflection "to some extent" of "the wide-spread consumer resistance against the high prices." In San Francisco, the consumption of butter and meat "has not been up to expectations." In Los Angeles there has been "a possible backing up of commodities" but the businessmen say that this is due to the hot weather.

CAPITALISTS ALL WORRIED

This is the way things stand according to this country-wide survey of the New York Times. There is no buyers strike, only picketing, resistance, caution and refusal to buy. A demonstration in Detroit by housewives carrying signs saying: "Drive Meat Prices Down. Don't Buy It!" is only a spora-

The fact is that the Times and all the capitalist press are worried. They

are worried now just as they were last winter during the wave of strikes which covered the country. That strike wave was really only a ripple in comparison to what organized labor could have done if it had had the proper leadership.

Up to now the present drive of organized labor against high prices is a mere ripple. But the capitalist press and their masters, the monopoly cap-

italists, are beginning to be uneasy. The reason is clear: the capitalist price gougers and fixers are striking at the masses directly. They strike not only at the industrial and agricultural workers, but also at the middle class white collar groups, the working farmers and the very small showkeeper. Housewives who do the spending begin to understand what low wages really mean, and above all they begin to understand the value of the unions, to which their husbands belong, as never before. This whole campaign of the unions

therefore will bring support to organized labor, and also tend to unify the labor movement itself. The capitalist press and the big capitalist employers understand this. The top leaders of the CIO and the AFL seemingly do not understand it, however, The AFL is far worse than the CIO. This slowmoving leadership only sits and waits.

REAL ACTION NEEDED

If the CIO and the AFL or the CIO singly would get into real action, the workers and the masses of the people would rally to the support of any program they would advance for bringing prices down. They could organize and carry through demonstrations of millions of workers and the middle class to cover every city and town. Every working class and middle class

Part and American States and American

such demonstrations and show up on the picket lines.

Only a very feeble start has been made. That is why the Times and other capitalist papers can write as they do. But they can be forced to change their tune. Labor can force them to send their reporters and photographers scurrying to a thousand demonstrations around the big stores, the big packing plants, the big distributors and the homes of the big capitalist gougers.

The unions can organize to prevent rent increases and evictions. They can throw picket lines around the home of every worker whose family is threatened with eviction and stop the eviction. They can support tenants who are faced with rent increases. If tenants are evicted the union flying squadrons can put the furniture back into the house. If a relatively weak organization of the unemployed could do these things during the depression surely a strong and powerful labor movement should do no less today.

All that is needed is for the militant leaders in the CIO to get started and keep the heat on the top leadership. There is no time to waste waiting to see what Congress and Truman will do. They are only playing a game with each other and with the masses of the people. This is a job for the unions and the whole working housewife would rally to a call for class and its supporters.

prices was due to the "ordinary good sense of the average housewife." This dealer also was of the opinion that housewives were using up "hoards they had accumulated during the

July 29, 1946

A.



New Price Bill Won't Work

The new price control bill about to be passed by yield and this time sign the bill. He'll use the the House and Senate after compromise agreement between committees, is not one bit better than the previously adopted bill which President Truman vetoed. It is a fraud, to put it bluntly

Editorials-

The new bill is substantially the same that Truman vetoed. It reduces food subsidies to farmers, thus encouraging price increases; it eliminates the maximum average price plan; it provides for a 3-man decontrol board (notice the formulationdecontrol) which can take price control off various items, and refuse to establish control over already decontrolled products such as livestock, milk, soybeans, etc. Control over poultry, eggs, tobacco and petroleum products is likewise abolished unless the decontrol board decides otherwise.

Furthermore, the revived OPA government board will have power to allow manufacturers to raise their prices to 1940 levels, plus the increase in production costs since then What is this but a way of slipping in the Taft and Wherry price relief (to the capitalists) formula against which Truman protested in his veto? The only aspect of the original OPA retained without modification is federal control of rents. Otherwise, the new bill is a fraud contrived to cut the heart out of the already ineffectual OPA regulation.

It is the same bill Truman already vetoed. But will he veto it a second time? That's the question. Washington reports have it that Truman will

excuse that it is the best he could get under the circumstances.

Whatever happens-whether little man Truman signs or vetoes the new bill-is it not clearer than ever that labor cannot rely upon Congress or the White House for any effective price control measures? After all the fuss of the presidential veto we are back exactly where we were before, with the same bill.

American labor must demand that President Truman veto this fraud once more and that Congress adopt an OPA bill that will effectively retain price ceilings on rents and every single commodity produced for sale in this country. Not a single exception must be allowed to slip through any Congressional bill. Nor must it contain slick formulas to permit a steady and "legal" raising of prices by producers. The proposed "compromise" bill allows all this. It means the death of even the slight, conditional price control exercised by the former OPA setup. Labor cannot allow such a bill to pass.

Then, to enforce the effectiveness of a real price control bill, American labor must police the price control system by its own, independent methodsthe organization of union and housewife committees on a nation-wide scale for enforcement of price ceilings.

WORLD_POLITICS

The Death of Mikhailovitch

By IRVING HOWE

A sordid incident in international politics came to an end last week when the Stalinist-dominated dictatorship of Tito in Yugoslavia ordered the Chetnik leader, Mikhailovitch, to be shot as a war-time collaborator with the Nazis. The bitter struggle in Yugoslavia between the forces of Tito, representing a mass peasant movement under Stalinist domination, and the forces of Mikhailovitch, a monarchist serving the interests of Anglo-American imperialism, has come to an end; and Tito is the victor.

LABOR ACTION

It is impossible to say in America just how much truth there is to the charge that Mikhailovitch collaborated with the Nazis; it is possible to say that such collaboration is by no means inconceivable. For Mikhailovitch was engaged in a bitter fight with Tito's Partisans and he may well have worked out informal truces with the Germans in order to oppose Tito more effectively. That a monarchist reactionary should make deals with Nazis is neither inconceivable nor unlikely.

However, let us also remember that Tito comes from the camp of Stalinism: the very same Stalinism which made the infamous green-light-for-war pact with Hitler. Tito is a political brother of Molotov who made the classic remark that fascism was a matter of taste. Tito is the agent of Stalin who played the Horst Wessel Lied when von Ribbentrop came to Moscow. Tito, at the time of the infamous pact, adopted the line that Hitler was not responsible for the war.

In a word, it comes with poor grace-to put the matter most politely-for Tito to denounce, let alone shoot, anyone for having collaborated with Hitler; for that is precisely what his own movement did.

TITO-VYSHINSKY'S PUPIL

Nor can we have much confidence in the trials staged by Tito; he has apparently attended some of Vyshinsky's classes in Moscow. Without in any way defending Mikhailovitch either personally or politically (quite the contrary!), without taking the slightest responsibility for either his politics or his past actions, we say nonetheless that it is impossible for anyone to get a fair trial from a Stalinist-dominated court; and that therefore the Mikhailovitch trial must be labeled a frameup. A frameup which does not nearly affect the working class as vitally as other Stalinist frameups, such as the Moscow trials, but a frameup nonetheless. We are neither Mikhailovitch's defenders, nor are we Tito's apologists. Thus far, one political bandit, Tito, has succeeded in murdering another political bandit, Mikhailovitch. We tell the truth about that murder: it is a condemnation on both sides-Mikhailovitch as a reactionary and a possible collaborator: Tito as a dictatorial frame-up artist.

The American liberals are sharply split on this matter, some of them supporting one side and some the other. Both groups thereby show their lack of political intelligence and imagination: they can think only in terms of, which kind of dictatorship is preferrable, which ruler is more charitable.

Vets Protest Palestine Policy

group of 4,000 to 5,000 Jewish War maining Jews of Europe is returned to the land of his ancestors." That Veterans., predominantly veterans of World War II, staged a "March on would solve the problem in Barr's Washington" to protest the barbarous opinion. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE and inhuman treatment of the Jewish PROBLEM OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN 'Yishuv" in Palestine by the British. THE UNITED STATES? Not a word Many of the demonstrators willingly about that! WHAT ABOUT OPENING sacrificed a day's pay so that they THE DOORS OF THE UNITED might protest Britain's policy and de-

We are dealing here with a very complex situation, and any attempt to explain or to take a stand on the execution of Mikhailovitch must weigh the many factors quite carefully. Shortly after the war began and Hitler had succeeded in overrunning Yugoslavia, there was organized in that country a guerrilla resistance under the lendership of Mikhailovitch, a general in the service of that country's reactionary monarchy, the House of Kaganowitch. This movement was highly nationalistic in nature, confining itself largely to Serbs and not very friendly to the minority national group in Yugoslavia, the Croats.

For a while it fought quite brilliantly against the Nazis and it became the darling, with Mikhailovitch the gilded hero, of many of the American liberals who were subsequently to support Tito and denounce Mikhailovitch as a traitor. The Stalinists, too, it should be noted, were ecstatic in their praise for Mikhailovitch and his "Chetniks."

ORGANIZATION OF THE PARTISANS

As the war progressed, however, and the fortunes of the Stalinist armies took a turn for the better, there developed an internal split in the Yugoslav resistance. Organized under the leadership of Tito, a Stalinist of long standing, and rallying considerable numbers of peasants and workers to its support by its use of reform slogans, the new "Partisan" movement gradually gained control of most of Yugoslav's resistance. Supplied with arms and support by all three of the major allies, it pursued a bold military policy of open clashes with the Nazis; while Mikhailovitch apparently played a more passive role by retreating to the hills. The Partisans charged that Mikhailovitch had collaborated with the Nazis and it was on this charge that he was recently brought to trial.

For in the interim, with the support of the advancing Russian troops which are the most powerful military force in eastern Europe today and with the Anglo-American imperialists more or less helpless in the situation, the Partisans had established a government, broken with the government-in-exile, dethroned the boy king and created in Yugoslavia a miniature replica of the totalitarian bureaucratic regime of Russia, which serves as the western-most outpost of Stalinist imperialism.

While for purposes of public palatability the Tito regime nominally allows opposition movements to exist, in actuality these oppositions are severely restricted; the dictatorship becomes, as in Russia, increasingly tight and criticism of it involves the danger of loss of work, imprisonment and persecution. Whether or not this regime really enjoys the support of the masses it is impossible to say: no free election has been held in Yugoslavia. A policy of agrarian reform has been instituted, somewhat similar to the land divisions achieved by the classical capitalist revolutions, and some of Yugoslavia's meager industries have been nationalized.

But the country remains essentially a police dictatorship, resting ultimately on the support of the Russian army bayonets which if not physically present are always within striking distance. Of freedom, of working class initiative or rule-there is none in Tito's Yugoslavia.

On Monday, July 15, an estimated not rest until the last of 1,300,000 re- mocracies" anti-Semitism is on the increase.

"OPEN THE DOORS!"

LABOR ACTION applauds the militancy of the veterans who demonstrated in Washington for the entry of 100.000 Jews into Palestine. But we also warn that this demand, by itself, can serve reactionary ends unless it is coupled with what for Americans must be the principal demand: OPEN THE DOORS OF THE U.S. TO FREE AND UNRESTRICTED IMMIGRA-TION; FOR THE ELEMENTARY DEMOCRATIC RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO ENTER ANY COUNTRY OF THEIR CHOICE.

The Behavior Of American GIs in Japan

FPgge 3

By GERRY MCDERMOTT

A story recently appeared in the daily papers about the occupation forces in Japan which is worth thinking about. The dispatch told of an order from Lt. Gen. Eichelberger commanding the Eighth Army in Japan. The order, to unit commanders. read in part as follows:

"There have been cases of the malicious beating of Japanese by both individual soldiers and by groups. There have been cases of troops breaking into Japanese homes and taking trivial amounts of money from needy natives. There have been ... assaults on women on highways and in their homes. And in addition there are many indications of deliberate, arrogant, bullying attitudes on the part of some of our soldiers."

Malicious beatings...assaults on women... breaking into homes...deliberate bullving attitude. And evidently not just isolated cases here and there, for no less a person than an army commander is concerned with the situation. This writer, who was with the occupation forces in Japan, saw such things happen long before Gen. Eichelberger wrote about them.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE?

We have been told, oh so many times, that Germans are militaristic brutes with cruel ideas about how "inferior" races should be treated. And as for the "Japs," words hardly describe these barbaric sadists. But now we read that American troops are also guilty of "assaults on women, beatings, breaking into homes, an arrogant attitude."

Perhaps, then, the things we have been told all these years about peculiar "German" barbarity and particular Japanese savagery does not explain why soldiers are often cruel and brutal. Perhaps there is something inherent in all modern countries and armies that makes normal young human beings behave so shamefully at times.

There is. The reason is capitalism, which Germany, Japan, and the United States all have in common. Capitalism, and the evils which capitalism inevitably breeds: imperialism and militarism. Capitalism, in its drive for markets and profits breeds war; imperialism, in its subjugation of weaker nations, drags young men away from their homes to foreign lands where they are miserable, homesick, and lonely; militarism teaches these young men to be unthinking killers and oppressors. These forces affect not only young Germans and Japanese, but also young Americans.

But, the objection may be raised, there is still a difference between the United States and Axis countries. German and Japanese soldiers committed cruel acts with the official approval of their armies and officers. When American soldiers get out of line, the American army steps in. Gen. Eichelberger is correcting the situation.

Get. Eichelberger's statement may make the American brass hats look good at first glance. But the slightest examination of the facts shows the brass hats to be a hundred times more guilty than the average soldier.

BY THE BRASS HATS

The German soldier was stuffed with vicious stories about inferior races. The Japanese soldier, too, was told he was divine, and taught to despise people of other nations. But hasn't there been an intense and frenzied campaign of racial hatred against the Japanese waged in the U.S. for the past five years or more? Weren't the government and the brass hats largely responsible for this?

Weren't the soldiers now being "arrogant and

Not-So Strange Case of Rep. May

"May is back and Garsson's got him" is the wisecrack currently making the rounds about the smelly case of Representative May who is charged with having helped a gang of war profiteers work a letter-head corporation into a million dollar concern. When asked to testify before the Senate investigating committee, May said he was "too busy."

It's a pretty funny joke, that one about "May is back and Garsson's got him." But behind the joke is a very serious matter indeed and a very sordid one too

For Representative May is not some obscure, small-time politician who sneaked into Congress by passing out cigars and singing songs. He is one of the most important men in the House of Representatives: he is the chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee. His name is associated with many of the important, if unsavory, military bills

put through by the Roosevelt administration. He was the main link between the House and the War Department

In a word, May is a key man in Washington. He is a central figure in the capitalist administration of this country.

By his lame excuse that he is "too busy" to testify, May has practically admitted his guilt.

But it is more than his own guilt that is involved. Just as the last war was followed by a trail of discoveries about war profiteering and graft, so this war will be followed by similar discoveries.

The case of May is only one of the first. There will be more. There will be still more evidence of the profiteering of "your representatives" and of their intimate relationships with Big Business. Just let's keep watching them and we'll see it.

YOU WILL WANT TO READ:

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(The Program and Principles of the Workers Party)

By MAX SHACHTMAN

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TWO SEATTLE MEETINGS:

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The Struggle for a Democratic Socialist Party

August 4 - 2:00 P. M.

Gold Room, Roosevelt Hotel

and

-abor - What Next?

August 5 - 8:00 P. M.

6th and Pine Gold Room, Roosevelt Hotel

Both meetings under the auspices of the Workers Party, Labor Action and Socialist Youth League

mand that Britain immediately grant 100,000 certificates for the entry of European Jews into Palestine.

All during the previous day and night they converged upon Washington by special train, motorcade, bus and plane. Sunday evening the protest demonstration was begun by an overflow meeting in the auditorium of the Washington Jewish Community Center. Committees were here designated to call on President Truman, Undersecretary of State Acheson, and British Ambassador Lord Inverchapel.

JWV TIRADES REAL ISSUES

Those in charge of the demonstration had their hands full "controlling" the spontaneous outbursts for militant action. Every so often a wheelhorse of the Jewish War Veterans of America had to argue with the demonstrators to keep them from picketing the British Embassy and from displaying strongly worded placards. SUCH ACTS WOULD ONLY AROUSE HIS MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AND BESMIRCH THE HONORABLE NAME OF THE JEWISH WAR VET-ERANS OF AMERICA, argued these respectable gentlemen.

The hypocrisy of the JWV leadership is illustrated by the following remark made by Joseph Barr, National Executive member of the JWV: "The American Jewish War Veterans will

SEATTLE NOTES:

SEATTLE-Local 79 of the International Association of Machinists recently reopened negotiations with Seattle employees by demanding a 40% increase in wages to offset the increased cost of living, Local 79 covers machinists working in many different shops. However, the presentation of a blanket demand is possible because the employers are organized into an association. The eyes of Seattle labor are on the machinists as they take up the battle to regain, by contractual negotiations, wage losses incurred by the price increases of the last few weeks.

The four day work stoppage of Seattle's longshoreman, CIO, was terminated on July 19, when employees agreed to step up the clerical work connected with the getting out of checks for wage increases retroactive to October 1, 1944. Approximately a million and a half dollars in back pay will eventually be received by the longshoremen.

STATES TO EUROPE'S SESSED JEWS? Silence! That is too embarrassing a question for the respectable gentleman of the JWV.

DISPOS-

Organizations like the JWV are incapable of offering guidance in meeting the terrible plight of Europe's Jews. The Jewish people have sufered frightful decimation. And now that the war "for humanity and democracy" has been won by "Democratic" Britain and "super-democratic" America, the remnant of World Jewry stands on the brink of utter annihilation. The trapped Jews of Poland have one choice: migration from the land of their cremation, or mass suicide.

So far "Liberal" Britain has shown a preference for the latter course. The Russian colossus has of late taken to flirting with the potentates of the Near East. The Jewish community in Palestine stands in mortal danger of being ground to dust between Britain and Russia, the upper and nether halves of the Near East political grindstone. Among the western "de-

Jim-Crow Vandals Toss Fire Bomb into Negro Home

By JERRY TODD

CHICAGO, July 17 - Another fire the Chicago Defender, gave an enthubomb was thrown on the porch of a siastic report on that convention, stat-Negro home here, late in the evening of July 12. The victim was Mrs. Carry M. Campbell, who lives at 4203 South Wells. Shortly after Mrs. Campbell returned from an evening concert, a gasoline torch was thrown on her porch, igniting the house. The Campbell family had moved into the house the day before.

Mrs. Campbell immediately got in touch with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Feople

At a meeting last night on the South Side, Mr. McGee, Chicago head of the NAACP, told of the attack and introduced Mrs. Campbell, who related incidents surrounding the torch-throwing. Though the perpetrators were not seen, there is little doubt but that they are part of the same gang of race-haters who recently fire-bombed the home of Mrs. Grace Hardy, living in a "restrictive covenant" neighborhood. Mrs. Hardy was so severely burned that she is still hospitalized. Last night's meeting was called by

the NAACP to report on the recent race relations.convention of the NAACP in Cincin-

This slogan is, of course, not intended as a complete program for the solution of the problem of the Jewish people. On that, that is on socialism as the only genuine answer to the problem, we shall write on a future occasion. But, merely in the context of this present situation, where some hundreds of thousands of Jewish people wish to leave a Europe that means deprivation and death for them, it is essential that we demand that the U. S. open its doors to immigration at the same time as we support the right of the Jewish people to enter Palestine and demand of the British that they get out of Palestine, leaving the direction of the country to the cooperation of the Jewish and Arab masses.

nati. Mr. Brooks, national editor of

ing that the organization henceforth

will lean less on white philanthropists

and more on the Negro masses for

An excellent discussion followed

the report, and more than a score of

persons participated. Hundreds of dol-

lars were pledged for a defense fund

to help the NAACP lead the fight

against restrictive covenants in this

When one speaker suggested that

the Chicago police should be informed

of the 28 recent terroristic acts against

local Negroes, Brooks said that his

analysis of the race riots in recent

years in Detroit and the South had

convinced him that the first group

Negroes would have to defend them-

selves against was the police them-

Several Negro leaders expressed

concern that racial tension in this

city is building up towards a race-

riot, and point to the similarity in

present-day incidents and those pre-

The NAACP is holding a series of

meetings throughout the city to ac-

ceding the riot of 1919.

selves. He was roundly applauded.

support and direction.

landlord-ridden city.

bullying" in Japan shown orientation (that is, propaganda) films produced by the army that laid the blame for Japanese aggression and atrocities on all the Japanese people?

> And what about the huge sign that was erected over the main supply road on Guadalcanal for American troops to see, the sign which shrieked in huge letters, "Kill the Bastards." Wasn't there plenty of that in the Pacific, Gen. Eichelberger? Wasn't it the Supreme Commander himself, Gen. MacArthur, who looked on the burned corpses of Japanese soldiers and made the famous remark, "That's the way I like to see them?"

On second glance, the generals don't look so good. When the division to which this writer was attached, landed in Japan, the troops were told, "You are conquerors. Act like it. These people understand nothing but force, so we will treat them that way." What did you expect, General Eichelberger?

With the example the officer caste has consistently set in Japan, it is surprising that stealing by troops is not more widespread. High ranking officers livet in Roman splendor in the best buildings, with elaborate furnishings "requisitioned" from the surrounding area. Military government officers cynically accept fine gifts from Japanese officials and rich men in return for favors. A few weeks ago, a scandal was revealed in Tokyo along this line which was too big to cover up. Officers in Gen. MacArthur's headquarters were revealed to be accepting fabulous gifts and lavish entertainment from a Japanese millionaire, in return for which he was awarded lush contracts. The newspaper stories said a general was involved, but his name, strangely, has never been revealed.

HOW EXPLAIN THE ORDER?

How, then, do we explain General Eichelberger's order? Further down in his report we find the answer. "This condition . . . is endangering the mission of occupation."

There you have it. The American people don't want more boys drafted, don't want to pay any longer for a huge standing army. The good general, without as many troops as he would like, has to get along as best he can. So he doesn't want the civilian population antagonized.

A final interesting note. How does Gen. Eichelberger propose to correct the situation among his troops? By relaxing the regimentation and rigorous life of the soldier so he can live and behave more like a human? By ending the hateful caste system whereby the GI is constantly humiliated and is tempted to take it out on Japanese civilians? Alas, no. The general's answer is this: if the situation is not corrected, "our courts are empowered to mete out stiff penalties." All the Lichfields aren't in England, you know.

What is the answer of LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party to this? We say, bring the troops home so they can live normal, decent lives again. Free the Japanese workers and peasants from the victimization of occupation so that they can rid themselves of the reactionaries who remain in high places under MacArthur's administration, quaint the people with the facts about and organize their own society in fighting their oppressors.

NEW YORK W. P., **ELECTION PAGE**

LABOR ACTION

July 29, 1946

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

E. R. McKinney - Our **Candidate in Harlem**

By T. R. COBB

If there's anything in the world that Ernest Rice McKinney hates, it is racial and national prejudice and capitalist exploitation and oppression.

McKinney, who is the Workers Party candidate for Congress in the 22nd District in New York, is running against Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., the American Labor Party nominee and present incumbent. Powell was elected on the ALP, Democratic and Republican tickets two years ago and he will probably obtain the nominations of all three parties in the coming campaign.

"If capitalist politics in other sections of the country are deceitful and dirty," McKinney continued, "in Harlem they are downright cruel. No group _of _people _have _been _flimflammed or lied-to as much as the workingmen and women of Harlem.

"Politicians like Powell and Davis (Benjamin Davis, Jr., Communist Party wheelhorse) conduct campaigns like the Dixie demagogues-only in reverse. Their stock-in-trade is catering to race feelings as a means of



ERNEST RICE MCKINNEY

making careers for themselves. But what does the record show? During the last war Powell's newspaper, The People's Voice, sold the Negro people a bill of goods. Told them it was "their" war, a war for "democracy." Today, most every Negro knows that the last war was another imperialist, was, just like the first World War.

class oppression was linked to the emancipation of the working class as a whole.

During our interview he carefully explained that the independent action of the Negro people in their struggle for democratic rights can be progressive and fruitful.

"When the people of Harlem demanded the hiring of Negro bus drivers on the Fifth Ave. Bus Lines," he pointed out, "the Harlem Branch of the Workers Party needed no urging to get down there on the picket lines.

"But when the Negro organizations and their leaders rely on the government or government agencies as a substitute for independent action they only weaken the struggle of the Negro people.'

ORGANIZED UNEMPLOPED

Returning from France after the Armistice in 1918, McKinney devoted himself to War Camp Community service and later went to work in a steel foundry. He wrote extensively on Negro problems and became a contributing editor to The Messenger, the famous paper edited by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He was also editor of the Pittsburgh American, Negro weekly.

McKinney was living in Pittsburgh when the private profit system came apart at the seams in the early 1930's. Factories closed by the score. Millions of workers were thrown out of work. Thousands of workers and their families were evicted from their homes.

Pittsburgh, heart of the steel industry and barometer of U.S. prosperity, was hit hard. The mills were down to less than 30 per cent of capacity production. All over the nation the jobless were organizing into Unemployed Leagues and Pittsburgh was no exception.

McKinney was soon involved in the activities of the Unemployed League, helping to organize and lead mass demonstrations of the jobless in Pennsylvania and in nearby states. He was a vice-president of the National Unemployed League and editor of its national newspaper, MASS ACTION.

His experience as an organizer led him to a job with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in 1936-37 and he was instrumental in the founding of what is now the gigantic United Steel Workers of America, CIO.

WORKERS PARTY LEADER In 1934 McKinney was

Workers Party Launches Drive To Place Candidates on Ballot

FOR SECURITY AND A LIVING WAGE!

Workers Party Platform

The candidates of the Workers Party stand pledged to fight for the following program:

I. FOR PRICE CONTROL BY LABOR AND THE CONSUMERS

Wipe Out Profiteering by Direct Action: Labor must have the decisive voice in determining the prices of products which are now being manipulated by the profiteering monopolies.

Prices can be controlled at their source through committees of workers in the shops, the mills, the packing plants, the mines, under the slogan of **'WAGE INCREASES WITHOUT PRICE RISES " This** was the slogan of the General Motors' strikers who fought for a contract that would increase wages while it froze the price of cars, thus cutting into the huge profits of the corporation.

Prices can be controlled throughout the process of distribution by committees of workers consisting of railroad men, truck drivers, warehousemen, clerks, office help, etc.

Prices can be controlled at the point of sale by people's price control committees consisting of representatives of housewives, tenants and consumers organizations co-operating with labor.

Every vote for the candidates of the Workers Party will strengthen its campaign to win the labor movement for the above program. However, its elected representatives, while relying primarily on the direct action of the organized working class, would fight for such legislation as would facilitate the carrying out of this program.

II. FOR A LIVING WAGE!

. 1. For an immediate general wage increase to bring wages up to the increased level of prices since 1941.

2. For an escalator clause in every union contract to provide for automatic wage increases to cover any additional price rises.

3. For job and wage security through a guaranteed annual wage, providing \$2,500 minimum a year.

4. For a higher standard of living! The record of American production during the war has proved that an income of \$5,000 per year per family is easily attainable

III. CLEAR THE SLUMS! FOF 20th CENTURY HOUSING!

1. For a 250 billion dollar five-year program to provide decent housing at reasonable rental for all and an extensive public works plan to provide schools, hospitals and other needed community facilities.

2. For a national plan to begin work immediately on the erection of 17 million permanent, low cost housing units.

3. For emergency housing! Open up the boarded-up.

VII. OPEN THE DOORS! SAVE EUROPE'S JEWS! For full and unrestricted immigration into the

United States, above all for the homeless and persecuted remnants of European Jewry. 'Against all international barriers to free immigra-

tion and emigration. For the right of the Jewish people to unrestricted

immigration to Palestine or any other country of their choice.

VIII. FOR ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND EDUCA-TIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE VETERANS!

The economic problems of the veterans are basically those of the working class as a whole. As with all workers, the problems of the veterans require full employment, a living wage and security. However, the added problems of the veteran caused by the need of re-adjustment into civilian life require special attention along the following lines:

1. Readjustment allowance, on the job training subsidy and education subsidy provided by the GI Bill of Rights to be based upon a living wage of \$40.00 per week allowance for single veterans and \$55.00 per week for married veterans, plus \$5.00 per week for each additional dependent.

2. Priority for inadequately housed veterans in the allotment of space in all new housing projects. A government subsidy, up to 50% of cost, for homes to be built by veterans, such homes to be tax free for 12 years.

3. For immediate enactment of a federal bonus of \$1,000 for each year of service.

4. End the inefficiency and the medical incompetence of the Veterans Administration. For the right of private hospitalization, medical and dental care at government expense for all veterans with service incurred ailments or injuries.

5. Refund in full of insurance premiums to veterans desiring discontinuance of government insurance.

6. Increase the base figure for total disability to \$215 per month with corresponding increases for partial disability.

7. No discrimination against Negro and Mexican-American veterans in the application of the GI Bill of Rights. End the bi-national school system in the South. The right of the Negro veteran to attend any school of his choosing.

IX. FOR A DEMOCRATIC PEACE!

1. For a truly democratic peace; no reparations, no land-grabbing, no slave labor, no punishment of peoples for the crimes of their rulers.

2. For the right of all peoples to democratically decide their own future. For the freedom of all colonies. For the liberation of all subject peoples. 3. For the withdrawal of all armies of occupation. For the withdrawal of all American troops from territories outside the United States. Bring and keep the boys home.

Advancing on a militant socialist program, the New York local of the Workers Party this week launched a political campaign of national importance by beginning a drive to place Max Shachtman and Ernest Rice McKinney on the ballot as its candidates for Congress.

On July 27, several hundred members and friends of the Party "invaded" the 15th and 22nd Congressional Districts in Harlem and Brooklyn, stationed themselves on street corners and rang countless doorbells, spoke to and convinced hundreds of workers to sign the independent nominating petitions of the Party.

SMASH THE PROFITEERS! reads the topmost slogan on the printed sticker attached to the petition boards.

-And below it:

HELP PUT MAX SHACHTMAN AND ERNEST RICE McKINNEY ON THE BALLOT

FOR SECURITY AND A LIVING WAGE!

FOR A NATIONAL LABOR PARTY AND A WORKERS **GOVERNMENT!**

CALL AT LOCAL

NEW YORK OFFICE

FOR PETITIONS, Etc.

Independent nominating peti-

tions, pamphlets, LABOR AC-

TIONS, stickers, election programs

and manifestos may all be obtained

at 114 West 14th Street, or at 2143

7th Avenue, any Saturday between

1:00 P. M and 6:00 P. M. Just ask

for the Election Campaign Com-

mittee of the Workers Party. All

readers of LABOR ACTION, all

sympathizers of the Workers are

urged to help us in this campaign.

hands of the capitalist profiteers and

political strikebreakers who are re-

sponsible for the present crisis. It pro-

poses to guarantee security and a liv-

ing wage for all by nationalizing the

basic industries, outlawing exploita-

tion for private profit, and the insti-

tution of a workers government based

atives from the factories, mines and

Concentrating the bulk of its written and spoken propaganda against the runaway inflation that is now reaching catastrophic proportions, the Party is planning to distribute thousands of pieces of literature explaining its position and urging the election of its candidates. Numerous outdoor and indoor rallies will be held during the pre-election period.

In regard to the present price situation, the Workers Party platform meets all the vital needs of the American people today.

It amplifies the GM Strike Program -one that linked wages, prices and profits-into a concrete plan to halt the assault of the profiteers and their puppet Congress against the standard of living of the American workers, farmers, professionals and small storekeepers.

It calls for trade union, consumers, veterans, tenants and housewives committees as the only reliable "policing" agencies to guarantee rent and price control.

on democratically elected represent-It proposes that these committees take ACTION in the form of strikes, farms of America. boycotts and demonstrations wherever such action is indicated.

It points out that these objectives It demands immediate wage incan only be obtained, in the last ancreases to compensate for the increasalysis, on the political front. It therees in the cost of living and an "escafore urges the formation of a National lator" clause in all union contracts to Labor Party, based on the CIO, AFL, guarantee automatic and retroactive cooperative, and all other progressive groups as the first step towards breaking the control of the government by It proposes to take the machinery of the reactionary Democratic and Re-

"Today, the FEPC is a dead-duck, killed by the Southern wing of Powell's party. And the U.S. Army just recently closed its doors to new Negro enlistments. The KKK is reorganizing down South and racial tensions, the product of the profit-system, are on the upgrade exerywhere.

"Powell was a pretty poor prophet, and a prophet without honor, at that. He knew better."

That's how McKinney talks when he's calm, cool and collected. When he gets aroused on the subject, wellthe Congressional campaign in Harlem this Fall should provide plenty of fireworks.

COAL MINER BACKGROUND

McKinney is no novice in the labor movement. He's been a part of it for close to forty years. The descend ant of school-teachers and a line of coal miners, he was born on December 7, 1890, in Malden, West Virginia. His grandfather, Lewis Rice, helped

organize the coal miners in those parts, and the grandson imbibed ideas about the class struggle at a very early age.

In 1912, while a student at Oberlin College, McKinney joined the Socialist Party. When he was drafted for the war in 1917, and while fighting in France, he turned definitely to revolutionary socialism. Immersing himself in the history of Negro slavery in America and the problems of the Negro people in the cities and on the farms, he concluded that the emancipation of the Negro from racial and

leaders of the American Workers Party which fused with the Communist League of America to form the Workers Party. The Workers Party became the Socialist Workers Party in 1938. McKinney was a member of its National Committee and served as City Organizer of Local New York. After the split in the SWP in 1940 McKinney helped form the new Workers Party in which he has been one of its leading members.

At the present time, McKinney is the National Secretary of the Workers Party. He is also Labor Secretary of the Party and guides the Party trade union activities. In addition, he conducts classes on Negro problems and trade unionism at the Workers Party School. He is one of the most frequent and best known contributors to LA-BOR ACTION and NEW INTERNA-TIONAL under the pen name of David Coolidge.

"What issues will you campaign around?" we asked him.

"Three all-important ones, as far as the Negro people are concerned," he replied. "First comes the matter of independent working class action against the high cost of living. Then, the miserable housing conditions and. high rents that prevail in Harlem. Then the important matter of jobs."

"No issue stands by itself of course. They're all connected. The main thing about the Workers Party platform is that it relates all these questions in a practical way and points out the road to their ultimate solution, to a workers America, to socialism!"

mansions of the rich! Requisition hotels and make them available to all families now sharing space or otherwise inadequately housed. For the immediate erection of three million temporary, emergency housing units, especially for veterans and their families.

IV. TAX THE PROFITEERS!

1. For a 100% tax on all war-time profits over the peace-time average.

2. For a tax on all accumulated capital over \$50,000. 3. For a \$25,000 ceiling on all annual incomes of individuals

4. Soak the rich! Against all sales taxes and other hidden methods of picking the pockets of the poor.

V. NATIONALIZE BIG BUSINESS!

America's capacity to produce plenty for all is a proven fact. Our rich natural resources, our tremendous machinery of production and our skilled labor force need but a central plan to pour out products that will give everyone a life of security, comfort and leisure. The only bottleneck is private ownership and operation for private profit. The huge industrial plants, mines, transportation and communication systems, banks and chain stores should be owned by the nation and operated under workers' control in accordance with a national plan of production.

VI. END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE **NEGRO PEOPLE!**

"1. For full social, political and economic equality for Negroes.

2. Make all discriminatory practices against Negroes and other minority groups by employers and landlords a criminal offense.

3. Full support to the CIO-AFL drive to organize the South.

4. For immediate passage of the Fair Employment **Practices Bill.**

5. For immediate passage of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

X. AGAINST PEACE-TIME CONSCRIPTION! **AGAINST MILITARISM!**

1. For an end to conscription and the immediate release of all conscripts.

2. Against the growing authority of the Army in economic life.

3. For complete civil and political rights to all Army and Navy personnel, for the right of soldiers committees to petition for redress of grievances.

4. No declaration of war without a people's referendum.

5. End secret diplomacy! For public access to all State Department papers. No more secret maneuvering of the people into war.

XI. FOR AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY AND A WORKERS GOVERNMENT!

The genuine resentment of the people against Congress and the Administration will be frittered away unless organized labor gives it a positive lead.

A party of labor, based on the above program, will rally the support of the overwhelming majority of the American people, including small farmers, while collar workers and the lower middle class.

Labor has the numbers, the energy and the resources to create a mighty political party that could re-make America.

Every vote for the Workers Party is a vote for an independent political movement of the workers on the above program.

Let the many-millioned voice of labor be heard! Away with the capitalist politicians and their strikebreaking Administration! Away with the capitalist polticians and ther price-gouging Congressmen! For an independent Labor Party! For a government of labor, for labor, and by labor.

SMASH THE PROFITEERS!-

wage increases whenever prices go

industry and government out of the publican Parties.

Max Shachtman - Our **Candidate in Brooklyn**

Max Shachtman, the candidate of the leaders of the demonstration and the Workers Party in the 15th Congressional District in Brooklyn, is the national chairman of the Workers Party. Although still in his early forties, Shachtman has a record of lifelong service in the labor and socialist movement.

He was one of the early members of the Communist movement in America and one of the first to break from it when the Trotskyist movement was founded. Before that he was a leader in the International Labor Defense and active in the Tom Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti cases.

Harlem readers: Come to Room 106. 2143 Seventh Avenue this Wednesday night to hear the election program of the Workers Party. Get yourself an Independent Nominating Petition and get us some signatures.

In 1939, when 50,000 workers of New York heeded the call of the Trotskvist movement to demonstrate at Madison Square Garden against the Nazi Bund, Shachtman was one of

spoke to the vast assemblage

He is the author of several books: Behind the Moscow Trials, an expose of the Stalinist frame-ups, and The Fight for Socialism, a popular explanation of socialism.

He has written numerous introductions to the works of Trotsky as well as a long essay appended to Trotsky's book. The New Course.

Campaign Fund

MAX SHACHTMAN ERNEST RICE McKINNEY

Sponsored by WORKERS PARTY ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE 114 W. 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.

Ľ	Name
	Address
t	Contribution \$

Rep. Celler, Supporter of Capitalism, Does Not Deserve Labor's Vote

By SUSAN GREEN

Emanuel Celler, United States Representative from the Fifteenth Congressional district of Brooklyn, first elected to Congress in 1922 and reelected at every Congressional election since, will once more run on the Democratic Party ticket in November. No matter whom the Republican Paragainst Celler. For Celler has the reputation and the record of "a good legislator," a "progressive."

Max Shachtman, the candidate of the Workers Party in the Fifteenth, will turn his campaign guns on Celler. record, his kind of "progressiveness,"

is not good enough to solve the tremendous social problems that confront the common people today.

detract one iota from Celler's record. Practices Act. Yes, he spoke against peacetime military conscription. He stood for the continuation of OPA. ty nominates, he will have no chance He was against the Hobbs bill which attacks labor under the cloak of antiracketeering..

But there is more to the record of a Congressman than he himself publicizes among his constituents. These other things must also be known and He will prove that Celler's kind of interpreted in terms of the needs of our times.

continuation of the capitalist system and the strengthening of the capital-The Workers Party does not seek to ist class, is beyond doubt. During the war, the most devastating in all his-Yes, he was for the Fair Employment tory, Celler's mind was on profits to such an extent that he introduced an amendment to the constitution to fix a permanent tax limit of twenty-five per cent on income. He aimed to raise the "diminishing returns" of capital, wanted inducements to capital to take "risks," and like the National Association of Manufacturers, declared: "The country cannot be lifted from economic depression except by private enterprise." Celler could say that. though the havoc of the war was giv-

can expect from private enterprise.

To go into another field where Celler showed his great concern for big business: He is reputed to be progressive on the question of colonial independence. He ostentatiously communicated with Mahatma Ghandi asking what America could do to further Indian independence. But we find also that Celler is anxious to remove India from the British sterling bloc which he charges hinders AMERICAN CAP-ITALISM'S trade with India.

So the question arises: Is it the Indian masses Celler has uppermost in mind, or does he desire freedom' for

That Celler's political creed is the ing hourly proof of what humanity American capitalist economic pene- the Brooklyn National Corporation. DOORS OF THESE UNITED tration.

It is easy to understand Representative Celler's loyalty to the capitalist system and his concern for bigger and better profit returns. He is by no means one of the least favored of that system. His own personal and economic interests are rooted in it. He is a member of a large and pros-

perous law firm, whose life depends on the continuation of capitalist social relations. He seems also to have gone into "private enterprise" on his own, for "Who's Who in America" of 1944-1945 lists him as having organized the Brooklyn National Bank and being chairman of the board of directors of

He enjoys the life of the well-to-do. including the expensive privileges of the better clubs and country clubs.

Furthermore, in his twenty-four years in the House of Representatives he has become a mainstay of the capitalist government, acquiring chairmanship of the House Committee on Judiciary.

Let us take a look at Celler's record on the question of oppressed minorities. For instance, while he has rightdenounced British imperialism and demanded unrestricted immigration to Palestine, HAS HE PUT UP ANY REAL FIGHT TO OPEN THE

STATES TO JEWISH IMMIGRA-TION? On the Negro question ,he has indeed supported FEPC, but how can a man who truly stands for complete equality for the Negro people stay in the same political party that harbors the Bilbos and Talmadges and other inciters to Negro lynchings?

We are living in times that require radical solutions to burning problems, problems really of life or death. Politicians tied to a faith in capitalism cannot give such solutions. Politicians tied to capitalist political parties and the reactionaries they contain, cannot give such solutions in spite of their superficial "progressiveness."