Work for a Workers World; Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 15, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

FOOD PRICES AT NEW HIGH!

FIVE CENTS

Nationalize Food Industry Under Workers Control!

Low Income Savings Fade **Under Rise in Living Costs**

By SUSAN GREEN

A recent poll of income and savings for 1946, taken for the Federal Reserve Board, gives the facts and figures as to what the mass of people are actually getting out of the so-called prosperity we are supposed to be enjoying. The apologists for capitalism, who play up present high employment, have not seen fit to give equal publicity to these facts and figures. Why? Because this information underlines how thin is the ice of capitalist security, how fleeting is the prosperity capitalism dispenses, how mythical is the progress it brings to the working people.

First, the shameful fact should be proclaimed from the housetops that sixty-five per cent of the family units in this country that flings billions to the far corners of the earth to entrench its imperialism, that sixty-five per cent of the families had a yearly income in 1946 of less than three thousand dollars. Many of these incomes were less than two thousand dollars and others were less than one thousand. This low-income group, constituting the great majority of the people, carries the burden of high prices and high rents at the sacrifice of health and well-being.

What constitutes the middle-income group, ranging in annual income from three thousand to five thousand dollars, in 1946 embraced twenty-five per cent of the people. only 21 per cent of the vote despite Only the remaining ten per cent of the most open ballot box stuffing, a the population, including the upper severe crisis developed inside the and nether layers of capitalists, had Social Democratic Party. a yearly income of five thousand dollars and over-the very few way cial Democrats played ball with the over.

SAME OLD STORY

The poll, taken for the Federal Reserve Board, was to find out the extent of savings and spendings in

that the middle-income group accounted for as high as thirty-five per cent of the savings, with prices what they are. However, the survey listed as savings not only cash in to clothe themselves. bank and bonds bought, but also payments on a house and life insurance premiums. So that families with moderate incomes, who try by might and main, by skimping and stretching, to own their own home or to provide some security against death in the family, are also listed as savers. It would also be instructive to find out how much of that four per cent of the total savings

that the low-income group is sup-

posed to have saved, is made up of the dribbles collected at doors by life insurance agents from these families who haven't enough to eat and

WAGES INSUFFICIENT

But the indictment that this poll unwittingly makes against the capitalist system is not merely that. even in a period of vaunted prosperity, it does not allow the great majority of the people to put anything away for emergencies. The indictment is further that "although the average U. S. family is earning (Continued on page 2)

1,000 Shop Stewards **Defy Stalin Terror** In Budapest Parade

The most remarkable and encour- and began to squeal against GPU aging piece' of news to come from terror tactics only when they themthe Stalin-dominated section of Euselves were subjected to them durrope in a long time, was reported ing the elections. last week from Hungary. Directly LEADERS CRAWL BACK after the fraudulent election in which the Stalinist party could get

What set them back on their ears was the fact that the Stalinist-controlled government disfranchised 186.000 Social Democratic voters. Now it is obvious that these 186,000 voters were anti-Stalinist and disapproved of their party's aid to Stalinism. Thus the Social Demo-Stalinists, there was a great deal of cratic leaders prepared their own rank and file dissatisfaction. This demise: they helped the Stalinists dissatisfaction was climaxed last establish their regime and then were week when 1,000 members of the Soamong its first victims. cial Democratic Party-all of them

But the ranks of the Social Demo-

Exodus, 1947!

Steel-helmeted soldiers armed with guns, clubs, rubber truncheons and water hoses, threatening, beating and spraying 4,500 defenseless a (965) . | 186 18 Jews

Steel-helmeted soldiers cursing violently as they drive these 4,500 people from the holds of ships that carried them for 55 days from a near haven in Palestine.

Steel-helmeted soldiers, acting under orders of the British imperial government, carrying out brutal, brutish orders that awaken in these youngsters latent feelings of anti-Semitism for having to do a dirty, evil job against a defenseless, weak and tortured people!

Back to the land of their dead and living dead. Back to the land of their concentration camps, dungeons and gas chambers; back to the cemeteries which contain the rotting bodies of their relatives and friends.

For the 4,500 Jews who were forcibly seized by the British armed forces in Palestine have not been returned to their country and their homes. They have no land. They have no homes.

The world, the capitalist world, the imperialist world, which only yesterday hurled all the peoples into the greatest slaughter ever seen by mankind, has no room for several hundred thousand displaced and starving people. BERNER I AND I BERNER

No place for them in the United States!

No place for them in Great Britain!

No place for them in unpopulated Australia, whose government officials announced yesterday that theirs is a land for whites only! No place for them in Canada, or South America.

And no place for them in Stalinist Russia, the modern slave state which falsely calls itself a land of socialism.

CUSTODIANS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

And so these people, to save themselves, sought a haven in Palestine where almost three-quarters of a million of their fellow-Jews now reside. They went there because they had no other place to go to. But they were intercepted by the British, the Royal British, who rule Palestine under a League of Nations mandate, and rule it like a colony with all the cleverness of their long experience as imperialist despots.

Who is responsible for this new crime against the Jews who have suffered for so many years for the old crime of being . . |. Jews. It is not the conservative Tory government of Churchill; it is not a fascist Britain. No, it is Britain under the rule of the Labor Party, of men who call themselves socialists! .

There's the rub! They do not conduct themselves as socialists or like men who believe in the socialist future. It is not a question of their illwill toward the Jews. No, it is that the leaders of the Labor Party who now stand at the helm of the government, act as the custodians of a dying British Empire—just as Churchill before them! Their conduct in Palestine, where the policy they that of the reactionary gang which preceded them in office, is the product of the "imperial mind."

Soaring food prices in every corner of the nation, coupled with a phenomenal rise in profits, called attention this week to the desperate need for aggressive and far-reaching measures to halt this systematic attack on the people's standard of living.

As new highs were being registered in the prices of such essential living items as meat and butter, with rises expected in bread, the need for consumer-union action, complementing a comprehensive labor program on wages, prices and profits, and leading to an organized movement for the nationalization of the food industry under workers' control was again demonstrated.

Reflecting the sky-rocketing trend of food prices throughout the nation, this was the price picture in New York City:

CP Wreckers In NMU Hurl **Foul Charges**

By ARTHUR STEIN

A national convention of the National Maritime Union is to be held. in New York at the end of this month. The following is the first of two articles discussing the background of the conflicts which will convention floor.

The internal struggle in the National Maritime Union (CIO) between the Stalinists and the forces led by President Joseph Curran has recently led to revealing exposures of the methods used by the Communist Party to control unions against the desires and interests of the mem-. berships involved.

The present stage of the internal struggle in the NMU revolves around the issue of the conduct of union officials in the port of New Orleans. The officials involved-Port Agent R. J. Sullivan and Patrolmen Harry Alexander and Richard Brown - have been brought up on charges by the Stalinist national officers of the union. The charges include a multitude of allegations, ranging from discrimnation against to not hav ing opened the hall on June 15, the day the previous contract expired.

• Butter averaged 87 cents a pound against 79 cents a year ago, with a 90 cent average due this week, and predictions in the trade going as high as \$1.00.

 Porterhouse steak, varying in price from 75 cents to \$1.10 a pound, according to the butcher shop, was 31 cents above the inflated price of a year ago.

• Large eggs were sellig at 87 cents certainly command attention on the . a dozen, compared to 79 cents a year ago, with some stores already selling at 93 cents or more a dozen.

• Bacon at 79 cents was up 9 cents. • Chopped beef at 49 cents marked a rise of 10 cents a pound for the year.

• Veal cutlets showed a rise of 20 cents, to 95 cents the pound.

· Leg of lamb went up 6 cents to 65 cents.

• The A&P and Grand Union stores announced a two-cent hike in the per pound price of coffee, effective immediately

• Hog prices soared in the livestock markets of Chicago, St. Paul, Kansas City, Denver, etc.

• Despite the largest wheat crop in history, A. J. Bamford, editor of the Baker's Weekly, predicted another rise in the price of bread.

these various income groups. This is done periodically not to publicize the failure of the capitalist system to supply the elementary needs of the majority of the people, but simply for banking and business reasons. So it was found out "that the majority of U.S. families are spending all, or nearly all, of current income to pay current bills" and that "relatively few are putting aside any substantial amount of saving."

Thus, that sixty-five per cent of the population earning less than three thousand dollars per FAMILY unit, that sixty-five per cent accounted for only FOUR per cent of the total savings in 1946. The middle section, earning between three and five thousand dollars, covering twenty-five per cent of the people, saved thirty-five per cent of the total for the whole country in 1946. But the small group of ten per cent with incomes over five thousand, own SIXTY-ONE per cent of all the savings in 1946. The same old story of wealth accumulating more wealth.

At first glance it is surprising

WP, SWP Candidates Cited for Contempt; **Fight Board Ruling**

Workers Party, 5th Councilmanic District.

PHILADELPHIA-In a series of vicious rulings, the County Board of Elections, a body controlled by the Democratic and Republican parties, rejected the nomination papers of Jack Rader for the Workers Party and Irene P. Le Compte for the Socialist Workers Party. At the same time the two candidates and three of their pre-emptors were cited for contempt before the Court of Common Pleas."

There is no pretense of legality in the Board's rulings. It does not claim to show any errors in the nominating petitions or any grounds for invalidation. The Board has tacitly admitted that it has no charges to make against these petitions. This acknowledgment was made as late as last

shop stewards from the industrial section of Budapest - marched to that party's headquarters and staged a demonstration demanding a break with the Stalinist terror government.

Though the leadership of the So-

The tremendous significance of this demonstration is underscored by several facts: (1) All of the participants are shop leaders who represent the Budapest workers at the most active, militant and immediate level; (2) The demonstration was held in a **Russian-occupied zone where Stalinist** army bayonets and GPU revolvers dominate all of life and was therefore a remarkably heroic and no doubt desperate action; and (3) The demonstration was working class and socialist in content: these workers did not allow their justified hatred of Stalinism to drive them to the arms of the bourgeois parties.

No Social Democratic leadership of Eastern Europe has a more miserable record than that of the Hungarians, who helped immensely to prop the Stalinists into power. They whitewashed the Stalinists' behavior

By I. JACK RADER, Candidate of the Tuesday. Until then it was the Democratic Party which was attempting to piece together a flimsy case.

At Tuesday's hearings it became evident that the Democrats had no real legal case. They were attempting to develop accusations out of the questions they directed at the candidates. At the same time, the Democrats had filed suit in the Election Court. Since this was the case, the Defense attorney for the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party, David H. W. Felix, refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the County Board and directed the witnesses to refuse to answer any questions. which could only serve to give information to the Democrats but could

(Continued on page 4)

tion Court.

not decide the case since it had al-

ready been taken to the higher Elec-

cratic Party, obviously made up of workers with more spine and militancy than its leadership, would not acquiesce in the scandalous elections. The shop stewards' demonstration was the result—an action that must prove inspiring to all socialist and anti-Stalinist workers.

After the election when they were subjected to pressure from their own ranks, the Social Democratic leaders who were being held as virtual hostages in the Stalinist cabinet "resigned." But these jelly fish politicians were called to an audience by the Russian General who is the head of the Stalinist occuping troops, to be brusquely ordered back into the government. With tails between their legs, they crept back. PRESAGE SOCIALIST VICTORY

But we may be sure that the 1,000 shop stewards who demonstrated for a militantly anti-Stalinist policy are made of sterner stuff. Just as in the early days of the Hitler regime there were small anti-Nazi demonstrations which presaged the mass resistance movement against Hitlerite terror, so we may feel certain that this demonstration of the Budapest shop stewards presages the great anti-Stalinist mass movement which will certainly sweep Europe. For the masses of European workers will not and cannot submit indefinitely to tyranny, be it Hitlerite or Stelinist. The democratic and Socialist tradition is too strongly implanted in their consciousness for them to submit willingly to the

tyrants of the Kremlin. Small cracks often presage large fissures in a social structure. The tyranny of Hitlerism which its masters boasted would last 1,000 years, actually lasted a mere dozen years. The tyranny of Stalinism, which though it is quite different in origin and in many social aspects from Hitlerism vet has many totalitarian features in

common with it, will also not last more than an infinitesimal fraction of the time its prophets claim. For the will to freedom, the desire of the educated vanguard of the Eu-

ropean working class freely to express its needs and desires will not be stifled indefinitely by Stalin's bayonets and revolvers. Of that we are certain; and we point to the demonstration of the Budapest shop stewards as a sign of things that, sooner or later, will come to all Europe. The task of revolutionary socialists is to speed that day!

As with other questions of British Empire policy, the "socialist" leaders of the British government are concerned with maintaining the empire as long as possible, even though this once great power is slowly decaying and disintegrating on the rotten capitalist foundation which supports it.

Thus it is that two years after the great war to save the peoples of Europe from the scourge of German fascism, and in the first place the Jews, these same people are faced with a new uncertainty, a new hopelessness as a result of the imperialist profit interests of all the great powers.

UNITED STATES SHARES RESPONSIBILITY

No. it is not Great Britain alone which is responsible for this situation. The United States, whose doors are shut tightly to the most helpless of all people, is as much guilty. And so is the highly touted United Nations which is currently engrossed in the problem of how big and how many buildings it should construct to house its thousands of parasitic pretenders to world peace and security.

The 4,500 Jews of the Exodus are not the first, and if British policy prevails, will not be the last, who sought a haven in Palestine only to find themselves once more in crowded ships and trains, in concentration camps, under the brutal supervision and surveillance of special soldiers and police.

The crime against Exodus, 1947 is a crime against all humanity. Labor of the United States: protest this brutal reactionary persecution of Europe's hungry, homeless Jews. Demand that the United States government open its doors to these displaced people.

Demand the right of free immigration to the Jews as well as to all other displaced peoples!

Demand the right of the Jews to emigrate to Palestine!

BROKE FROM CP

These union officials in New Orleans are among a group of former CP members who broke from the Stalinist organization when they came to realize that the CP clique is actually wrecking the NMU. Most of these men have long records of activity on the waterfront-they are veterans of numerous strikes and bloody picket-line encounters with the police and the goon squads of the shipowners. They have broken from the CP (or, in many cases, have been expelled) because their union militancy has come into greater and greater conflict with the Kremlindirected policies of the CP Waterfront Section

The Stalinist hacks, of course, are turning all guns against them now. Most of the charges are plain lies (such as those alleging discrimination against Negro union members), while others are twisted half-truths. The method of charging all their opponents with discrimination against Negroes is probably the most insidious part of the current slander campaign of the Stalinist hacks in the NMU.

One of the men against whom the Communist Party is now leveling (Continued on page 2)*

figures that have been appearing in the press. They are known to every housewife in the nation. Not so well known are the following figures:

• The big meat monopolists, Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson, boosted 1946 profits over 1945 by 228 per cent, 33 per cent, 168 per cent and 105 per cent respectively. Figures for 1947, when they are released, will undoubtedly show another upward hike in profits.

· Borden Milk, typical of the dairy monopolists; netted \$19,500,000 in profits in 1946 as against \$12,000,000 in 1945. The 1947 figure will be even higher.

· Baking monopolists, who are crying that they haven't lifted the price of bread for nine whole months (!). upped profits in 1946 by 201 per cent for Continental Baking, by 205 per cent for United Biscuit, by 159 per cent for National Biscuit, by 224 per cent for Ward Baking.

To understand either set of figures it is necessary to consult the other. The comparison illustrates what is at the rotten core of the dizzy price spiral. Profits are the first and last consideration of the food monopolists, as they are of the monopolists in other industries. They do not care what happens to the wage earner's income. They do not (Cont. on page 3 in edit. col.)

UNSCOP Plans Will Not Aid Jews

Majority and Minority Plans Are Based on Interests of Big Imperialist Powers.

By ED FINDLEY

The majority report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) seems to have evoked messianic moods and intoxicating visions of Jewish sovereignty in Palestine among masses of Jews throughout the world.

To them, the majority report of the UNSCOP is the herald of an independent Jewish state in Palestine in the offing.

That such shabby compromise "so-# lutions," as advanced by both the ain is to rule the country "under majority and minority reports of the UNSCOP, could arouse as much hope as they do, bespeaks the tragedy and 'agree upon."

weakness of the Jewish position in the world and the deep yearning of the Jewish masses for self-determination and independence.

The majority report carves up tiny Palestine into three states: an Arab state, a Jewish state and an international, demilitarized, free state of Jerusalem. In addition, there would be a fourth governmental structure, an over-all economic union of the states.

During the transition period Britsuch conditions as the United Kingdom and the United Nations may

The plan envisages the admission of 150,000 Jewish displaced persons into the proposed Jewish state. If (!) the transitional period continues for more than two years, Jewish immigration of 60,000 per year is to be allowed.

MINORITY PLAN

The minority report, which was formulated by Yugoslavia, a well integrated satellite of the Russian bloc, recommends the establishment of a unified federal Palestinian state with some local self-rule reserved for the Jewish and Arab provinces. The proposed structure of the federal government, which is to be

vested with full authority over immigration, national defense and foreign relations, is endowed with several bi-national features. For instance, the federal legislature is to be composed of two chambers. Election to one chamber is to be on the basis of proportional representation and to the other on the basis of parity or equal representation of Jews and Arabs.

Final authority, however, is vested in a body in which the UN representative possesses the deciding vote. The minority report, though speaking of an independent federal state. (Continued on page 3)

The second states

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

CP Wreckers at Work in NMU Crisis --

(Continued from page 1)

a long time ship's delegate on the S.S. Booker T. Washington, the only ship in the U.S. Merchant Marine commanded by a Negro skipper. Alexander holds a citation which was presented to him by all the officers and unlicensed men of that smell? ship in recognition of his service.

Petitions with the name and book numbers of literally hundreds of Negro NMU members from New Orleans are pouring into the national office, branding the charges of discrimination there as plain CP manufactured lies.

STALINIST METHOD

Nevertheless, the very serious charge of discrimination is still being thrown around indiscriminately. As Curran, union president, and others, have repeatedly pointed out, the CP leaders are trying to divide the Negro brothers from the rest of the membership in an attempt to build a bloc of votes in their favor. This, in effect, is what the Stalinists tell Negro NMU, members:

"We, the CP, are the only ones that fight discrimination. When our enemies say that they are against discrimination, they are lying. For, as everybody knows, you have only to scratch a red-baiter (and, of course, all those with whom we disagree are red-baiters) and you'll find a proponent of white supremacy. Therefore, from now on, let this be your test of who is your friend and who is your enemy: whenever a man says that something may be wrong with the CP, you know that you're dealing with a disguised member of the Klan."

An example of this vicious toying with the problems of Negro seamen is the Stalinist reception of the NMU anti-discrimination pamphlet, "Equality for All." The pamphlet was written by one of those who has recently broken with the Communist Party, NMU Vice-President Jack Lawrenson. Lawrenson has become one of the main targets of the current Stalinist slander campaign.

Lawrenson has been conducting the union's Trade Union and Organizers' School for four years, and in one section of the pamphlet he deals to keep clean.... The fact is that the

With the

with some questions which, in his this slander is Harry Alexander, for experience, are frequently asked by those who are skeptical about equality for Negroes aboard ship. After each question. Lawrenson indicates the sort of answer a good union man should give:

数 1

"Question: Is he dirty? Does he

"Answer: No. Any man would smell who does not get a chance to wash after heavy, sweaty work. Have you ever sat next to a sweaty white person in the movies?

shacks,

"Question: Why doesn't he get a chance to wash? "Answer: Because too often he is

so poor that he is forced to live in where there is no bathtubnot even running water."

Anyone who knows anything about the maritime industry knows that it attracts many prejudiced workers from the South, who often ask questions of the sort Lawrenson indicates. To rout their prejudices it is necessary to explain the facts to them patiently, to combat these prejudices vigorously. Now, an 'honest criticism could be made of the above-quoted parts of the Lawrenson pamphlet that they may not be very skillful.

The Stalinists, however, are interested in combatting these prejudices only insofar as to do so serves their own purposes. They are interested only in using this issue to smear their opponents, and they now find that Lawrenson's pamphlet is not only ineffective in combatting discrimination but is actually designed to SPREAD anti-Negro prejudices. The title, "Equality for All," you see, is just so much sand in the eyes. I am quoting from a letter sent to the union paper, "The Pilot," by G. W. Berry, on orders, no doubt, from the **CP** Waterfront Section:

"This pamphlet harms the NMU. It helps those people who would use baiting of minorities to split and smash the NMU."

In discussing the part of the pamphlet from which we quoted, Berry writes:

"The way the answer is posed (i.e., in the Lawrenson pamphlet-A. S.) makes it seem that the white seamen have the job of teaching the Negroe's

Negroes I've met are more conscious of keeping clean than most other people.

N. C. 1 1

This letter is typical of the current Stalinist disruption campaign in the NMU. Since their opponents are conducting a fight against discrimination, the Stalinists have devised a hideous way in which to utilize the divisions which capitalism has created between white and Negro workers. In order to ingratiate themselves with Negro union members, they resort to paternalism, and to "compliments" which are basically insulting

to the Negro worker. SIMILAR ON ALIENS

Naturally, all real union men, Negro as well as white, are revolted by this disgusting display of paternalism on the part of the CP. Negro brothers, especially, feel that what. they want is not a degrading pat on the back, but real equality. On this score, the record of Curran and the other non-Stalinist officials in the union is better than that of the CP. On the question of discrimination against aliens-a question which is as important in the maritime industry as that of Negroes-the role of the Stalinists is similar. Here, too, they slanderously seek to discredit their opponents without the slightest

regard for truth or the feelings and dignity of the aliens in the union.

at Palisades Pool. Reading such hysterical nonsense as, for instance, how this union pamcase, Meyer Pesin, Workers Defense phlet against discrimination can, by League lawyer, made a motion to the peculiar thought processes of a dismiss. Instead of merely granting Stalinist hack, "help those people or denying the motion, Recorder who would use baiting of minorities Franke pronounced Miss Wertheimer to split and smash the NMU," one is guilty. When Pesin pointed out that forced to conclude that to orthothe defense had not yet been heard, dox Stalinists only one question Recorder Franke admitted that he has reality: "Is this person or this hade made a slip. But after hearing policy of aid to the Stalinist hierthe defense, he handed down the archy?' same verdict and fined Miss Werth-If the answer to this question is no,

then-no lie is too ludicrous to be hurled at an opponent. In a manner similar to the one in which almost every anti-Stalinist socialist became a collaborator of Hitler in the lving mouths of the Stalinist hacks, all the present opponents of the CP clique in the NMU are being smeared and slandered with similar invectives. In this series of two articles we shall examine various aspects of this

internal struggle in the NMU. In this first article we are discussing the manner in which the Stalinists are using the issue of discrimination against Negroes as a political football. In the next article we shall describe just how the Stalinists are controlling the union and discuss methods of eliminating this control:

High Costs Wipe Out Savings

(Continued from page 1)

more money than ever before," wages do not buy elementary needs and families have to spend more than they earn to keep body and soul together. In Marxian terminology one would say that many workers are not being paid what it costs to keep up their power to labor.

Thus the poll shows that one-fifth of the population which, however, received only ONE TWENTY-FIFTH of PROGRESS TOWARD WHAT the income in 1946, was obliged to spend more than they earned. Of this group living in the red, the veterans ming up the findings of the poll for formed the largest part, accounting business men, writes:

for one-third of the families who actually spent more than they received. Not that there wasn' plenty of money saved in 1946. True, it was only half of the 1945 figure, but still \$14,800,-000,000 is a pretty penny. The fly in the ointment is that sixty-one per cent of that sum was saved by less than ten per cent of the people; that ninety-three per cent of it was saved by only thirty per cent of the people.

Savings are expected to shrink in 1947. The indications are that they will drop by about three billion this year. The expected increase in the cost of living will account for the de-

middle-income group, between three and five thousand dollars, who will stop buying a bond, making a payment on a house, paying an insurance premium, in order to pay the butcher and the baker. Of the sixtyfive per cent of the population of the low-income group, more and more will be unable to pay the butcher and the baker-and will have to do without, unless they fight for and get higher wages and price control.

The United States News, sum-

"Savings, thus, do not promise to

underwrite any prolonged spree of

mass buying. Lowest income people

already are dipping into their past

savings to make ends meet. As living

costs outrun wage increases in 1947,

more and more people in the middle-

income brackets are having to draw

on the money they laid aside during

the war years. Therefore, it is in the

ten per cent of families above five

thousand dollars a year that the

really big market is to be found for

The idea that strikes me forcibly

from the above quotation is this. Be-

fore the war reliable surveys showed

high-priced goods...."

ous desirable commodities advertised in American magazines. Now, a decade later, we are told that only ten per cent of the families will be able to buy these commodities-and perhaps also meat, eggs, butter. That is the progress that capitalism brings to the working people. And doesn't this mean, as always unemployment,

An Open Letter to the International Communist Party, French Section of the Fourth International

By Natalia Sedov Trotsky, Benjamin Pera and G. Munis.

most as much effort to urging mem-Declaration of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Cuba, Section bers to throw their purchased copies of LABOR ACTION into the wasteof the Fourth International basket as in selling their own sheet.

An Appeal of the Minority of the Socialist Workers Party.

Price 15 Cents Order from:-

WORKERS PARTY

4 Court Square Long Island City 1, N. Y.

Labor Movement... By WILLIAM BARTON

Notes on West Coast

OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 5 - The

struggle between the shipowners

and their shoreside lackeys on the

one side and the longshoremen's un-

ion on the other continues. The

strike of the walking bosses is now

more than two months old. Original-

ly called against the Luckenbach

Steamship Company, it has contin-

ued against the Pacific Stevedoring

Company which took over loading

operations from the shipowners. The

owners have become bolder in their

demands. They now state definitely

that they will not hire any walking

bosses who are members of the long-

shore union, using the Taft-Hartley

Act provisions against unionization

Sailors Union of the Pacific Leader

Harry Lundeberg is still playing his

fantastic double game. After getting

sections of his union to announce

that they would completely ignore

the Taft-Hartley Act, after exulting

in the recent victory over the Isth-

mian Ship Lines on the question of

union hiring halls with the chal-

lenge to Taft and Hartley to "man

our ships" if they didn't like the

agreement, he has now decided to

buckle down to the NLRB and file

non-Communist affidavits for the

union officers. Lundeberg, a com-

paratively militant labor leader .on

the economic front, continually in-

sists on "no politics" in his union

while he openly supports people like

Dewey and Governor Warren. Could

his militant talk about combatting

the Taft-Hartley Act be similar ho-

The Stalinists are still making

their futile attempts to stop pur-

chases of LABOR ACTION in front

of union meetings. At a large meet-

ing of Local 6 of the warehousemen.

in Oakland recently they stationed

people at the door with the single

purpose of tearing up their copies of

the paper (which scores had bought).

It is good to report that they were

At meetings of Local 10 of the

Longshoremen in San Francisco, sev-

eral of the salesmen for the Stalin-

ist People's World have devoted al-

At a recent meeting, a rank and file

salesman got curious about the pa-

per that his leaders had been de-

nouncing and purchased a copy. As

fast as you could say "Trotskyite"

one of his stalwart cronies had the

copy out of his hands and into the

not too successful.

kum?

of foremen as their cover.

it, pal, but I hope your learned something anyway.

OAKLAND, Calif., Sept. 5-Some 300,000 people participated in Labor. Day activities in the San Francisco Bay area and neighboring vicinity. In Oakland, over 100,000 marched or watched as the AFL and CIO organized successive parades, followed by a large AFL open air meeting and picnic, fireworks and an evening ball. About 40,000 CIO members marched in San Francisco, with the AFL sponsoring a mass meeting at night attended by 5.000. The workers of San Jose held their first Labor Day parade since 1923, a joint AFL-CIO - Railroad Brotherhood affair with 10,000 participants. Thousands more marched in the city of Richmond.

The San Francisco parade was led by 8,000 longshoremen and warehousemen, dressed in white shirts and caps and presenting a spectacular demonstration of labor strength. There were several floats and many placards in evidence, most of them attacking the Taft-Hartley Act and its sponsors. Principal speaker at the reviewing stand was Harry Bridges, who answered the overwhelming resentment of the workers against the current political leadership with the usual recent Stalinist cry for a third party and support for Henry Wallace who stands for the liberal forces." He also called for a one-day strike on Election Day. The AFL night meeting was featured by the address of Oregon Republican Senator Wayne Morse, who spent most of his time joining the general chorus of attacks against the Taft-Hartley Act, adding a special request that labor not answer with "a blind partisan political program."

1

The Oakland AFL section of its parade was replete with floats, bands and showy tricks, like a mock stormtrooper brigade named after Taft and Hartley. A conspicuous sector was composed of women and Negroes, and a tremendous number of veterans marched in uniform. The CIO contingent contained fewer bands and floats but more placards. Conspicuously lacking in either parade was any noticeable singing or chanting. The open-air meeting was likewise featured by a speech from Senator Morse along the same lines as in San Francisco, this time with special emphasis upon his "role" in the Senate to prevent the Taft-Hartdey Act's passage.

Observing and reading about all these demonstrations was inspiring. Unfortunately, their leadership does not produce the same reaction. They could have been powerful, militant displays of labor's power. Instead they were revelations of the determination of the workers of the area and their mighty potentialities for basket. Sorry you didn't get to read real action.

Workers Party of LABOR ACTION are invited to attend meetings, class lectures and socials sponsored by local branches of the WORKERS PARTY. headquarters listed below to purchase Marxist literature, the NEW INTERNATIONAL and LABOR ACTION. For information of WORKERS PARTY activities in cities not listed below, write to WORKERS PARTY, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

AKRON Write to Box 221. BALTIMORE

p. m., at Wilkins Hall, 1330 Wilkins Ave., Bronx. HARLEM BRANCH: Wednesday, 8:15 p.m., at workers

crease in savings. It will be the A 100

that only eleven per cent of the population could afford to buy the vari-

crises, war?

Judge Says Guilty

Before Defense

Presents Its Case

CLIFFSIDE PARK, N. J. (WDL)-A sample of Southern justice up North was given by Recorder Valentine C.

Franke in the trial of Lise Werthei-

mer, arrested for distributing leaf-

lets protesting the ban on Negroes

After the prosecution closed its

eimer \$10 and costs. The decision is

being appealed. Trial of nine others,

arrested under similar. circumstances,

In addition, Recorder Franke made

every effort to bar mention of the

main issue of the case, racial dis-

crimination at Palisades Pool. He re-

fused to admit in evidence the leaflet

which Miss Wertheimer was dis-

tributing and at first refused to ad-

mit in evidence the picket sign slo-

gan, "Palisades Pool Bars Negroes."

Throughout the trial, Frank Borrell,

police chief, although neither a

prosecutor nor a witness, kept stomp-

ing across the platform, raising ob-

jections whenever the issue of racial

segregation at the pool came up.

was postponed until October 15.

New WP Bulletin:

International Fellowship House. 21 West Preston St., 2nd floor. Monday at 8 p. m., 2nd floor.

Public forums every second Friday of each month. Socialist Youth League meets every Monday at 8 p.m.

BUFFALO

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SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE: Friday, 8:15 p.m., at the Workers Party headquarters, 276 Fulton St., Brooklyn, 2nd floor. SOCIALIST YOUTH LEAGUE

Manhattan Unit Mets every Monday at 8:00 p.m. at City Center, 114 West 14th Street. Brooklyn Unit

For more information write to So-cialist Youth League, 4 Court Square, Long Island City 1, N. Y.

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1139 West Gerard Ave., 3rd floor. Meetings Wednesdays at 8 p. m. Forums every Friday, 8:15 p. m. READING Write to P. O. Box 1671. ST. LOUIS Write to: Douglas Bridge, 6517 Corbitt Ave., University City 14, Mo. SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA Write to:, Labor Action, 466 Tenth St., Room 206 Oakland 7, Calif. SEATTLE Write to: P. O. Box 29, University Post Office. YOUNGSTOWN

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C14.		7	one State	

Readers of Labor Action Take the Gloor. South Side Chicago **Negroes Face Terror**

Editor: On Chicago's far South Side, where live the sons and grandsons of the emigrant workers so badly exploited by the well known Pullman Company, whose early owners were George Pullman and Marshall Field, and whose president was once

signer of the Emancipation Proclamation, there has been going on for some week organized terror against Negroes. The Chicago Daily News, spokesman for big business and heavy in-

dustry, has characterized the anti-Negro mobsters as "degenerates" and has likened them to Hitler's Brown Shirt thugs. Marshall Field III, the present possessor of the millions of dollars taken from these workers through rents, mortgage foreclosures, resale of public utility services at exorbitant rates, and many other forms of legalized extortion, has also editorially condemned the action of the hoodlums in his Chicago Sun. The Chicago Tribune and the Hearst scandal sheet which cater to the lower middle class and even to the moronic elements in the population, have taken a hon-committal position in the matter.

The Calumet Index, a neighborhood newspaper catering to the small business men of the locality, has demanded of Mayor Kennelly that the six Negro veterans and their families be removed from the community. The actual mobsters are in their late teens and are in general members of local athletic clubs sponsored and supported by these local business men. The principal anti-Negro agitator, in addition to the Calumet Index, is Reginald "Reggie" DuBois, a filling station operator, who also happens to be alderman of the Ninth Ward, where the terror is going on. It is interesting to note that there is only mild opposition to the new Negro residents from the home owners in the immediate vicinity. In addition there are a great many recent arrivals (whites) from the

South, and they are not too concerned about the matter. A' large percentage of the actual rioters are

of Polish and Italian parentage, sons of people who have also been the target of racial antagonism since they came to America. This follows the same pattern as the trouble in nearby Gary, Ind., where the sons

and daughters of steel mill factory hands are refusing to attend the same high school as Negroes. Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the Mayor Kennelly of Chicago, a director of one of the largest packing houses, has taken a stand in defense

of these Negroes and has detailed a large number of police to protect them.

As it now stands; the six Negro veterans and their families are still residents of this housing project, but the athletic clubs are saying: "Just wait until the cops are moved."

It is a remarkable thing to note the firm stand taken by big business, its newspapers and its mayor, and then to, note a very faint whisper of protest on the part of the labor movement. How very similar are these attacks on our Negro minority to the attacks of Nazi goons on Germany's Jewish minority. And how very, very similar is the absence of any kind of defense by the powerful labor movement.

four. (1) An attack on the most vulnerable section of the population, a racial minority. (2) Attacks on other religious groups, resulting in a further loss of solidarity by the working population. (3) An attack on and a smashing of the trade unions and the working class political parties. (4) War.

see what lies ahead for the American people. These attacks on the Negroes in Chicago, Gary and Detroit are but the distant rumblings of a coming storm.

the rights of these Negroes now, but do they do anything to settle the grievances that lie behind the trouble? Sub-standard housing is put up for a handful of veterans. Millions are left without homes and additional millions live in rapidly deterio- the ballot boxes are dumped and all

rating shacks and tenements. They provide billions for research for guided missiles and atom bombs ... they provide a few thousand reassembled army barracks to solve the housing shortage. And then they call out the cops to defend the Negroes.

It would seem that all the cops in the world would not be able to defend the Marshall Fields and John Knights if the Negroes and all the other workers realized the fraud that is being perpetrated.

Frank Johnson, Chicago.

Keeping a Watch On Detroit Vote

The following letter was received by the Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Detroit:

TION, called anything but a patriotic publication by such newspapers as the dailies in Detroit, will be the means of exposing conditions around ter scorn.

has been called to the law they have been breaking; they may not lock the doors this time. Watch carefully to describe the methods used. Would that same system be called a good system in an eastern Europe election with the Russians-the eastern Europe "City Hall crowd"-picking the election officers?

Get attention to the danger of this secret count of the vote so that the public will be aroused to the need of a cure. Ask friends who have watched elections in other states to watch the coming city elections. They, too, can write in to LABOR ACTION describing that melee when stepped, trod upon and ground into

fall to and open the ballots before they are counted to see if the ballot boxes were stuffed or not. Or possibly there has been enough publicity so that they will quit that. If so, you have done a patriotic service by being a candidate.

Respectfully yours, Mary P. Hopkins, Detroit.

Suggests Reading On Sacco-Vanzetti

Editor:

The excerpt from Farrell's "Bernard Clare" on Sacco-Vanzetti was timely and served as a reminder to the workers of what can and may happen if another "Red hysteria" hits this nation. Only in educating the workers to understand that all their gains achieved through loss of blood, suffering and at the risk of their entity as private citizens will

have gone for naught if they allow the capitalist press to build up a false hysteria as was the case when the Palmer and Lusk raids made shivering cowards instead of staunch advocates to those whose defense they should have rallied.

Apropos of Sacco and Vanzetti, I think that it would be worth while to suggest a few books which deal specifically with that case. With this material as background, it will enrich the worker's understanding of their implacable enemy, the state. "Jake Home," by Ruth McKenny, quondam , Communist, whose efforts

in this book caused a cultural condemnation within the CP for not bringing Browder into the forefront in the demonstrations in which labor and minority parties participated.

"Boston," a two-volume work by Upton Sinclair, which is the ardent pamphleteer's best phillipic against the deviousness and double standard which is inherent in the system. And "After Twelve Years," written by Joseph Musmanno, attorney and counsel for the defense, gives even better insight into the snarl of redtape, double-dealing, chicanery, pious bleating; justice thwarted, sidethe filth of courtroom procedure. These three books were especially helpful to me in understanding basically the futility of justice when the state wishes to trample upon it to achieve its own ends. They may be procured from any first-rate library.

Norman Johnstone.

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Dear Sir:

As in Germany, one, two, three, Even the most dim-witted must

The capitalists pretend to defend

It is humorous that LABOR AC-

elections in Detroit. The same system, used in eastern Europe in the elections now going on would be publicized by those papers with bit-Counting ballots behind locked doors. Nobody able to swear that every vote was recorded as cast. Have your friends try to get in; attention

0

LABOR ACTION

Editorials-Prices Soar - -

(Continued from page 1)

care about how much deprivation their greed imposes on the people.

If ever there was a confession of bankruptcy it is this. These self-confessed bankrupts, titans of a wormy economic system and rulers of a government created in their image, admit that they cannot feed the people adequately and plentifully at prices within the reach of all, because to do so is in opposition to their interest as profiteers.

Food is basic to life. It is ridiculous to leave it in the hands of those who confess their bankruptcy. A year ago the demand was raised in the Packinghouse Workers Union for the nationalization of the meat industry.

The demand strikes at the heart of the only sensible approach. Coupled with the demand for WORKERS' CONTROL OF PRODUCTION, it offers the only lasting solution. The cry for Nationalization of the Food Industry under Workers' Control ought therefore to be heard everywhere, be inscribed in the programs of the unions and made a principal issue of national labor aggression against the profiteers.

That is the long range, the fundamental approach. While we are working toward that end. there are other things we can do right now.

Our unions are vitally concerned with this problem as they must be. The interests of every working man and woman, as of the people generally, are at stake. The unions can demonstrate labor's right to lead the people. How?

• By organizing popular consumer committees to hold prices down through mass actions, boycotts, and various forms of struggle.

• By seeking WAGE RAISES WITHOUT PRICE INCREASES ..

• By demanding a guaranteed annual wage and an ESCALATOR CLAUSE in every contract.

• By demanding an effective price control law with authority for its execution vested in the hands of THE CONSUMER-UNION COMMIT-TEES.

And

• By calling for the NATIONALIZATION UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL of the Food Industry!

Evictions Rise

There are, we think, dangerous symptoms of complacency developing on the tenant front. Mass resistance against the "voluntary" rent increases voted by the last Congress have registered a degree of success from which some people may conclude that the necessity for vigilance and aciton is past.

On the plus side of the fight against the machinations of Congress and the real estate lobby are the following figures, issued this week by Housing Expediter Frank R. Creedon: Since last July 1, when the new rent law went into effect, only six per cent of tenants under Federal ceilings have agreed to "voluntary" rises. The percentage is lower in New York State where only three per cent of rental units are affectedsome 74,532 out of 2,455,522. (The lower figure in New York is related to the wide, if unorganized, campaign of mass pressure for municipal controls in New York City and for protection under the State rent control law should Federal controls lapse entirely.)

To the extent that it proves the correctness of the stand LABOR ACTION has taken-DO NOT PAY MORE RENT!-and to the extent that it demonstrates the possibilities that lie in mass tenant resistance, it is an encouraging sign. However, several "jokers" must be noted. The figures

The rise in evictions for reasons other than nonpayment speak volumes about the trickery of the landlords, who are resorting to one measure or another to put over a rent increase. We suspect that investigation would disclose that in a good number of the cases the landlord wanted a rent increase which the tenant would not pay. Whereupon came an eviction notice on some phony pretext, such as redecorating for business purposes. or occupation by the landlord himself. (Some landlords must split themselves into small parts to occupy the apartments they need for themselves!)

Now, if this is true of New York City, the figures for the rest of the country must be far more startling. There is great public sensitivity on this point in New York. In a number of cases, tenants on a given block have carried back into the house the furniture and belongings of an evicted tenant. Generally, there is enough of a storm in New York City to make landlords hesitate. But, the fact remains: 1,112 evictions in TWO days are enough of a scandal. And if there are that many in New York City, what must the situation be like elsewhere?

Eviction are certainly on the rise. Something must be done about them. And something CAN be done. Tenants can band together, organize, solicit the support of unions. These tenant organizations, on every block, in every city, can stop rent boosts and PREVENT evictions.

Where such tenant organizations exist, they have already proved their value. We dare not yield an inch in this fight. If we do, the landlords, who do not care one bit about whether you have to move your family onto a park bench, will utilize the impossible housing crisis (which is of their making) to force greater hardship and deprivation on tenants.

The number of evictions has already assumed the proportions of a national scandal. They must, and CAN, be prevented from exacting a greater toll.



The AFL Executive Council, which will meet shortly after this issue of LABOR ACTION appears, will consider whether or not the members of the Council and the officers of the affiliated international unions should comply with that section of the Taft-Hartley anti-labor law which requires that non-communist affidavits be filed with the National Labor Relations Board before the "services" of that body can be employed.

The CIO has already decided not to sign such affidavits, and to ignore the NLRB. Many AFL unionists feel the same way, and it is reported that John L. Lewis is heading the fight in the AFL top circles to refuse to sign these affidavits as an invasion of the democratic rights of the union movement. What the AFL leaders will actually do is difficult to say at this time of writing, for it is also reported that William Green has expressed himself in favor of the council members signing such affidavits so that affiliated unions may appear before the NLRB if they wish to.

The opposition among unionists to signing the above-mentioned affidavits is a healthy sign. The action of Congress is an unconstitutional violation of the rights of unions and their members. The aim of the Taft-Hartley bill is to permit government intervention and supervision of unions under a bill whose avowed purpose is the weakening of the union movement. The press reports, if true, that the CIO might change its position should the AFL decide to honor this provision of the Taft-Hartley bill, would be a calamity for all of labor.

Omitting our general opinion of the NLRB for the present, we certainly cannot see what pos-

"Train of Tomorrow... *

bition of technical progress at the New York World's Fair when I

had toured General Motors' Fu-

turama of the "World of Tomor-

row" in 1939. It had been one of the most inspiring exhibitions of

dazzling technical progress GM

had ever organized, and being as

receptive as they come, I had

been as appreciative an audience

as ever a GM executive could ask

for. They practically had to ask

Motors' "Futurama" had provid-

ed plush seats mounted on tour-

ing escalators for visitors at the

World's Fair. (For shop workers

in the plants they had reversed

the set-up and provided moving

lines for stationary employees.)

It had taken an hour of relaxa-

tion in a moving plush seat to

tour GM's World's Fair vision of

the super-highways of tomorrow,

connecting decentralized and

slum-cleared cities that were

spread before the visitors' eye in

a dazzling vision. The skyscrap-

ers of tomorrow, the sleek auto-

mobile of the future, the labor-

saving homes, the nutrition diets

and the panorama of the calm,

peaceful cities of the world were

gathered in miniature on Flush-

ing Meadow to serenely observe

Elsie the Cow munch her germ-

I was sold on the future of

But just about the time I got

ready to cut myself in on this

cake, I was answering last name

first with my serial number and

hitching my pack up my back as

I went up a gangplank behind my

platoon leader. Three years and

several cases of K-rations later,

I began to get a dim idea that the

"Futurama," the world I had been

through, was a little different

than the "World of Tomorrow"

GM had painted in Flushing

Cities had been "decentralized"

alright! "Slum clearance" from

Manila to Hamburg to London had

certainly quickened its pace; I had

to admit that. But it was a good

thing Elsie the Cow had been re-

moved from the scene when the

General Motors and free enter-

purified cud. That did it.

NOT LIKE CRYSTAL BALL

prize.

Meadow.

I still remember how General

me to restrain myself.

By LEO GORDON

BUFFALO-General Motors has a funny habit of taking, not giving, and its foremen seldom approach a production worker except to keep the lines moving-so I was surprised the other day when my foreman, "Clock-face" Clarence, tapped me on the shoulder and gave me a card which read:

SPECIAL PREVIEW For the Families of General Motors **Employees and Dealers** TRAIN OF TOMORROW 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Admit One

It seems that I was being given a special invitation to look over GM's latest thing in railroad transportation when it came through our town on its national tour of the country. Never having been given anything free by Clarence other than a verbal horse-whipping when my section of the line fell behind, I was surprised to find myself looking over The Train of Tomorrow," one morning a week later when the plant was down because of steel shortages.

SAW VISION ONCE BEFORE

I was already primed with newspaper accounts of its supermodern features, how a hundred and fifty newspaper and radio representatives had travelled with it, and a downtown luncheon of civic and business leaders, educators, railroad executives and General Motors officers had preceded a special tour of inspection. so I was prepared for a glimpse into the future of railroading. But all the while I was admiring the astra-dome-type cars, the latest improvements in streamlining, the luxurious atmosphere predicted for all in the observation lounge, club-car, day coach, sleeping facilities and dining rooms of tomorrow's railroad travel, I had a funny feeling that I had seen it before. I was still ad-

miring a description of a balanced wheel which cut vibration to a minimum even at eighty miles an hour, when I recalled what "The Train of Tomorrow" reminded me of:

"Futurama" came about—Elsie and It brought back a similar exhi-

Neither UNSCOP Plan - -

(Continued from page 1) thus, in effect, creates a state under permanent UN rule.

The majority plan would make a "Trieste" only of Jerusalem and its environs, while the minority plan by the right wing Zionists, the Reviwould transform all Palestine into a "Trieste-like" football of the UN.

the three-year transition period, the minority report is mealy-mouthed limits the area of the proposed Jewand employs the old British formula ish state.

dut Avodah parties of Palestine, which constitute approximately 40 per cent of the trade union population of that country.

The partition plan is also opposed sionists and their allied military formations, the Irgun and the FFI In regard to immigration during (Stern group), who consider partition a "national disaster" because it

The UN is not a court that dispenses justice.

a meat shortage; the grassy glades

around the super highways had

been a "little torn up"; the sleek

automobiles of the future had been

converted into jeeps, peeps, half-

trucks and tanks. There was one

other little item which had been

changed in the "Futurama" also:

several thousand local boys and a

few million abroad weren't around

any more to cut themselves in on

All in all, I had come back

down the gangplank a little sus-

picious of General Motors' ability

I left "The Train of Tomorrow"

exhibition in the same frame of

mind. It looked to me like "The

Train of Tomorrow" was being

paraded before the eyes of sweat-

ing auto workers in much the

same manner that the marvels of

plastics, prefabricated homes,

electronic kitchens and the home-

sweet-home of tomorrow had been

waved before the eyes of sweat-

ing GIs from Anzio to Tarawa

There was no mention made of

another, "Train of Tomorrow"

which might be also touring the

town for GM employees to see one

of these days-the Train of Closed

Plants, home relief, insecurity,

worry, and a newsreel of the Pres-

ident picking the first number out

of the fish bowl for the lucky win-

ner of a uniform to get the draft

All my foreman had been tell-

ing me in substance, when he

tapped me on the shoulder, was,

"Just keep the GM line moving,

boys, and we'll all be riding in the

club car tomorrow with a bottle

That is-providing the bottom

doesn't drop out of the stock

market. And providing they don't

have, to close the plants and post

signs, "NO HELP WANTED."

And providing the GM "Train of

Tomorrow" doesn't have to be re-

fitted like the Queen Mary for

troop transportation. (Club car

of ale at our elbow."

for officers only, men.)

to gaze into the crystal ball.

MAY NEED REFITTING

and points forward.

rolling again.

this Flushing Meadow deal.

Its decision will reflect, above all, the strategic needs of the Big Three in their preparations for World War III.

Despite British press reaction, which seemed to favor the withdrawal of Empire troops from Palestine, there are several indications that this is not a probable variant.

POWERS WILL DECIDE

TAPPING WALL ST. 11/1 By JACK RANGER

MARCH OF THE SALES TAX

As the labor movement continued its political importance the past year through its failure to build its own independent party, Big Business successfully pushed through sales taxes in four more states. New state sales taxes were enacted in 1947 by the legislatures of Connecticut, Maryland, Rhode Island and Tennessee, bringing to 27 the number of states which now have such levies. Two states-Oregon and Wisconsin-called for referendums on proposed new state sales taxes. New or increased sales taxes were proposed this year in more than a score of other states, with indications that the issue will be raised in still others next year. While no sales tax laws were repealed or permitted to expire during this year, they were re-enacted by two states, North Dakota and Oklahoma.

Connecticut's new three per cent gross sales and use tax is calculated to yield \$26,000,000 annually, that is, to transfer that amount of taxes from business and place it on the backs of the masses. Maryland's two per cent sales tax should yield an estimated \$18,400,000 a year. A one per cent sales tax expected to yield \$6,100,000 went into effect July 1 in Rhode Island. It applies to nearly every commodity purchased. Tennessee's new two per cent tax went into effect June 1, and will yield \$20.000.000.

The Wisconsin legislature approved a referendum at the November, 1948, election as to whether a three per cent sales tax should be enacted. Oregon voters will decide at a special election October 7 whether a three per cent sales tax approved by the state legislature shall take effect.

Born during the depression, the sales tax and related levies have grown rapidly in importance as a major source of state revenue, and last year yielded well over \$1 billion, as contrasted with negligible receipts from this source in 1932 when Mississippi enacted the first general sales tax in modern form, according to the Federation of Tax Administrators. The growth of the CIO and the general militancy of labor halted the sales tax for some years. The 1947 enactments of new sales taxes were the first since 1937. With the union movement in retreat, and Big Business on the offense, the drive to soak the poor with yet more sales taxes will be stepped up next year.

The cigarette tax, a special form of the sales tax, spread more rapidly during 1947 state legislative sessions than any other single form of taxation. Cigarette taxes are currently effective in 38 states, as the result of the adoption of such levies this year by legislatures of seven states-Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada and West Virginia. Eight other states increased the former tax on cigarettes. State levies against tobacco products have grown rapidly, from \$10,500,000 in 1930, to \$101,000,000 in 1940, to \$236,500,000 in 1946.

So cocky have the political representatives of Big Business become at their success in shifting the state tax load onto the masses through a sales tax that now they contemplate putting over a federal sales tax. Before Congress adjourned, a new sales tax bill was tossed into the hopper, calling for a TEN PER CENT MANUFACTUR-ERS' EXCISE. That is, the sales tax would be applied at the point of production; the wholesaler and retailer would pass the bill along to the consumer. Such a federal tax is designed to raise about \$6.4 billion; the bill provides that income taxes on the wealthy would be cut an even greater amount.

THE DIAMOND TRUST

her germ-proof cud had one hell of a time keeping as serene as she appeared at Flushing Meadow. There had also been a few other changes in the "Futurama." The nutrition diet had turned out to be

Page 3

relate to units under Federal ceilings. The rent law provides an elaborate machinery for removing whole areas from Federal controls, and there are as yet no statistics available on how far this has gone. Moreover, the pressure of the housing crisis is so great, and rapacity of the landlords so infamous, that a great many tenants have probably had to agree to rent boosts without the formality of registration with the area rent offices. And, further, the landlords have by no means given up. Controls are due to lapse entirely in a few months, and a great many landlords are biding their time. In actuality, the rent increases are "voluntary" only for the landlord, inasmuch as some tenants, MISTAKENLY, are rushing to sign the increase as protection against more outrageous increases after March 1.

But there is far more to the housing and rent situation than the fifteen per cent trick. There is, for example, the problem of evictions. In New York City, 1,112 EVICTIONS WERE ORDERED IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF SEPTEMBER! Every conceivable type of dwelling is involved, though you can take it for granted that few swank apartments are involved.

Chairman Ross of the Temporary City Housing Rent Commission, in releasing the above figures, added that "if the trend continues there will be an unusually high rise in eviction proceedings." That's the typical conservatism of a government official. "Will be?" Evictions in August totalled 2,144. In Manhattan, this represents a 96.5 per cent gain over August of the previous year; in the Bronx, 91.9 per cent; in Richmond. 87.5 per cent; in Queens, 56.9 per cent; in Brooklyn, 42.5 per cent.

More and more of these evictions are for reasons other than non-payment of rent. In August, for example, eviction proceedings for reasons other than non-payment of rent rose 58.7 per cent.

Where a tenant does not pay rent, there is in almost every case a good reason for it-namely, the tenant cannot afford it. And it is, in our opinion, the duty of fellow tenants to stop the eviction. But, leave that aside for the moment.

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

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EMANUEL GARRETT, Editor

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IRVING HOWE

sible advantage the AFL could find in recognizing the NLRB's existence as it is transformed under the new law, unless it be that obtaining legal recognition over the CIO in this or that shop. Such an approach would be self-destructively narrow indeed, and could only result in a blow against organized labor as a whole.

The answer of organized labor to the anticommunist affidavit provisions should be what the CIO decided officially: have nothing whatever to do with it!

Does that mean no fight against the Stalinist union wreckers? Not at all! But the place to fight the Communist Party gang is in the unions and through the unions. The way to fight them is with superior program and superior policies. The way to fight them is by building a more powerful and more miltiant union movement. You cannot fight Stalinism in the unions or anywhere else by vying with reactionaries, or by waving the flag.

The Stalinist agents of the Kremlin in this country are resourceful and clever people. 'They know by experience, if nothing else, how to make use of issues which effect the people as a whole and the workers in particular. A reactionary policy against the Communist Party will merely serve the bosses as a weapon against labor militants in general. To tolerate persecution for political views, even if these views are as abhorrent to us as the totalitarian views of Stalinism, is to endanger the entire labor movement.

Little Studies in Retrogression (The Art of Polemics Department)

Andrei Gromyko on Victor Kravchenko: "When a dog has nothing to do, it licks its underbelly. Sometimes this attracts spectators."

Victor Kravchenko on Andrei Gromyko: "I wish to say, when the dog does what Mr. Gromyko describes, it does so for its own pleasure. But Mr. Gromyko, in order to remain safe at the helm and to please the Kremlin, is forced to do to all the members of the Politburo what the dog in the proverb does for itself.

"But because there are fourteen members of the Politburo, Mr. Gromyko must be very busy.'

-From Newsweek, August 25, 1947.

Read and Subscribe to LABOR ACTION and

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

that restricted Jewish immigration into Palestine "in such numbers as not to exceed its absorptive capacity." Who is to determine what that is? Here again the ultimate decision lies with the UN representative. Immigration thus becomes a function of the dirty power politics of the Big Three.

These are the gifts Stalinist Yugoslavia brings Palestine!

ZIONIST, ARAB RESPONSE

The boundaries of the Arab and Jewish areas, under both plans, resemble jigsaw puzzles. It is hard to see how, with such boundaries, Palestine can escape the bloody massacres that swept partitioned India.

This consideration partly motivates the opposition to the partition plan on the part of the left-socialist-Zionist Hashomer Hatzair and the Ach-



The Zionist movement as a whole, led by the Mapai (the Jewish Labor Party of Palestine), leans toward acceptance of the UNSCOP majority plan with modifications, such as the exchange of the Arab port city of Jaffa for western Galillee and the Jewish sections of Jerusalem.

The Arab nationalist movement, on the other hand, bitterly opposes partition. It 'is, however, not excluded that Emir Abdullah of Transjordania, who would like to incorporate the Arab part of Palestine into his state, could, together with the moderate Arab nationalist anti-Mufti. Allalami group of Palestine, rally substantial support among Palestinian Arabs for a partition plan.

The fate of the UNSCOP plans, however; will not be decided by the peoples of Palestine.

First, the Colonial Office is going ahead with plans for a round table conference of Jews, Arabs and British spokesmen. Second, a majority of the military commanders recently polled by the British cabinet are reported to oppose evacuation of Palestine and still consider Palestine a fulcrum of the British position in the Middle East.

Finally, the British Foreign Office is hopeful that the U.S. State Department's silence bespeaks a reluctance to withdraw its British ally from the "key to the back door of Russia." Substance is given to this British speculation by the secret visit of an American military mission to Palestine to study the Anglo-American military position in the Middle East. (This visit was disclosed by the Palestinian correspondent, S. Itshaki, in a special cable to the New York Jewish Morning Journal, September 7.)

It is almost banal and trite to point out the obvious truth that the real decision on the UNSCOP reports will be made by the imperialist titan, the U. S., which recently successfully integrated 21 nations of the Western Hemisphere (50 per cent of the UN assembly) into its sphere of influence.

What course will imperialist Russia take?

The lineup in the UNSCOP provides no definitive answer. Czechoslovakia, a peripheral member of the Eastern bloc, voted for the majority partition plan (even approving British administration of Palestine during the transition period) while the 100 per cent Stalinist Yugoslavia championed the minority federation plan.

Gromyko's declaration at the special UN session on Palestine indicated Russian preference for a unified Arab-Jewish Palestine, but did not rule out support for a partition plan.

Either plan can be used to weaken British control over Palestine and to get the Russian finger into the Palestinian pie.

This is the objective that will guide Russian diplomacy at the forthcoming General Assembly session.

One thing seems certain. None of the Big Three will take its stand on the basis of the real needs and, aspirations of the Jewish and Arab peoples.

Diamonds are not nearly as interesting to us as eggs, say, or butter, milk and bread. But the methods used by the international diamond cartel to hold down production and hold up prices are interesting as a simple example of how the monopoly principle operates in almost all sections of capitalist economy. In the past year or so, you may have read of that fabulous Canadian, J. T. Williamson, who prospected in Tanganyika, Africa, and found acres of diamonds. He set up a little kingdom of his own there, built a palace, and said he was going to buck the British diamond monopoly. Last year he sold \$4,000,000 worth of diamonds, underselling the monopoly. But the trust has finally prevailed. Williamson has knuckled under and agreed to join the monopoly which markets about \$120 millions of diamonds annually. Under terms of the agreement. Williamson and two other Tanganyika independents have been cut in for ten per cent of the net sales each year of the monopoly, which markets the precious stones through the Diamond Trading Co. Williamson and the other former independents have agreed not to sell their diamonds to any other purchaser. The deal was of sufficient importance to require the official sanction of the British government, and is designed, according to the Wall Street Journal, "to help Debeers' policy of trying to keep the diamond supply a bit-less than demand. If demand shows signs of declining, the syndicate will cut the supply. And if a grave crisis emerges, the supply can be cut off altogether."

So what, we may say. It's no skin off our teeth. We never buy diamonds. True enough. But we buy other things for which we are held up through monopoly control, just as the diamond bandits hold up the diamond purchasers. Steel, chemicals, aluminum, oil, rail transportation, telephone service, gas, food items-these are just a few of the necessities which monopoly capitalism controls in the United States, just as Debeers controls the world diamond market. Everywhere it operates, monopoly aims to artificially restrict production for the purpose of maintaining or increasing prices, and thus restricts the distribution of goods to the people. Monopoly capitalism means planned scarcity. Socialism means planned abundance. Which do you want to fight for?

WORKERS PARTY INFORMATION BLANK

I am interested in joining the Workers Party. of the United States. Will you please send me all information as to your Program and how I can become a member.

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Picketing the British Consulate

TEUISH-ARAB

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"Lesser Evil" Policy Will Lead Labor From Bad to Worse

By HERMAN BENSON, Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Detroit

The present political policy of the labor movement begins by supporting so-called



H. BENSON

become more and more "evil" ... more and more anti-labor. Michigan and Detroit politics show this very clearly.

Take the case of August Scholle, president of the Michigan CIO, and Kim Sigler, Republican governor of Michigan. The CIO supported the Democratic candidate for governor in the last elections, but Sigler won out nevertheless. Scholle flatly refused to utter any public criticism of Sigler after the election. He said openly, at union conventions and caucuses, that he would not denounce Sigler. How can I do that, he said, and then go up to Sigler and ask him for favors for the labor movement? Can I call the man a reactionary so and so and then expect him to do what we want?

It was only after Sigler rebuffed all attempts by Scholle for compromise, and signed one anti-labor bill after another, including the notorious Callahan bill, that Scholle permitted himself the luxury of criticism. No one was more contemptuous of this policy of appeasing the Republican governor than Scholle's opponents in the Michigan CIO. In hourly bulletins at the last state CIO convention, the Addes group attacked Scholle as a bed-fellow of Governor Sigler.

SAME FOR JEFFRIES

And now what do you think? These same Addes supporters are copying Scholle's methods in the Detroit elections. Only, instead of playing with Republican Sigler, they are playing with Republican Mayor Jeffries who is just as reactionary and just as anti-labor as Sigler.

Jeffries has just whitewashed his police department for a brutal attack on a CIO picket line. Three policemen beat Peter Upper, vice-president of UAW Local 212, so severely that he had to be hospitalized. In the hospital, this "desperate" character was shackled to his bed. We patiently await a vigorous public protest from the followers of the Stalinist grouping in the union. We fear we wait in vain. In the last months, the Addes en i thing possible to raise the stock of Jeffries in the eyes of the workers. They advertise him as connected with this and with that worthy cause. But it is all in vain. The workers know the real Jeffries too well.

Here is how the labor movement gets sucked into supporting reactionary politicians like Sigler and Jeffries: The theory behind supporting "friends of labor" tells us that if we did not do so, and if we ran independent labor candidates, we would antagonize the "liberals" and it would be impossible to get their support. (They certainly must be sturdy "liberals.") When these "liberals," whose record inevitably discourages the workers who elected them, are replaced by "reactionaries" the same theory is dragged out to justify supporting "enemies" of the workers. "If we continue to attack these people," we are told, "how can we ever get them to help us?" More stupidly, we are told, "If you can't beat 'em; join 'em." This candidates who theory will lead the labor leaders to endorse Truman in 1948.

END RESULT

But it should be clear that such a policy which leads us from bad to worse means a steady appeasement of the reactionary capitalist class. There is no end to such a policy except the victory of the most reactionary enemy of the workers: fascism.

In Germany, the Social Democratic party followed this policy prior to the victory of Hitler. In the name of preventing fascism they gave up the independence of the working class and supported "friends of labor" and "lesser evils." Ironically enough, after Hitler won the elections in 1933, part of the Social Democratic party voted to give him dictatorial powers. They argued that this was the only way to win a little sympathy from . . . HITLER. This all sounds absurd. But it is exactly the policy which is followed by the official labor leadership today.

In the Detroit elections there 'is only one way to cast a vote for a program of workingclass independence. You must vote in the primaries on Tuesday, October 7, for the candidate and the platform of the Workers Party.

CARUSI UNFIT TO HANDLE DPS, WDL CHARGES

NEW YORK CITY (WDL)-Asserting that the record of Ugo Carusi with the Immigration and Naturalization Service "displays a complete lack of understanding of peoples, particularly political refugees," the Workers Defense League protested his recent appointment as coordinator of displaced persons' problems for the State Department. "The American Civil Liberties Un-



Philadelphia WP, SWP Fight **Undemocratic Ballot Ruling - -**

(Continued from page 1)

It was on the basis of this refusal to answer questions that the County Board rejected our nomination papers. At the same time, the Board's Republican chairman, Martin Witkin, declared "It is un-American to refuse to answer these questions." The Democratic attorney, obviously fumbling for information, asked questions about the "Trotskyite Party" and were they not "part of the Communist Party." The object was to create an atmosphere of redbaiting hysteria since no legal accusations could be made.

The ruling of the Board of Elections in rejecting the nominations signifies the political decision of the Republicans, who are the dominant party, to go along with the Democratic attack. The action was made on political and not legal grounds. Its object is to maintain the political monopoly of one-party political monopoly in this

the two capitalist parties and to keep every independent and labor party off the ballot. Making a clean sweep of all opposition, the Board of Elections last week found technical reasons for rejecting the nominations of the United Veterans Party and of the Communist Party.

The Democrats were the first to make the attack against us because in Philadelphia they are the jackal party, getting the leavings from the Republicans and existing through Republican favors. They, therefore, felt they had most to lose since their weakness was already apparent. The Republicans, who are the party of the U.S. Steel Corporation and the Mellon and Pew interests, and who in Philadelphia represent the corrupt control of the Pennsylvania Railroad, are fearful of a possible labor threat to their increasingly

Fear of growing independent labor party sentiment is the chief reasons for the rejection of our petitions. The Board's action is part of the reactionary anti-labor drive, directed from Washington and Harrisburg, and of which the Taft-Hartley bill is the outstanding example. The Board's ruling represents a threat to the civil, democratic and political rights of the labor movement.

The vicious state-wide attack on the CIO candidate for Congress in the Democràtic primaries in Bucks County, Phil H. Storch, is part of this campaign. Even though Storch's primary fight is weak and false, and even dangerous in its approach since it does not represent independent labor politics, but keeps the working class tied to the reactionary Democratic Party, this attempt by an acknowledged CIO candidate to get on the ballot has been subjected to the violent and most hysterical attacks.

The major part of this attack has been a smear campaign about "foreignism." This is parallel to the attack of Martin Witkin against the Workers Party, whom he accused of having a "foreign tinge" and of being "un-American."

FILE COUNTER-SUIT

The Workers Party has taken several important steps to defend its rights and the rights of labor. We have filed a counter-suit against the Board of Elections, demanding our reinstatement on the ballot. We have prepared the legal way to further appeals, if necessary, to the State Supreme Court. Our legal defense is being conducted by a distinguished labor attorney, David Felix.

We have already carried the fight through three legal hearings. Next Friday, we will face contempt charges against five members of the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party.

We have decided to broaden the base of our defense actions. To this end a Provisional Committee for the Defense of the Political Rights of independent labor candidates has been formed together with the Socialist Workers Party. This Committee is now soliciting labor, socialist and liberal support throughout the city.

This committee has organized a Defense Rally and social for Saturday, September 20, at which the chief speaker will be David Felix, defense attorney.

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And the Board's * **Action Nets Its** 1 1 First Results --

PHILADELPHIA - The anti-labor action of the County Board of Elections in rejecting the nomination papers of the Workers Party and the Socialist Workers Party has had its effects in the most reactionary circircles.

All anti-labor elements now feel

Buffalo Pickets Protest British Policy

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PALES

By PRESTON LITTLE

601

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INDEPENDER PALESTINE

BUFFALO-A picket line, approximately one hundred strong at its height, marched before the local offices of the British Consulate Wednesday, September 3, in protest against Britain's decision to return the 4,000 Jews aboard the refugee ship, Exodus-1947, to Germany. This picket action, first of its kind

here, was officially sponsored by the Zionist Emergency Council of Buffalo and had been, according to reports, originally conceived as a united mass demonstration of the various Zionist groups in the city. For reasons known best to the Zionists themselves, however, one of the groups after the other refused to join in and left the Zionist Emergency Council a skeletonized body. The Council, nevertheless, announced its determination to go ahead, utilized a portion of the front page of

the Buffalo Jewish Review to call for support and through postcards appealed again to a wide section of

Buffalo Jewry. With the public announcement of the Council, the Buffalo Branch of the Workers Party rallied to its support. The Workers Party organizer immediately notified the Council head of the Workers Party's intention to call upon other organizations for aid, and issued a press release to the two daily papers expressing the Workers Party's whole-hearted support to the intent of the demonstra-

The AVC was contacted and quickly won to the demonstration, and CIO Council militants initiated a resolution in behalf of the demonstration, which won the backing of that body.

gration Service's treatment, under Commissioner Carusi's direction, of

Sunday, September 7, on the subject, "Palestine: The Way Out for the Jews?" One thousand copies of LA-BOR ACTION, folded so as the display prominently news stories or editorials on the Jewish question, were stapled to these leaflets. A number of picket signs bearing the central slogans of the Workers Party on Palestine were also prepared. The picket line assembled at approximately 11 a.m. Signs, Workers Party, Zionist and those of the AVC, were in abundance. Although passersby were not attracted in large

numbers, the line did receive considerable attention. ZIONISTS OBJECT

Soon after the march began, representatives of the Council who a few moments before had welcomed Workers Party members and sympathizers, came running to the Workers Party organizer with the "complaint" that Workers Party slogans, as shown on the leaflets and LABOR ACTION, were "not the same as" those of the Zionists. Therefore, they asked if the

Workers Party would please distribute its literature at a goodly distance from the picket line, and if the Workers Party people would be so kind as to cease picketing and "come back a little later"! The stimulus for this rapid cooling off of the Council leaders to the

WP ISSUES LEAFLET

ion has formally protested the Immi-

2,000 leaflets stating the party's solchauvinists could not bear, literally, idarity with the basic principles of the sight of slogans attacking the bethe demonstration, its over-all posiloved United States State Departtion on the Palestine issue, its analyment which, naturally, is "friendly" sis of the crisis facing world Jewry to Europe's oppressed Jews...ad today and the announcement of an nauseum. open meeting at party headquarters To the credit of the Council chairman, however, it must be said that he objected to this attitude on the part of a number of his colleagues

WP's Benson-for-Mayor **Campaign in Detroit Swings Into High Gear**

By PAUL OWEN

DETROIT, Sept. 7-With the deadline for the filing of nominating petitions expiring last night the mayoralty campaign for Herman Benson, Workers Party candidate, now moves into its final and most important phase.

For the month remaining before Campaign Committee has planned an visiting in working class neighbor-Workers Party was readily apparent. While the Zionist placards spoke out only against the British and for Jewish immigration into Palestine, the Workers Party signs and literature called ALSO for the opening of attended by about 50 people. Can- the working class. didate Benson chiefly addressed the gathering on the reasons for the campaign and called upon the audience to rally the widest support for our socialist program.

To the evident discomfort of the The Workers Party then prepared all, 3,000 miles away (think the Zionists)-these patriots and humanitarian Zionist respectables, the Workers Party continued picketing and distributed all its literature. The line continued marching well into the afternoon and involved, actively, some 400 people in all. This picket line (the Buffalo Jew-

ish Review continues to place the word "picket" within quotation marks!) was something new and necessary to Buffalo Jewry. Although the city's Jewish population is small -only some 17,000 in a city of over 600,000-it contains a good-sized proletarian element which can profit by this first experience. Certainly the fact that a portion of the Jews of Buffalo are rightly disillusioned with postcards and petitions-and show it -is promising in itself.

sive publicity in the surrounding neighborhood. Other election meetings are planned for later in the cam-

held next Friday night at Venetian

PAMPHLET SELLS FAST

The campaign pamphlet, "Stop the Enemies of the Working People-A the primaries, the Workers Party Program for the Detroit Elections," has been out about a week. An atintensive program of door - to - door tractive 16 - page pamphlet, it presents the fighting platform of the hoods, street meetings and union Workers Party and outlines a procoverage. This part of the campaign gram of mass action by workers, was formally launched last night white and Negro, tenants and conwith a social for contacts, sympa- sumers in Detroit as part of a nathizers and co-workers which was tion-wide struggle in the interests of Published in an original edition of 3,000 on the eve of Labor Day through the cooperation and extra effort of many members of the Detroit branch of the Workers Party, 850 copies were sold at the AFL and CIO Labor Day parade. All told, so far, over 1.000 copies have been sold. A complete sell-out of the edition is guaranteed. For Several months the Workers Party has tried in vain to contact the SWP, which is running its own candidate for mayor, with the purpose of "conducting joint activity around the municipal elections." When the SWP belatedly agreed to meet with the WP, it was merely to propose that the WP withdraw its candidate in favor of theirs. The WP's counter - proposal of a joint election campaign was rejected by the SWP.

and defended the right of the Workers Party to remain, without recrimination, on the picket line-although in his statements to the press he placed special emphasis on the fact that the Council had invited no other organizations to the line and, therefore, was not responsible for their appearance.

Hall and will be preceded by extenpaign.

wives of Chinese-American GIs. Despite WDL protests, Commissioner Carusi continued to deport Indonesian nationals in the face of overwhelming evidence that they were

izer explained that the branch was unable "organizationally" to participate. The real reason for the SWP refusal, however, lay right smack in Zionism is quite fashionable and rethe SWP program, which opposes being sent into an area of danger." Jewish immigration into Palestine!

America's doors to the Jews and attacked United States imperialism as well as that of the British. Since spectable in the United States-the heart of British imperialism is, after

The first election rally is to be

THE SOCIALIST BANNER WILL WAVE IN VICTORY!

Max Shachtman, national chairman of the Workers Party, at the Trotsky Memorial meeting in New York City on Friday, September 5.

By MAX SHACHTMAN

We detest Stalinism for all that it has done to the working class, to the cause of socialist freedom, and even to the good name of socialism.

But we are by no means ready to succumb to it in any way or in any sense. Those who see in Stalinism the wave of the future-as people used to say about Hitlerism-do not understand either Stalinism or the working class which it seeks to traduce.

Like capitalism, Stalinism is incapable of solving the burning problems of society. It brings not freedom but tyranny, not order but chaos, not security but starvation, not peace but war. The further it spreads, the more clearly it discloses its true countenance and true role.

The new barbarism can no more gain the support or even the toleration of the masses than the old capitalist barbarism. A dictatorship of police and assassins is in its very nature a dictatorship of instability, and any crisis may mean its end.

CONFIDENCE IN PROLETARIAN VICTORY

Trotsky-and in this respect we are entirely like himderived his confidence in the ultimate victory of socialism from a true reading and a deep understanding of the proletariat and of the record of all the oppressed classes in history.

Jean Jaures, the most prominent figure of the old socialist movement of Europe, used to describe this history with a matchless eloquence of gesture, of the eye and of the spoken word.

Back in antiquity, captive peoples, kept in the brutish ignorance of their times, isolated from each other into tiny handfuls, nevertheless succeeded in breaking the chains of chattel slavery and the apparently unbreakable power of the omnipotent slaveowners with their bare fists, with stones, with clubs and knives. In the days of feudalism, the serfs, scattered over the domains of Europe, were able to level the strongest fortresses and prisons of the nobility, again with their bare fists, their scythes and short swords, their bows and arrows.

Today we have a modern proletariat, infinitely more advanced and enlightened than its unbelievably backward predecessors, a proletariat that is the foundation of all society, a proletariat that can be destroyed only if class rule itself is destroyed. We have a proletariat which, come what may, is numerous and bound together in large compact masses by the very economic life of every country. Against it we have ar-

We present below some excerpts from a speech delivered by rayed great froces, but forces of a ruling class whose days are numbered because it cannot restore order to society, because ism all over Russian-occupied Europe-in Poland, in Rumania, it bears within it a virus to wipe out society, because it is itself disintegrating and unsure of its power.

Is it possible, is it reasonable, for the intelligent mind to assume that where the tens of thousands were able in the past to overturn and free themselves from the ruling powers, the millions and tens of millions today will prove to be unable to accomplish their historic task?

It is possible for the intelligent mind to believe that with all the setbacks and defeats that have been suffered, the masses of today will prove incapable of finally consummating the evolution toward which the whole of social history points so clearly? That the centuries-long struggle of the oppressed for freedom, which, in spite of everything, in spite of sufferings and sacrifices and setbacks nevertheless did succeed in bringing modern civilization to the world-that this struggle will come to a tragic halt in our time-that the modern working class will be unable to perform even greater (far greater) exploits in lifting the world to freedom than were performed by the ancient slaves, by the serfs and artisans and even the young bourgeois of only a few centuries ago?

DAY OF DURABLE EMPIRES IS PAST

That is how to look at the matter scientifically and historically. It is not sensible to act as have so many who abandoned the fight for socialism, and to conclude that because we have suffered such heavy defeats-and they have been heavy and grim-it follows that the proletariat is incapable of achieving, under capitalism and against capitalism, that historic task which far more backward, far more disorganized, far less numerous classes were able to achieve for humanity in their time. Such a conclusion seems to us ridiculous, and it is worthy of the soldier who does not understand the difference between a battle and a war.

It is these views that give us our unabated confidence in the working class and our determination to continue our freely chosen task of shaping and sharpening the revolutionary socialist vanguard movement to which Trotsky made such imperishable contributions.

We do not believe the world is doomed to fall into the barbarism of capitalism or the barbarism of Stalinism.

We do not believe that the masses will stand by impassively while the yoke is fastened firmly over their necks, while the wheels grind remorselessly to the war that threatens the extinction of civilization.

We see already the rising antagonism to American imperialism all over Europe, the preparation of the rebellion against it.

We see already the rising antagonism to Stalinist imperialnow in Hungary-and the preparation of the rebellion against

We see the rising tide of horror among even the American people, the American workers, against the threat of war, the rising feeling that it is necessary for the workingmen and women to enter the political field as a distinctive force in order to guide if not to determine the fate of the land. What else is the meaning, for example, of the huge audiences of workingmen that even a muddlehead like Wallace can command—a Wallace in whom the workers find at least some sort of expression of their will for peace and security?

We have seen in our own time how the "wave of the future" -the thousand-year reich of Hitlerism-was broken, not in a thousand years, or a hundred, but in a mere dozen yearsbroken against the irrepressible resistance which all the peoples of Europe successfully offered to the mightiest empire the Old World had ever known and the one which finally collapsed most ignominiously.

The day of durable empires, of vast slave-camps of imperialism, of realms from which the rulers draw power and plunder from the people for generations and even centuries—that day is gone and there is no sign that it will return.

The dream of a new world empire is nothing but a dream, and those who dream it, be it in Washington or in Moscow, are duping themselves.

PARTY OF SOCIALIST INDEPENDENCE

We remain therefore the confident party of international socialist freedom. We have no links to the dead and dying past. We are the party-not of Washington and not of Moscow-but socialist independence.

Those ideas are our most precious capital. When they become the ideas of the masses they will be irresistible arms in the sacred struggle.

Neither Stalinism and the reform of Stalinism, nor capitalism and the reform of capitalism! Neither Moscow nor Washington. All efforts for restoring the independence of the working class, for restoring the socialist consciousness and program of the working class, for the socialist victory of the working class the world over!

That is the spirit, the essence, the meaning, the very heart of Trotskyism today. That is the meaning, and at the same time the vindication, of the fight for socialism today.

Like the great thinker and great warrior whom we honor tonight, as his name honored us, that is our banner. In heart and mind lies our certainty that it will wave in victory.

that their hands have been strengthened by this action of the Board. This week three anonymous postcards were received by candidates and members of the parties whose names had appeared in the newspapers, carrying threats and anti-Semitic phrases.

One of the cards states: "Kikes and Commies go back to USSR." Another states: "Hitler was too good to you kikes."

The vilest fascist and anti-Semitic elements in the city have been aroused by the Board's action. The entire labor movement is threatened by the growth of these fascist groupings, whose leader today is Gerald L. K. Smith. To begin to defend itself against fascism the labor movement must defend its elementary political rights.

Attention, Philadelphia Workers! FIGHT THE CONSPIRACY to Keep the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party off the Election Ballot

JOINT DEFENSE RALLY AND SOCIAL

SPEAKERS:

DAVID H. FELIX-Defense Attorney

I. JACK RADER—WP Candidate for City Council IRENE LE COMPTE—SWP Candidate for City Council

1 × 1 × 1 × 1 ENTERTAINMENT REFRESHMENTS MUSIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 8:30 P. M.

303 West Girard Ave., 2nd Floor

Under the Auspices of the

Provisional Committee for Rights of Independent Labor Candidates