CIO, AFL, Railroad Unions Unite Against Anti-Labor Bills

An Editorial

Welcome news indeed was the statement by CIO President Philip Murray on Feb. 4 that the AFL, the CIO, the Railroad Brotherhoods and the National Farmers Union, representing approximately 13,000,000 organized workers and working farmers, have decided to join forces in a fight against anti-labor legislation.

Plans for the fight have not yet been completed, but meanwhile the CIO called on all its locals to create legislative committees in preparation for joint activities against reactionary Congressional bills.

The CIO Executive Board explained the need for intensified legislative activity in a statement which declared: "Our national economic problems are problems which go far

beyond any question of mere negotiations with employers and the statement of grievances with employers.

"Today the War Labor Board in Washington must pass upon all wage matters. The Office of Price Administration and the Department of Agriculture and other Washington agencies make policies which will decide whether we will have a really effective price control or whether prices will skyrocket upward so that wage adjustments will become meaningless.

"These same agencies in Washington decide whether we will have a fair distribution of food and other necessities of life through overall rationing or whether those with the most money will get the largest share of our limited supply. Congress passes on all of these matters and also decides whether through tax cuts there will be taken out of pay checks of our members taxes to such an extent as to cut down their food budgets and their health.

"All of this has placed on the shoulders of CIO and its members an increased responsibility which goes far beyond wage negotiations and grievance adjustments. Our members paying a victory tax out of their pay envelopes each week have realized that THE REAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THEIR EVERY-DAY WORKING LIFE ARE BEING DECIDED IN LEGISLA-TIVE AND POLITICAL FIELDS.'

All this is true. Unless the labor movement enters with its full strength into the fight on the political field, it will be undermined by the representatives of Big Business in Washington.

While wholeheartedly supporting the plan for united legislative action, every worker should ponder the question: Why is the labor movement in such danger today? The trade union leaders failed to effectively mobilize the masses to prevent the election of the reactionary politicians who now threaten the labor

movement. The trade union leaders were content to leave political power in the hands of the Democratic and Republican Parties, whose members now control Congress and are in position to hamstring the unions. The trade union leaders failed to create an INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY running labor's own candidates in opposition to the candidates of Big Business. These are the reasons why labor is in such danger today.

The labor movement is forced to fight on the defensive on both the economic and political fields today because it failed to take the offensive on the political field last year. This must not happen again.

All of labor's strength must be summoned now to defeat the plans of the anti-labor forces in Congress. And in the process the united action necessary for that task must be transformed into a stable political organization of labor, a nationwide INDE-PENDENT LABOR PARTY.



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BYRNES REJECTS WAGE RAISE DEMANDS

Govt. Reports Prove That 'Militant' Tells Truth

Meanwhile Postmaster General Walker's Decision On Biddle's Move to Supress This Paper Is Still Pending

By Felix Morrow

This week we offer two new government witnesses whose testimony establishes the irrefutable truth of statements made by The Militant which Attorney General Francis Biddle has pronounced "objectionable."

As our readers know, Postmaster General (and Democratic Party Chairman) Walker now has before him for final decision a proposal by Biddle that the mailing rights of *The Militant* be revoked. To justify this suppression Biddle cited 105 "objectionable" excerpts from The Militant.

In previous issues we?



two additional government re- anti-fascist paper, and because made statements which cannot fail became available which the Post Office hearing to con- to be distasteful to the great offer supporting evidence to our sider banning The Militant majority of Americans is not to from the mails failed to show be denied. But there is a vast statements:

USSR Widens Offensive



Soviet armored cars are shown rolling into the fortress city of Schluess

Reaffirms WLB Wage Policy Condemned By Many Unions

Key Unions Had Asked for Wage Increases To Meet Constantly Rising Cost of Living

Feb. 10.—Economic Director James F. Byrnes last night flatly rejected the demand for wage increases raised by several important unions representing the great majority of the organized labor movement.

"There must be no further increases in wages beyond the Little Steel formula except in limited and special cases to correct patently gross inequities and to rectify plainly substandard wages," Byrnes declared in his radio address. Since the War Labor Board has all along had the power under the Little Steel formula to "coreet gross inequities," this means no change at all in the present vage policy against which the unions have objected.

(See editorial on Page 4 for comment on Byrnes' statement.)

Feb. 9. New demands for wage increases to equal rising living costs were voiced last week by a number of important union bodies including the National Executive Board of the CIO, the AFL Executive Council as represented by William Green, the policy committee of the United Mine Workrs, and the AFL Central Trades and Labor Council of New York City.

1. Excerpt No. 5 cited by Biddle was a sentence from an editorial in our June 27, 1942 issue as follows:

"While the bosses demand that the workers sacrifice everything, including life itself, for the war, they themselves have but one aim-to safeguard and increase their profits."

TRUMAN COMMITTEE REPORT ON STEEL

An editorial, "The Militant and As the latest evidence for the Free Speech," printed in the Feb. truth of our statements we refer our readers to last week's report 8 issue of the New Republic, reads war to feel at all comfortable of the Senate Truman Committee. as follows:

On Feb. 4 this Senate investi-Having held up successive gating committee charged the big issues of The Militant without exsteel companies with deliberately planation, the Post Office Depart-its suppression. But because it is preventing expansion of steel ment has now moved for perproduction, despite war needs, because of their "desire to prevent second-class mailing privilege on any expansion that might react the ground that it has violated attempt to suppress it is "the local Price and Rationing unfavorably against their control the Espionage Act. . .

war.

of the steel industry after the (Continued on page 4)

weekly newspaper of the American this war.'

that anything is involved but gulf between criticism of the govpublic associates itself with violation of the Espionage Act. Attorney Osmond K. Fraenkel's Militant has printed-indeed we American Civil Liberties Union statement that the attack on ing in the war only a conflict bedeeply regret and deplore its see The Militant is "the gravest tween rival groups of imperialist threat to freedom of the press nations. But we remember too that has thus far arisen in this well what happened to the free press of America under Post-

master General Burleson and Attorney General Palmer in the last

paper were an organ of enemy Gordon H. Cole in PM on Feb. propaganda, we should welcome an anti-fascist paper we agree manent revocation of that paper's with Osmond Fraenkel, ACLU attorney in the case, that the price panels to be set up in each

gravest threat to freedom of the Board, and will begin work That The Militant, which is the press that has thus far arisen in around April 1, Cole reports. with the German workers is ex-"Each panel will have a staff of

checkers, each of whom is to Truman Report Blames Steel handle about 10 stores." The Shortage On Monopoly Greed adjust apparent violations reported by the volunteers or by con-sumers," but only the regional

By ELOISE BLACK

program requiring an expanding supply of steel, the Senate Truman Investigating Committee on Feb. 4 charged the big steel companies with full responsibility for a dangerous shortage.

According to the Committee, the supply of steel will barely an isolated case. fill the estimated needs of the armed forces for 1943, with nothing left over for vital civilian similar practices by the aluminum industries.

The big steel producers are accused, in the Truman Committee report, of a "desire to prevent any expansion that might react unfavorably against their control of the industry after the war."

The eight principal steel corporations have been able to prevent such expansion by virtue of their control of the governmental agencies which are supposed to supervise them. The Truman Committee states "that repre-

| big companies dominated the iron | field until 1943, altho the OPM, With the entire production and steel branch of the War Pro- predecessor of the WPB, was duction Board. They first failed aware of an approaching critical also institute its new system of to direct or even to allow expanshortage in 1941. sion. Finally, they concentrated BOSSES BLOCK PRODUCTION practically all the-belated expan-

> sion into the hands of the eight largest companies." The situation brought to light by the Truman report in connection with steel production is not from industry.

The real delays in production An investigation of the Alcoa Corporation in 1941 revealed that trust had seriously curtailed production of airplanes.

The automobile barons were exing its competitors. posed as having resisted conversion to war production until passenger-car production was legally intolerable conditions are heavily cover 1,000 stores. stopped in 1942 and the govern-

of the industry according to the production are merely "exposed" fice, signed by Deputy Ad- interventionist and White Guard specifications set down by the companies. not until after they have. suc- says:

sentatives and employees of the of an expansion program in their their own plants.

the Red Army broke the 17-month siege of Leningrad. As long as the German forces held Schluesselberg, they were able to keep Leningrad in siege.

this paper's right to criticize, the latest issue of the New Re-violation of the Espionage Act. Report OPA Plans Soviet Leaflets Contain No To Use Volunteer Revolutionary Propaganda **Price Wardens** By MICHAEL CORT Soviet propaganda leaflets which were showered upon Hit-

The Office of Price Adminisler's soldiers at Stalingrad have been reprinted in this country tration expects to recruit apby the Stalinists. Devoting a half page to the reproduction of proximately 75,000 volunteer these leaflets on Feb. 7, The Worker headlines its story, "Soviet's period. price wardens to help enforce Political Warfare Is One Reason Why 91,000 Nazi Troops Surwar to feel at all comfortable price ceilings in retail food rendered at Stalingrad." In the text of the story the Stalinists about the present attempt to reason for German-muzzle The Militant. If this stores, according to stories by surrenders "lies in Soviet propa- with the Russian workers.

pressed!]

ganda to German soldiers, a brilliant political warfare which The volunteer price wardens will be selected and trained by

The entire emphasis of the

leaflets is upon the horror of war

soldiers refused to fire upon their An examination of the leaflets Russian comrades and the capital- living since it was adopted. reveals that they are anything ists were forced to call off their but "brilliant political warfare." war against the workers' state. [Not a word of class solidarity

(Continued on page 2)

Giraud On Democracy

When Generals Giraud and de Gaulle failed to reach an understanding for full collaboration between their respective followers, the British and American officials who had brought them together at the time of the Roosevelt-Churchill conferences in Casablanca. urged as "helpful," the issuance of a joint communique. The two French generals even had difficulty in agreeing on

According to the N. Y. Times' London correspondent, Raymond Daniell, writing on Feb. 6, de Gaulle wished to pay lip service to "democracy," Giraud did not,

The first draft of the communique, written by de Gaulle, described as their joint aim "the triumph of democratic principles." "But before General Giraud signed the joint statement he crossed out 'democratic principles' and substituted 'human liberties'."

The growing pressure for wage raises is based on opposition to the administration wage policy embodied in the Little Steel formula of the War Labor Board, which bans increases of more

that 15% over Jan., 1941 wage >-

levels, although living costs demanding "that some relief be have risen almost twice the 15% given in order that the wage figure during this two-year earners of the nation may have CIO President Philip Murray and AFL President Green visited

Feb. 4.)

an opportunity to get increases in wages commensurate with the constant rise in the cost of living.'

the White House on Feb. 3 to express to President Roosevelt CIO BOARD POLICY

he dissatisfaction of their organ-The CIO Executive Board, meet-Lenin's revolutionary propaganda izations with the Little Steel ing in Washington last week-end, has been going on for the past was understood. Thousands of formula, which they declared is adopted a wage policy which no longer valid as a wage criterion stated in part: "Allowance must in view of rises in the cost of be made for wage adjustments due to the increased cost of living Murray and Green added that which has resulted since May, 1942," the date when the Little while Roosevelt "showed deep interest, he made no specific commit-Steel formula was adopted. ments of any kind." (N. Y. Times,

HARRY BRIDGES' LINE The N. Y. Times of Feb. 7 re-

UMW DEMANDS ports members of the CIO Board On the same day John L. Lewis as saying that Harry Bridges announced that the United Mine | "supported the current govern-Workers policy committee had ment wage policy and had urged decided to request \$2 a day that the CIO put its emphasis on wage increases for their 450,000 demands for stricter price control bituminous coal workers. It is ex- enforcement and universal rationpected that the union will ask for | ing of essential commodities. Mr. a similar raise for its 88,000 Bridges was answered sharply by anthracite miners. Negotiations | Mr. Murray, who contended that with the mine owners are some upward revision of the govscheduled to begin March 14. | ernment wage policy was essen-The head of the UMW policy tial to maintain the support of committee pointed out that "an workers whose living costs, increase of 42% on the wholesale especially for food, have been prices of articles essential to going up sharply in recent family maintenance cannot be months."

ignored. This increase has occurred Other unions which have called despite government price controls and will continue despite such controls." Lewis pointed out at press conference that if the UMW were to be restricted by the Little Steel formula, the bituminous miners would have to "give back" 2% of their present wages, and the anthracite miners would be entitled to only 5% more. AFL RESOLUTION

in recent weeks for abandonment of the Little Steel formula include the railroad workers representing a million members, the International Ladies' Garment Workers, the United Auto Workers, the Allied Printing Trades Council of New York, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, and the State, County

The New York AFL Council. representing 750.000 workers.

passed a resolution on Feb. 4 noting that "the cost of living has increased out of all proportions and far above the 15% quoted as a basis for wage in. begun. See Page 2. crases of January, 1941," and "

and Municipal Workers, ****************************

Jacson's trial for murder of Leon Trotsky has

and-cents ceiling prices will be The present war is accelerating put on meats and soaps and the growth of monopoly in this regional OPA offices will be authorized to issue dollars-andcountry at the expense of tens of thousands of small producers who cents ceilings for certain other are being eliminated permanently commodities in their areas.

4 and 5.

PRESENT SETUP

prosecute price violators.

from six to 10 outside price

Cole estimates that at the have been caused not by the present time the OPA has at most that only the Soviet Union could strikes of labor but by policies 600 inspectors assigned to price of Big Business, intent on in- enforcement. There are almost 2,to the worker-soldier in the op creasing its profits, extending its 000,000 retail stores under OPA posing army.

grip on production and eliminat- control, of which 600,000 are food Such was the propaganda sucstores. If the 600 were assigned cessfully used by Lenin and While workers who strike in to check on food stores alone, Trotsky against the armies of inwar plants under the pressure of each inspector would have to tervention in 1917-20 when the alignment of forces was by no penalized and threatened with Criticism of this situation has means as favorable as they are ment made arrangement to sub- being drafted or blacklisted, cor- led to the issuance of a memoran- today. Such was the propaganda sidize conversion and expansion porations found guilty of blocking dum from the national OPA ofthat disintegrated the German

by investigating committees-and ministrator John E. Hamm, which armies hurled against the young Soviet Union. Lenin and Trotsky The leading producers of copper ceeded in getting the lion's share "It is apparent that OPA cannot pointed out the imperialist nature were able to delay the realization of the government contracts for hope to educate retailers to new of the war and showed these (Continued on page 2) soldiers that their interests lay

and the military reverses that panels will have "the job of in-Hitler has suffered. The cover of quiring into and attempting to one consists of a photograph of two German soldiers horribly mangled by an explosion, and the superimposed picture of a Ger OPA authorities will be able to man child crying, "Papi ist tot' (Father is dead). Around April 1 the OPA will HORROR PROPAGANDA ceiling prices, under which dollars-

Such horror propaganda can have an effect upon an army in which demoralization has already appeared, but it is only the limited propaganda weapon used by any imperialist army against its faltering rival. Stalin refuses to

use the greatest propaganda weapon in the world, the weapon use, that of revolutionary appeal

this' meaningless gesture.

TWO-

THE MICITANT

- FEBRUARY 13, 1943

'Jacson' Trial In Final Stage

Sentence Will Be Imposed On Trotsky's Murderer Within the Next Few Weeks

By WALTER ROURKE

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 28 (By | procedure, etc. It will be remem-Mail). - On Thursday, Feb. bered that Jacson, in his new "version" of the assassination 4th, the trial of "Frank Jac-4tn, the trial of Frank Jac-son" — GPU murderer of Leon Trotsky — will come before the Sinth Baral Court for summe Sixth Penal Court for summa- were in great part false since intensity and scope. Writing tion, preparatory to decision they were made when he was not present his own interpretation of the evidence that has been "injections" that the police gave is "now material for a full scale him or because they are the base of the civil way is the civil w and sentence. At this time, each conscious as a result of the beat- of "confidential information," of the parties concerned may ing he received from Trotsky's gathered during the last two translated into French for him. Eve. Post, Dec. 19, 1942.) In berger "closely are aligned with years and his conclusions arriv- It is understandable that he his dispatches from London, London. Their radio equipment is ed at from this evidence.

Naturally, the course of this statements for in them he ad- that not all the news about this that few British officers are with hearing depends in the main on mitted the careful preparation of "savage civil war" is being made them. Some British officers were the tactic of Octavio Medellin the crime; at the time his only public, for the extent of it, he sent to them last year by secret Ostos, the assassin's lawyer. Al- worry was in not implicating the says "is little realized by the means but were caught and shot though a written set of conclusions GPU. He will not be able to do so, Western world." (N. Y. Times, by the partisans-a fact admitted and arguments is usually present- however, for he ratified the state- Feb. 6.) Up to now the two main oppos- 31.) ed before the hearing, Medellin ments many times over a period

Ostos has limited himself to a of many months. short list of conclusions without Natalia Trotsky will present a basing them on any sort of in- written document to the court, and Volunteer Army of the so- abroad, to admit any such rift in this country. terpretation of the evidence con- dealing with the political backtained in the court record. He in- ground and motives of Leon tends to present his reasoning at Trotsky's murder. It will be shown the hearing-perhaps orally in the that motivation in the murder is hope that it will be more dif-political, that the GPU acting ficult for the prosecution and the under Stalin's orders made two LONDON SUPPORT representatives of Natalia Trotsky attempts on Trotsky's life in 1940. to answer his "arguments."

the second being successful. At All that can be gleaned from the same time, "Frank Jacson" the list of conclusions presented is shown to be a killer without a by the defense is that aside from political interest in his crime-a as to whether one can be accused ing, whose profession is that of patches coming from London, the partisans. . . No evidence ap of dangerous assault and of a GPU assassin.

murder for the same act, the Comrade Natalia will also be defense will pretend that this is a represented by a very able lawyer case of "simple homicide." at the hearing-Carlos Franco

In Mexico there is a very light Sodi. He will undertake to answer penalty for simple homicide-one orally, on the spot, whatever new which occured during an argu- legal interpretation the defense ment, etc., without premeditation, attempts to present.

betrayal of confidence or advantage over the victim. Just how the from a couple of days to several hailovich's army at from 30,000 that the Kremlin is as deeply indefense hopes to prove this in- weeks, depending on the tactics to 100,000. The Partisans claim volved in the Yugoslav situation terpretation is unimaginable-for of the defense. After its conclusion not one, but all of the qualifica- the three judges who decide the that Mikhailovich's army is War. In point of fact, many of tions of premeditation, betrayal case will probably need another disintegrating and, further, that the figures who played a part in murderer. The defense also has and to pass sentence.

the right to change its story at the hearing and present a "legiti- TIMES' ACCOUNT mate defense" version, or some other. This appears unlikely, however.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5-The N. Y. One thing is almost certain: Times today printed a dispatch The defense will undertake once from Mexico City giving a short again to obstruct the trial and report of the proceedings of drag it out by protests, appeals yesterday's session of the trial of and similar legal tricks. It is "Frank Jacson," murderer of reported that Medellin Ostos Leon Trotsky.

record of five volumes, plus the ing Attorney reading his conclu-2,000 page psychiatric report, be sions and with the attorney for 2,000 page psychiatric report, be sions and with the attorney for read at the beginning of the hear-ing. He has the legal right to do minute proof. The Prosecuting Bill Opposed By AFL Leader this, but is seems doubtful that Attorney asked the presiding he would pull such an obvious judge. Manuel Rivera Vazquez, t maneuver. He would lose more find Mornard (one of Jacson's than he would gain, since the many aliases) guilty of homicide tactic would be clear to all, from and of illegal bearing of arms. the judges to the newspaper The defense read a statement reporters. written by Mornard in which the On the other hand, he will with- latter rejects declarations that out doubt repeat all his accusa- he asserted the police obtained tions about partiality, illegal from him under duress."

The Civil War in Yugoslavia

detachments.

FOR MIKHAILOVICH

The Contending Camps And The Foreign Alignments

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

in Yugoslavia since early in the berger to cable that:

summer of 1941. The clashes "CLOSELY CONNECTED"

have been steadily growing in "There is no doubt that the for the resistance. The Yugoslav last December on the basis partisans are in every way close- Government - in - Exile promoted Mikahilovich's picture on the front about whose treachery there is ly connected with Moscow and Mikhailovich to General and ap-page alongside of a dispatch official evidence..." (Daily Workthe Chetniks (that is, Mikhailo- pointed him War Minister.

"The Chetniks," continues Sulzwould want to explain away these Cyrus Sulzberger broadly hints British. It is no longer a secret by both sides." (N. Y. Times, Jan.

> ing forces have been represented The Kremlin, however, refuses, as well as in its agencies abroad, the instance cited above. on the one hand by the Partisan even through its foreign agencies called "National Liberation with London or its direct align-Front", and on the other, by Gen- ment with the Partisans. Thus, eral Drazha Mikhailovich's armed the Stalinist, Joseph Starobin

greets Sulzberger's articles as of 'some real value," and goes on immediately to announce: "Sulzberger's pieces help us

On this point there is no longer refute the prevalent ideas that any disagreement whatever in Great Britain is backing Mikthe otherwise conflicting reports, hailovich whereas the Soviet misinformation, and inspired dis- Union (read: Stalin) is backing

Moscow, Washington, Ankara pears in these articles that the Cairo, Istanbul, Geneva and other Soviet Union is backing the par centers of secret diplomacy and tisans except in the sense that the Soviet Union is naturally supinternational intrigue.

Among the questions still in porting-and by achievements inviolent dispute is the size of the spiring-all the national liberaopposing forces, and their rela- tion movements of Europe." tive role in fighting the German (Daily Worker, Feb. 9.)

This piece of cheap sophistry Italian occupying forces. and The hearing may last anywhere English sources estimate Mik- is intended to cover up the fact an army of 300,000; and insist as it was in the Spanish Civil and advantage are against the month to arrive at their decision the latter fights primarily against the Stalinist apparatus in Spain Chronicle.

them in collaboration with the now occupy leading positions in the "National Liberation Front" foreign and native fascists. Mikhailovich has the backing of of Yugoslavia. As we shall see, London, while the Kremlin sup- there is sufficient proof that the ports the "National Liberation Kremlin is playing its customary profiteering-3,000 cases of rent-Front." Harold Callender, writing behind-the-scenes role in the case rom Washington, flatly states of civil war in Yugoslavia. that General Mikhailovich has Let us begin with a brief "the backing of the British For- review. Hitler invaded Yugoslavia

eign Office, while the partisans on April 5, 1941 and overran the

jokingly said that he was going The Times story says that the to ask that the entire court session opened "with the Prosecut-record of five volumes plus the ing Attorney reading his could

backing of Moscow." | country in a few days. Almost | they also denied and denounced | and passed a resolution accusing (N. Y. Times, Dec. 21, 1942.) immediately came news of popular for a long time the rift in Mikhailovich of collaborating with A civil war has been raging London censors permitted Sulz- resistance to the armies of occupa- Yugoslavia just as they now deny German, Italian and native fasction. Colonel Drazha Mikhailovich and denounce the rift with London ists and further that a "fratricidal and "his chetniks" were widely over Yugoslavia.

For instance, as late as June ducted on our territory under the publicized and given sole credit 2, 1942 the Daily Worker featured leadership of Drazha Mikhailovich reporting a broadcast from "Free er, July 26, 1942.)

Yugoslavia," the short wave radio It was in mid-summer of 1941, station of the "National Liberathat is, shortly after Hitler's intion Front." Yet the Daily Worker vasion of the Soviet Union that itself now places the time for news began to be released by the pro-Mikhailovich agencies abroad through the so-called informal ago as October, 1941 and even channels that Mikhailovich was earlier. (Daily Worker, Dec. 16, having trouble with partisan de- 1942.) Official documents of the tachments variously labelled as "National Liberation Front" point 'communist guerrilla groups," to an even earlier rift. 'bandits and hoodlums," etc. But The Daily Worker continued its he Kremlin maintained silence line of covering up Mikahilovich both in its domestic publications for almost two more months after

in particular, the Daily Worker

STALINISTS HELPED

and the Northern Caucusus-that The Stalinists in America as the readers of the Daily Worker elsewhere not only helped to suddenly learned that on June 16, build up the legend of Drazha "outstanding cultural leaders" Mikhailovich-which they are now from Montenegro, Boka and Worker to the contrary notwith-

working so hard to dispel-but Sandjak had met in a Conference standing.

Rent Profiteering Hits New High In California War Boom Center

By JOAN WAKEFIELD

Soviet Leaflets SAN FRANCISCO. - Mer- mute as much as 60 miles a day. ciless rent gouging in war-boom San Francisco is about 30 miles (Continued from page 1) ing Vallejo, home of the Mare from the Vallejo yard and a good

Island Navy Yard which has the distance in heavy traffic every drawn workers from all over day or stand in over-crowded the country, tripling the popu- buses.

lation of the city in the last A FEW EXAMPLES year and a half, have been re-

ported in a recent series of arauto court \$65 was charged for in throwing off the shackles of men, these fears disappeared. ticles in the San Francisco two dilapidated rooms each 9 feet

It was only on July 26, 1942-

after the Germans had unleashed

their offensive against Stalingrad

square. These workers and Navy men In a section known as Tobacco waiting for ships are learning Road, \$52 was charged for a what it is like to live in a city makeshift one-room shack with with an unparalleled record of cheap worn-out furniture, no heat and no bath or toilet facilities. gouging reported since federal Government authorities have orrent control began. dered the rent cut to \$13 a month. Barracks, housing 1,500 workers also with an appeal to his instinct. About half of the complaints

received here involve illegallyunable to find apartments in Vallejo for their families, and Stalin speaks with "great firmincreased rents.

A quarter of them charge the sections where the workers camp ness." That is, he threatens torlandlord has failed to register his out in trailers are usual means ture and death to the German maximum rates, or has registered of housing in the war swollen soldier driven to war by his fasfraudulently. center. Ten percent charge illegal evic-

drastic last week that the OPA against the capitalist oppressors Nearly 10% claim the landlord was forced to institute injunction and for the establishment of the is now charging extra for water, proceedings against several hotels Socialist United States of Europe. heat, electricity or other services and about 60 other rental units

Women In Industry

By MARIE TAYLOR

The enrollment of women in trade unions has increased in the past year and a half from 1,000.-000 to 3,500,000. according to a

recent statement by Miss Mary Anderson, director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor. Of these, about 1,500,000 war has been provoked and conwomen workers are members of the CIO; 1,125000 are in AFL unions; and the remainder are scattered throughout independent unions.

Probably the single most im-The delay in publicizing the portant factor which can account break with Mikhailovich on June for this phenomenal success in 16 may perhaps be accounted for recruiting women into the trade by the fact that on June 11, 1942 unions is the firm stand taken the news was published of the by the unions on the question of signing of the 20 year pact of equal pay for women.

mutual aid between Britain and Many unions had already transthe USSR. On the next day Moslated this principle into action cow released the news of the long before the recent influx of alleged agreement on the opening women into industry On the of the second front. To have an other hand there are still many nounced four days later the women not receiving equal pay rift with Mikhailovich was not for equal work, which means that diplomatically expedient, just as the job is far from completed.

Moscow finds it inexpedient to The policy of guaranteeing woday to admit the rift with London. men workers equal pay for equal The Kremlin's alignment with work, in addition to achieving the Partisans and the rift with wage security for women, has London over Mikhailovich are two important advantages for the facts, all the denunciations, unions twists and turns of the Daily

First, it proves to the women that the unions are fighting and helping to protect their working conditions, the effect of which is to make the women good union members

Secondly, it proves to the men in the plants that the employment of women will not undermine their own working conditions. Some unions at first made the mistake of refusing to admit women as members. The resistance came mainly from AFL craft unions where many skilled

But Stalin's propaganda folworkers feared that women would lows the reactionary capitalist threaten their job security by acpattern. It has nothing in common cepting less pay. But as soon as it was established that women with Lenin's methods. Stalin ofdoing the same work as men Conditions are such that in one fers the German workers no aid would be paid the same rate as

No Propaganda

for self preservation. . ."

state.

For Revolution in

Take as an example the case fascism and imperialism and no promise of support in their strug- of the AFL Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Shipbuilders in gle to create a German workers' California. At first women were

allowed to work in the shipyards "Notice in these leaflets that only under a permit system, and the Red Army talks to the (Gerwere not accepted by the union. man) soldier with great firmness." This meant that they were decomments the Daily Worker, "But nied not only the union wages, but also the rights and protection which the union members working all around them could

enjoy. After some militant demonstrations by the women, a referencist masters. No hand of fraterdum vote was taken and the The situation had become so nity here - no common cause union executive council later ruled that they could be admitted to regular membership. These women are now attending union

Report OPA Plans To Utilize Price Wardens

(Continued from page 1)

plan, which has no provisions for greater control and supervision

regulations and obtain compliance with its provision solely through use of its regular paid staff."

SHORTCOMINGS

real prices. While the proposed price warden plan represents a concession to **COINCIDENCE?** the complaints of trade union

It should also be noted that and consumer organizations and a partial abandonment by the OPA the announcement of the OPA of its original policy of checking price warden plan coincides with on prices only through its own the labor movement's growing paid staff, it is by no means the demand for wage increases because answer to the problem of ever- the administration has failed to rising living costs. Among its keep prices from rising. This may obvious weaknesses and short- be a pure coincidence, but it may comings are the following: also be a sign that the OPA is

The determination of price con- only trying to counteract the trol policies will still be in the demands for higher wages by hands of people who have no creating the impression of a more serious intention of preventing serious approach to the price further price rises. The basic problem.

policies of the OPA will still be along the lines of the statement OPA, it should be clear to admade on Jan. 20 by Prentiss vanced workers that the price Brown, new head of the OPA:

never intended, that prices could Militant: the creation of mass be held at a flat level. We thought | consumers' committees - reprea slow, well-ordered rise of one-|senting the unions, working half of one per cent a month farmers' organizations, housewould occur under the most fav- wives and small retailers-with orable circumstances.'

wardens will be useless if the people in charge of price control continue to give legal permission for price rises, as the OPA has con-Business pressure.

The more difficult it will become for local storekeepers to violate price ceilings, the greater the tendency will be for the real profiteers-the big businessmen, corporations, etc.-to encourage black market operations: the diversion of scarce commodities for illegal sale at higher prices outside of the regular sales channels. The proposed price warden

Whatever the intentions of the warden plan is no substitute for "I don't believe, and Congress the program advanced by The

the power to regulate and control Even ten times 75,000 price prices, rationing and the distribu-

tion of necessary commodities. Stricter supervision of prices in the local retail stores is a necessary step in the fight against the sistently done in response to Big rising living costs, but a far more important step in that fight is the transfer to mass consumers' committees of control over the entire

> For a Rising Scale of Wages to Meet **Rising Living Costs**

price and rationing programs.

The vigorous opposition to struggle. They want to give the rent. the "Equal Rights" amendment bosses the right to exploit women

voiced this week by William as fully as men. "Under guise of protection." Green, president of the AFL, states a leaflet of the Woman's to 1000 a month-and more this demonstrates that the trade National Party, "laws have been month than last.

union movement is becoming passed forbidding adult women As further revelations were alert to the menace against from working more than a certain made in the rent scandal, the Nalabor concealed in this fraudu- number of hours a day, before tional Authority, which admits lently-named bill. "This bill or after certain hours, providing that 40,000 war workers, some with would put in jeopardy all laws a minimum wage, prohibiting families, are expected in the Bay each Wednesday afternoon from of prisoners were the heroic Red protecting women in industry," night work, etc." To these women, Area in the next months, present-3:30 to 4:30 at 116 University Soldiers and workers who neid Stalingrad with their very blood, declared Green on Feb 7. "The who have never worked a day in ed the following as its partial validity of existing laws limiting their lives, protective legislation program: for women, especially prohibitions the hours of work for women and otherwise protecting women against night work and other owners to convert their structures

kinds of work, is nothing but a into additional living quarters. in industry would be subject to over the distribution of scarce judicial assault." hoary hoax." commodities from the point of The so-called "Equal Rights" On the flimsy basis of "medical production, can therefore under bill is now before both houses of findings" by one Prof. S. J. residential or buildings, to the the best circumstances be only Congress and anti-labor elements | Homes of the Department of government to be converted with partially effective in checking

are pressing for its quick adop-Zoology of the University of Calition. For years the Women's Trade Union League an AFL Party declares: "Women have workers. affiliate, has fought against the more resistance to disease 'Equal Rights" bill, and today withstand starvation, loss of hundreds of CIO and AFL orblood and loss of sleep better ganizations throughout the cound than men." With extreme hypory are registering their protests. crisy they add: "It is not desir-The National Woman's Party, able for industry to place unan organization composed of reasonable strain on the worker. wealthy women and wives of BUT IN CASE IT DOES, WOM-

bosses, has brought this bill be- EN ARE BETTER ABLE TO fore each new Congress for more STAND IT THAN MEN." than 20 years. The real anti-labor With this go-ahead signal, the aims of the bill are revealed in employers, who have never condocuments released by this or- cerned themselves about "unganization. Stating that protecreasonable" strains on their men tive legislation for women in in- workers, can now proceed to dustry are nothing but "nuisance place an even greater burden laws," this organization wants to upon women, with the full apabolish forever the meager safe- proval of a professor of apes, guards that have been achieved and a viciously reactionary body for women after decades of bitter of idle women.



that once were included with the Additional complaints a re

Mothers' Class coming into the local OPA rent To Start Feb. 17 control office at the rate of 750

Frederick Engel's classic, The Reichswehr." Origin of the Family, Private

Property and the State, will form Army and the civilian defenders! the basis for a class to be held What made possible the taking Place, in New York City. who surrounded the attacking The class, which will be con- Germans and whittled them down

1. Encouragement of property ducted by W. Walters, will begin day by day. The Germans suron Feb. 17, 1943. Admission is rendered because their position 2. Encouragement of property free to members and friends of The "political" propaganda of owners to lease their structures, the Socialist Workers' Party, and Stalin had nothing to do with it. The Red Army is delivering dearrangements have been comfederal funds into additional pleted to care for the children of feats to Hitler's army the hard fornia, the National Woman's living quarters for use by war attending mothers during the way. They are deprived of revolutionary propaganda which could

sessions. Such measures can take care of have disintegrated the German Registrations should be made forces months ago and saved only a fraction of the needs where conditions are such that 17,000 in advance on the fourth floor thousands upon thousands of Soworkers at Mare Island must com- of 116 University Place. viet lives.

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meetings in increasing numbers WHY THEY SURRENDERED and taking part in discussions of The Daily Worker says, "Stalinshop problems.

grad, with its 91,000 German It is an encouraging sign that prisoners is proof that this apwomen are so rapidly becoming proach . . . is capable of undermining Hitler's hold on the a part of the organized labor movement. It is encouraging to

know that in some large indus-What a slander against the Red trial centers union councils have opened schools to train women for leadership. The entire working class will be greatly strengthened by the experience and training of women in the arena of the union struggle,



Don't let your grocer tell you that you have to do without your favorite cup of coffee these mornings because the supply is going to the boys at the front. Your morning java is missing because of War Production Board bungling, or and, the presence in Washington of a strong tea lobby.

According to Ray Tucker Washington correspondent for the Boothe Syndicate (Michigan newspaper chain), South American ports are jammed with cofee beans while ships return to this country empty or loaded with ballast.

"... vessels were returning to the USA light or in ballast," wrote Tucker in the 'Flint Journal,' Dec. 21. "Instead of filling hatches with coffee jamming the docks, they wasted time, coal and oil plying from country to country in search of pay loads on the homeward voyage."

The WPB knew all this, according to Tucker, but refused to issue licenses for increased imports. "It looks as if somebody in the Nelson organization prefers tea or cocoa. . . Tucker said.



116 University Pl. New York



FEBRUARY 13, 1943 -



Why Hastie Quit His War Department Post

Every time the Uncle Toms, now greatly increased in number, including the Stalinists, talk were organized to serve no about the Negro and the armed specific military need. . . The forces, they admit that discrimi- characteristic assignment of the have become symbols, beacons, nation still exists, but insist, "On 'Aviation Squadron (Separate)' the other hand, look at all the has been the performance of odd fewer contemporaries remain progress that has been made in jobs of common labor which arise the last few years." from time to time at air fields. .

The truth about how much "The Air Forces also are re-"progress" has been made in this jecting Negro applicants who wish field was graphically indicated to become weather officers or oflast week in a widely-printed ficers in other highly specialized statement made by a man who technical fields" although large ought to know, William H. Hasnumber of such officers are needed "so badly that white volunteers

sions. . .

Hastie, former federal judge are being solicited and accepted, and dean of the Howard Univer- despite a general policy against sity Law School, was appointed voluntary enlistments in the as Civilian Aide to the Secretary Army. . . The same situation of War in Oct., 1940, when conexists in armament and engineerscription went into effect. Last ing, both ground specialties for blind follower of an inherited docmonth he announced his resignation from this post as of Feb. 1 and now he has explained why. refusing Negroes.

"Reactionary policies and discriminatory practices of the Army Air Forces in matters affecting Negroes were the immediate cause of my resignation," the statement begins. "The Army Air Forces are growing in importance and independence. In the post-war period they may become the greatest single component of the armed services. Biased and harmful practices in this branch of in carrying out his various misthe Army can all too easily in-

fect other branches as well." For in this field can be regarded as gives plenty of more material in charge of the armed forces.

we have shown. When Hastie took office, the Secretary of War directed that all questions of policy relating to Negroes should be referred to his forces, but the pattern of segrega- represented the concentrated exoffice for comment or approval tion. Some Negroes are now adbefore final action. Two months mitted into branches of the serlater the Air Forces showed Hasvice from which they were fortie a plan for a segregated train- merly excluded, but Hastie's ing center for Negro pursuit statement and similar facts which exile to Alma-Ata. When, finally, my entire disagreement with the other branches of the service borders of the USSR, Sedov was ture. plan, giving my reasons in detail. make it clear that these are already a fully formed, profoundly My views were disregarded. Since then, the Air Command has never answer criticism but not to change Lenininist. He was only 23 years on its own initiative submitted any plan or project to me for still to regard Negroes as "dif- quickly in the hot climate of the comment or recommendation. . . ferent"

"Moreover, even now the Air solely because they may have a Command views the use of the slightly different colored skin. Negro as an 'experiment' design-There can be no real progress ed to determine whether he can against Jim Crow until the policy do this or that in the field of of segregation is abandoned. The aviation. This attitude is the re- Republicans never abandoned it sult of wholly unscientific notions when they were in power in that race somehow controls a Washington; the Democrats show ago with the organization of Farmers' Government is estabseveral so-called 'Aviation Squad- lished, will the Negro people be

Leon Sedov, Heroic Builder Hate-German Propaganda Of The 4th International And The Stalinists

THE MILITANT

An entire epoch of the movement is receding into the past: gone are its great leaders, its creators of theory, its heroes of action in the greatest liberationist upsurge of mankind. They teachers and founders, and ever for whom they were living beings with strong passions, capable of laughter, joy and sorrow and the anger and fury of great revolutionists. This is a sad loss: human traits do not lower but raise the stature of titans.

February 15 marks five years since the tragic death of Leon Sedov who was not only Trotsky's son but his comrade-in-arms, his assistant and truest friend. Leon Sedoy was not an uncritical and which the Air Forces have been trine but possessed all the qualiaccepting cadets generally, but fications of a leader in his own right. At the time of his tragic

death — he was only 32 years old — he had already developed into a figure whose importance was recognized not only by jected... The simple fact is that friends but by the enemies in Moscow who divided their hatred Negro pilots flying in and out of between the father and the son.

various fields, eating, sleeping CHILD OF THE and mingling with other person-REVOLUTION hel. as a service pilot must do

Leon Sedov was a child of the October revolution. When the

"To date, all Negro applicants,

a number of them well and fully

qualified, for appointment as

Army service pilots have been re-

the Air Command does not want

revolution broke out, he was Lack of space prevents us from eleven years of age; he spent the this reason Hastie's experiences quoting further, although Hastie next decade-the period when a man's character is formed and his a test of the attitude of the men along the same line. But the pic-political future determined-in the ture is clear enough from what Soviet Union. In his closest en-

vironment were Lenin, Krupskava, It is not the Negroes who have Zinoviev, Bukharin and the rest made "progress" in the armed of those who with Leon Trotsky pression of the victorious revo-

lution. Next came the splits and the

"ORGANIZATIONAL "token" admissions, used to convinced and fervent Bolshevik-BUREAU" the fundamental policy, which is old: but people mature more

revolution. (that is, "inferior")

lowed. Sedov who in Alma-Ata left wing. His father was watched, ferences and congresses; collected Trotsky.



Leon Sedov, 1906-1938

was, in the words of Trotsky, his | guarded, isolated, driven from one "minister of foreign affairs, min- country to another and for this intrigues against Trotsky; then ister of police and minister of reason had to restrict himself. posts and telegraph," assumed a more and more to the role of pilots at Tuskegee. "I expressed are not hard to discover about it became necessary to leave the more and more independent sta- ideological leader, theoretician people to the fore. But periods of and publicist.

The "organizational bureau" of

more to the forefront as a central ganizations in Europe and Amer. encounters, it was because we had Nine years of emigration fol- figure of the entire revolutionary lica. It was he who called con- a Leon Sedov as well as a Leon

Dewey Commission Gave Answer that race somehow controls a man's capacity and attitudes... "The Negro program of the Air Forces began some two years bow, only when a Workers' and power, only when a Workers' and the power when a Workers' and the power when a Workers' and the power workers' and the p

Although the motion picture, | Fortunately, the truth is avail- or witnesses in the Moscow trials | right ideological

By M. MORRISON

When the recent article of the penses: and, finally, published one of the main organs of the new Stalinist journalist, Ilya Ehren-Fourth International, the Bul-|burg, appeared in the N.Y. Times, fine himself to that aspect of acand studied a great deal.

EXPOSED THE FRAMEUPS

He rose to his full stature and showed his full powers during those fatal 18 months which began with the Zinoviev-Kamenev Trial in August, 1936 and ended with tionalism could not help but create his own death. No sooner did the

some uneasiness and arouse some first news of the frameup trials questioning in the minds of those reach Paris than he seemed to be Stalinist adherents who are naive transformed. He knew rest and enough to believe that Stalinism peace no longer. He worked day has something to do with internaand night. To the blows of Mostionalism. cow he replied with counter-blows. exposing systematically, persistent.

ly and effectively the slanders aroused by Ehrenburg's article ready to struggle for power if of the GPU. The dumbfounded that the American Stalinist called upon by the leadership of journalists of the press turned to leaders were compelled to make these organizations. The Socialhim for clarification. Socialists of an attempt to calm the ranks by Democratic leadership betrayed all shades besieged him. He wrote some explanation. Of the many the German workers in 1918 and articles, pamphlets and gave in- letters that must have been sent terviews.

We remember how he proved played so important a role in the Zinoviev-Kamenev Trial - did not exist at all! Likewise the Trotsky" at the second Moscow Trial and the official proof from Norway that no such flight could have possibly taken place.

HIS PLACE IN OUR MOVEMENT

> against slander prepared and circulated by a colossal state machine. In accomplishing his work Sedov was made happy by the thought that he was cleansing the memory of Lenin's comrades-in-arms and upholding the honor of the Fourth International against vile and desperately stupid slander.

and the new epoch brings new

"We therefore find the Moscow

"We therefore find Trotsky and

trials to be frameups.

heroes. The formation of Bolthe movement fell on Sedov's shevik-Leninism in the twenties shoulders: it was he who kept in and thirties was such a period of In Prinkipo, then in Berlin and his hands all the threads tying birth. If Trotskyism emerged vicfinally in Paris he came more and the groupings, parties and or- torious from these first major

Union to express such an idea.

country are putting up a struggle letin of the Russian Opposition. explaining to the American public different country will also be able that the hearts of the people in to struggle against the same optivity which the Russians call the Soviet Union are filled with pressor. A Marxist explains why "technical." He wrote much, read hatred towards the German peo- people of one country struggle while those of another country ple and that the Red Army is not do not. It is necessary to analyze fighting for internationalism but for the Russian motherland, many

conditions prevailing in the various countries to explain the difa rank and file member of the ferent attitudes assumed by the Communist Party must have been workers of those countries. All greatly shocked. Such a flagrant this is a mystery as far as Howard violation of the spirit of interna- is concerned.

A Marxist does not assume that

because the inhabitants of one

Why are not the German workers offering greater resistance to Hitler? The answer lies in the events of the past 25 years. The German workers built huge and

So extensive was the uneasiness powerful organizations and were subsequently. The Stalinist leaderto the Daily Worker expressing ship confused and demoralized doubt and amazement at Ehren- them. Taking advantage of these that the "Hotel Bristol" - which burg's thesis, one was printed and weaknesses, Hitler smashed the Milton Howard, one of the C.P. working class organizations, killed hacks, was designated to reply tens of thousands of the most (Daily Worker, Dec. 15). So con- militant workers, created a dreadstory of "Pyatakov's flight to fusing and inadequate was the ful terror-regime. It would indeed explanation offered by Howard be a miracle if the German workthat a second article by him was ers, bleeding from the many. necessary (Dec. 29). Even that wounds inflicted upon them,

was insufficient and so William were able to offer resistance be-Z. Foster had to intervene with a fore the Hitler machine was series of three articles (Daily weakened by military blows. Worker, Jan. 26-28) trying to in-The war is only another factor It was a difficult task to fight terpret and explain away Ehren serving to explain the failure of burg's article. the German workers to rise

An interesting aspect of the against the Nazis. Between en-Ehrenburg hate-campaign is the slavement by foreign powers and fact that a gushing journalist with- by a native oppressor they choose out any political authority writes the latter.

some nonsense and the Stalinist bureaucrats in this country dare not state that he is wrong and English, the American and the does not express the sentiments New times pose new questions of their party. Even when they have a statement of Stalin upon have they done to assure the Gerwhich they could rely to reject man workers that they will not birth leave us with immortal Ehrenburg's proposition of hating be enslaved by a foreign power? the German people, the bureau- What have the Soviet workers crats will not do so because they correctly assume that Stalin in ers that on the part of the Soviet all probability has given silent Union this is a war for socialism German people. Otherwise it would

consent to this idea of hating the and equality of all peoples? Where the workers of other countries not occur to anyone in the Soviet do nothing to give the German workers a sense of security in their future, it will take a military defeat of Hitler to set them

If responsibility is to be placed

on the mass of workers, the

Soviet workers must also assume

part of that responsibility. What

While the Soviet press can talk into motion against the Nazis. openly about hating the German The very fact that an ignorpeople, it is difficult for the amus like Ehrenburg is permit-American Stalinist press to do ted to preach hate against the the same. The latter, to some German people leads the German extent, depends for its existence workers to believe that there is on its readers who, by and large, mean to be internationalists. The Soviet press has no responsibility

It is just as absurd to blame

- THREE

rons (Separate).' These units, able to win real equality.

NAACP Raises Some Questions

Shortly after his return from fore urges you as president to North Africa, President Roosevelt give the Fair Employment Pracannounced that he had asked Paul tice Committee without further V. McNutt to call "a conference delay such powers and personnel out precisely what picture it of leaders of those groups opposing as are necessary for the accomdiscrimination in war employment plishment of its vital task.

"The minimum program which will be devoted. to consider a revision and strengthening of the (Fair Em- would make the committee efployment Practices) Committees | fective is first, immediate rescope and powers." scheduling of railroad hearings;

The National Association for second, establishment of commit- about pictures they are filming. of an opportunity to answer these the Advancement of Colored Peo- tee in independent office of In the case of "Mission to Mosple last week expressed its ap- president and its removal from cow," however, Warner Brothers stituted court, Trotsky called for as a method of opposition to any tober Revolution. proval for the idea that the FEPC War Manpower Commission or any be given more power and larger other subsidiary governmental personnel, but raised the follow-body: third, sanctions for coming interesting questions in a mittee in form of public hearings, telegram to the White House: power to impose money and other

"It is not clear, however, why penalties and all additional aua conference of organizations, thority necessary to accomplish such as you propose Mr. McNutt the gargantuan task of eliminatshould call, is necessary to ac- ing discrimination in government complish these ends. The NAACP and war industries; fourth, selecand other organizations have al- tion of a committee strong enough ready stated their position to you. to resist anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, The war is not waiting for con-sectional or other political presferences. Workers are needed in sures; fifth, adequate staff and industry now. The NAACP there | budget for committee."

International Notes By BETTY KUEHN

The U. S. members of the joint | Appeal for Refugees, Overseas | ers at the Moscow Trials and sub-Bolivian commission "to study Needs and Palestine announced on sequently in Davies' book. In Hol- 27, 1937, and were led in Coyworking conditions in Bolivia" the tenth anniversary of Hitler's lywood last month Davies stated oacan, Mexico, Paris and New (whose formation was reported in accession to power.

this column last week) arrived in La Paz on Feb. 3. past ten years 305,000 Jews had Moscow Trials."

On the same day the Bolivian found a home in Palestine, 208,government, trying to give a 000 had emigrated to the United better face to the situation arising States, and 125,000 had found from the recent tin miners' strike refuge in South America. at the Patino mines, revoked the All this is very good, but what stringent press censorship. This about the millions of Jews who of removing their political oppocensorship was decreed on Dec. have been persecuted and mur-14 shortly after the strike broke dered in Poland, Rumania, Czechoout. slovakia and all the other

However, in Cochabamba, the European countries? The 75 milfollowing day, the building of the lion dollars of privately raised periodical El Dia, organ of the funds has not been able to touch Left Revolutionary Party, was the problem of the millions who partially destroyed by a bomb, ac- could not afford to buy some sort cording to the Feb. 5 New York of freedom outside of Europe. about the trials.) La Prensa. Leaders of the tin They have had to stay, to fight strike are members and officials and die. They have had to learn that the about the Davies motion picture fabrication.

of this party.

* * 4

only freedom to be won for their cannot be obtained at the pres-

American Jews contributed \$74,- from racial persecution, a society sary to counteract the lies which 885,285 during the past ten years free from the capitalist evils it will present by giving the wi- dividual terror. The Commission for the rescue of the victims of which must find a scapegoat in dest possible circulation to the further finds that Trotsky never Nazi oppression, the United Jewish racial persecution. truth about the frameup trials. | instructed any of the defendants,

tion

'Mission to Moscow," based on able in two books issued by the to assassinate any political oppo- fascism represented by the forthe book by ex-Ambassador Jo- Commission of Inquiry into the nent. charges made against Trotsky in "We find that Trotsky never accused of having conspired.

seph E. Davies, is in the final stage of production and will be the Moscow Trials, "Ine Case of instructed the defendance of with Leon Trotsky" (1937) and "Not nesses in the Moscow trials to dence we find that Trotsky never released in the next month or Guilty," (1938) published by engage in sabotage, wrecking, and recommended, plotted, or atso, it is still impossible to find Harper & Brothers.

will give of the Moscow Trials, THE DEWEY COMMISSION

to which a full reel of the film In the Moscow Trials of Augist, 1936 and January, 1937, Trot-

Generally, Hollywood produ- sky and his son, Leon Sedov, were cers are more than willing to give accused of serious crimes against the Soviet Union. In the absence advance information, in detail, slanders before any legally conpolitical regime. is as silent as the tomb, refusing the formation of an international to release any official informa- commission of inquiry to take

his testimony, consider his docu- OF FASCISM" It is impossible to tell, for exmentary proofs, and then render

ample, whether one of the two a verdict of either guilty or not outstanding leaders of the Rus- guilty.

sian Revolution, Leon Trotsky, Sentiment for an unbiased investigation of the trials quickly will be portrayed in the picture. One columnist reported a few spread through the labor and libweeks ago that an actor who had eral movements in all parts of the of Trotsky had turned it down. sion was organized. It consisted Other sources insist that Trotsky of John Dewey, Chairman, John will not be shown in the picture. Chamberlain, Alfred Rosmer, Ed-

ward Alsworth Ross, Otto Ruehle,

SLANDERS RETAINED Benjamin Stolberg, Wendelin But there is no reason to doubt Thomas, Carlo Tresca, Francisco that even if Trotsky will not be Zamora, Suzanne La Follette, shown in the picture, it will nev- with the noted labor attorney, ertheless contain the same kind John F. Finerty as counsel for the of slanders directed against Trot- Commission."

sky and other of Lenin's co-work-The Dewey Commission hearings ran from April 10 to July that the picture would dispel "all York City. The Stalinists were It also reported that during the antiquated convictions about the invited to participate in the pro-

ceedings, but rejected the offer. By "antiquated convictions," After receiving hundreds of thou-Davies means the widespread sands of words of testimony from dozens of witnesses on three conknowledge that the trials were tinents, after investigating scores frameups arranged by the Stalinist bureaucracy for the purpose of documents directly bearing upon the charges, the Commission reported its findings in the nents in the USSR and slandering their working class opponents | book, "Not guilty," which stated outside the borders of the Soviet in part:

Union. (Davies himself shared "We are convinced that the althis "conviction" until Germany leged letters in which Trotsky attacked the USSR, and he adconveyed alleged conspiratorial mits that he abandoned it withinstructions to the various deout finding any new evidence fendants in the Moscow trials never existed; and that the tes-Thus, while exact information timony concerning them is sheer

"We find that Trotsky throughchildren will be in a society free ent time, it is nevertheless neces- out his whole career has always been a consistent opponent of in-

the Moscow Trials, "The Case of instructed the defendants or wit-"On the basis of all the evi-

> has always been a consistent ad- talism in the USSR. On the convocate of the building up of so- trary, he has always uncomprocialist industry and agriculture misingly opposed the restoration in the Soviet Union and has criti- of capitalism in the Soviet Union cized the present regime on the and its existence anywhere else. "We find that the Prosecutor harmful to the building up of (in the Moscow trials) fantasticthe socialist economy in Russia. ally falsified Trotsky's role be-He is not in favor of sabotage fore, during and after the Oc-

"ALWAYS AN OPPONENT

Sedov not guilty." "We find that Trotsky never No one has successfully attacknstructed any of the accused or ed the integrity of this Commisvitnesses in the Moscow trials to sion or the impartiality of its inenter into agreements with for- quiry. Its painstaking research eign powers against the Soviet and conclusions should be read by Inion. On the contrary, he has every worker who wishes to know always uncompromisingly advo- the real truth about the Moscow been approached to play the part world, and the Dewey Commis-cated the defense of the USSR. trials and the Stalinist lies about He has also been a most forth- Trotskyism.

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to anyone except Stalin. An open It is just as absurd to blame hate-campaign of the German peo- the German workers as it would eign powers with which he is ple would shock too many of the be to blame the English and readers of the Stalinist press in American workers for their failure this country and it would be to establish socialist governments carried on only if Stalin himself or to blame the Soviet workers demanded it. However, it is only for their failure to overthrow diversion. On the contrary, he tempted the restoration of capi- Ehrenburg and not Stalin who Stalin.

writes about hating the Germans.

against the Nazi regime.

ment, the German people deserve

punishment.

do the same?

struggle.

Consequently it is permissible for Whereas Howard simply blames the Stalinist bureaucrats to at- the German workers, Foster, older tempt an explanation which is and more experienced, tries to exin reality an evasion of the issue. Neither Howard nor Foster is willing to give a direct answer willing to give a direct answer to the question which they ask: stitutes an indictment of the shall we hate the Germans? Both Stalinist leadership. He says of them - Howard in a very nothing about the Stalinist policrude manner and Foster in a cies of the pre-Hitler period. He more polished way — shift the says nothing about the manner issue to the question of the re- in which Stalin is conducting the sponsibility of the German people war. But he too must not devlate for the crimes of the Nazis be- too sharply from Ehrenburg. So cause of their failure to struggle he writes that a "heavy share of the responsibility for their With Howard the question (Nazis') crimes rests upon the educes itself to a very simple German people as a whole."

proposition. The Germans can, if A dishonest ignoramus like they want to, rise and destroy the Howard can even distort a quota-Nazis. Since they do not do so, tion from Marx to justify placing it means that they do not want responsibility on the German peoto do it; therefore they are, in ple. When Marx said that a naa good measure, responsible for tion is not forgiven the unguardthe war and for the dreadful ed hour in which the first advencruelties perpetrated by the Nazis turer that comes along could vioduring the war. In other words, late it, he was not dealing with Howard would have us believe, the question of responsibility. the German people have the choice Yes, the workers cannot escape to submit or not to submit to Hit. the consequences for permitting ler; and since Hitler is still at Hitler to gain power. Nor can the head of the German govern- the workers escape the consequences for permitting Stalin and Churchill and Roosevelt to rule. Howard disdainfully brushes But that does not mean the workaside the possible argument that ers are to be held responsible for

it is very difficult for the German Hitler or any of the other rulers. people under Hitler to struggle and revolt. Are not the Norwe-* * * gians, the French and the Dutch War naturally engenders the people struggling against the

Nazis in spite of the terror? Why fiercest hatreds. Even under should not the German workers socialist leadership it is possible that the soldier masses give way

Howard does not even under-stand the simple proposition that war, were defending their city the yoke of a foreigner is the hardest of all to bear and that was so bitter that there was people who will submit to native danger of cruel retribution being oppression will not submit to a taken by the soldiers of the Red foreign oppressor. Especially is Army against those fighting on this true soon after the foreign the side of the White Guards. conqueror establishes his power. Trotsky issued an order warning It takes some time before a whole against laying a hand on any people is completely subdued. One prisoner. In the midst of the most must also not forget that the war bitter fighting, Trotsky deemed it against the German conqueror is necessary to continue the edustill going on, constituting an in- cation of the Red Army soldiers centive for the peoples in the in a socialist spirit which is comoccupied countries to continue the pletely alien to any hatred against the masses of any people.

'THE CASE OF LEON TROTSKY' Report of hearings on the charges

'NOT GUILTY'

basis that its activities were

FOUR-



in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILI-TANT which are expressed in its editorials.

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"Reentered as second class matter February 13, 1941 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."



the main fortress of the worker.

world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious

To defend the USSR as

- LEON TROTSKY

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

- 1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
- 2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
- **3.** Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries-Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
- 4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
- 5. For a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
- 6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
- 7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
- 8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
- 9. Defend the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

strongly the earliest possible Allied expedition into the Balkans so that American, British and Polish troops could reach Eastern or Central Europe at least as soon as the Red Army. These tendencies are certainly heightening Russian suspicions."

Kuh is not the first to touch on this question. Indeed, as early as November 8, 1942 Edwin L. James, the managing editor of the N. Y. Times, wrote:

"There are reasons, well known in diplomatic circles, to believe that the second front Stalin desires is a second front in Western Europe. . . In fact, the question arises as to whether if from Africa a second front could be established in the Balkan States it would meet in full the desires of the Russian chief."

Certainly there are many reactionaries who do not look with unalloyed joy at the continuation of Soviet victories. On this point we recall the story reported by Walter Reuther to the last CIO convention. He had heard a discussion between two big auto executives connected with the WPB. They were rejoicing, said Reuther, "because the Nazis had pushed the Communists back on the Stalingrad front. One of them said: 'All we have to do is just give the Russians enough so they can hang on and they will destroy one another." Men who felt that way in October certainly are not welcoming the capture of Kursk.

We defend the workers' state, despite its degeneration under Stalin, against all forms of imperialist attack. We defended the Soviet Union when its later "friends" were howling for intervention on behalf of Finland against the USSR. We shall defend the Soviet Union when such "friends" will again unmask.

Wages, Prices And Taxes

tatives and employes of big steel tions. Prices have been going up steadily and OPA companies dominated the iron Administrator Prentiss Brown says that they will and steel branch of the War continue to rise by one-half of one per cent each Production Board." month "under the most favorable circumstances."

The 1942 tax bill placed the heaviest tax burden on the masses in the history of this country ig bosses and the government announces that even higher We characterized this kind of taxes will have to be paid for this year. thing by its right name. We said:

Meanwhile wage rises have been limited by the "The bosses themselves have but, War Labor Board's Little Steel formula to no one aim-to safeguard and in- that victory is assured'... crease their profits." Biddle cites more than 15% above the levels of Jan., 1941. The effect has been to drive the workers' living pressing us. But aren't our words to protect the system of high pristandards lower than they were two years ago.

As a result of all these factors labor discontent Truman Committee? has forced the leaders of several prominent union PROFITABLE CONTACTS to attack the WLB wage formula and to demand wage raises.

Economic Director Byrnes gave the answer of the administration to these demands in his radio are still collaborating financially Italian monopolies working tobroadcast of Feb. 9. He gave it a little more clev- in the Bank for International gether as world cartels. If "the erly, he wrapped it up in more patriotic utterances, but his answer was substantially the same as that expressed in Oregon last week by Wayne patriotic fervor, the capitalist means, in plain English, that the workers and farmers of this L. Morse, member of the WLB and author of sev- classes always continue to main- even before the war is over they country, on whose behalf we puberal of its most important rulings who said. "We do not favor any attempt to make wages while millions of workers of the profitable contacts with one and truth to the working people of constantly match the rising cost of living, because these are the sacrifices labor must make in this fact was provided by the U.S.war to protect our domestic economy." Nazi patent pools. Not once but Byrnes' emphatic rejection of the demands for dozens of times government wage raises clears the atmosphere - it demonstrates that labor's fight to protect its living standards must be waged not only against the reactionary Republicans and the poll tax Democrats, but also against the administration wing of the Democratic Party - and puts the next step up to the labor movement. There are unquestionably many union leaders who will want to back down at this point just as they have previously when Roosevelt demanded it of them. But they will have to reckon with the growing dissatisfaction of the rank and file union members who have no taste for sacrifices at the than in the boom year of 1940, expense of their families' health while Big Business is now attempting to organize things so that taxes and salary profits continue to reach new heights. limitations will make the small-



The above chart, prepared by Consumers' Union, shows that the buying power of your dollar is due for another big slump. If Big Business succeeds in its campaign to force through additional price rises, the cut will be far greater. The 1942 figures are based on the most recent available government reports. The prediction for 1943 is based on the best available information. It's time to fight for a rising scale of wages to meet increased living costs!

Govt.Reports Prove That 'Militant' Tells Truth

force General Electric, Standard | true. despite all Biddle's demands Oil, Alcoa, etc., etc. to halt the for our suppression.

Moreoever, the big steel com- operation of the patent pools they The fact is that neither Biddle panies were able to do so because, maintained jointly with German, nor Post Office Attorney W. C. said the committee, "The represen- | Italian and Japanese corpora- | O'Brien, who made the argument for revocation of our mailing The latest evidence on this rights at the January 21 postal

question was provided last week hearing in Washington, has atby one of Biddle's own men, As- tempted to refute the truth of As the many previous reports sistant Attorney General Thur- The Militant statements to which on other industries by the Truman man W. Arnold. Addressing bu- they object. On the contrary Committee showed, the steel sinessmen he stated, according to O'Brien put their case in all its magnates are typical of all the the Feb. 3 N. Y. Times, that: crudity when he said at the hear-

ing:

"We are not concerned here

if everything The Militant said is

It is of course not to be

But the truth IS important to

We present our case before the

bar of the public opinion of the

Truman Committee.

ARNOLD'S STATEMENT "Cartels are preparing 'to pick with questions of truth or falsity. up their old arrangements now It does not make any difference

"The cartel leaders are gathtrue our words as justification for sup- ering from all parts of the world WE TELL THE TRUTH Instead. Biddle and O'Brien true? And aren't they proved once ces and low turnover, restricted argued that what we were saying again by the latest report of the production and controlled mar-"discouraged enlistments"-an argument which could be applied kets. . .'' to the latest exponents of such

Nobody knows better than Ar unpleasant truths, Assistant At-2. Biddle Excerpt No. 11 was nold what the "old arrangements" torney General Arnold and the our comment on a N. Y. Times were. They were primarily ardispatch reporting that American, rangements of American and British and German businessmen English, German, Japanese and wondered that Biddle wants to duck the question of truth, at a time when every week brings new Settlements at Basle, Switzerland. cartel leaders are gathering from confirmation of our statements. We said in our Oct. 11, 1942 issue: all parts of the world" to "pick "In spite of their cynical up their old arrangements," it

15 Labor and Liberal Leaders Ask Freedom For **Poles Jailed in USSR**

Fifteen prominent American labor leaders and liberal spokesmen last week signed a telegram to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov requesting the release of Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, leading Polish socialists who have been confined to prison in the Soviet Union for several years, who were released last year and then re-arrested without explanation. The telegram read:

"It is now more than a year that Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter, two prominent leaders of Jewish masses in Poland, were re-arrested in Kuibyshev. Most prominent representatives of freedom-loving people throughout the world and of British and American labor movements repeatedly requested their release in vain. Today, when universal public opinion unites in condemnation of Nazi criminals who are murdering in cold blood the entire Jewish population of Poland, we renew in the name of justice and humanity our request for the release of these outstanding and courageous fighters against fascism and Nazism, Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter."

Signers of the telegram were Philip Murray, CIO president; William Green, AFL president; David Dubinsky, ILGWU president; Clinton S. Golden, assistant to president of the United Steelworkers of America: Adolph Held, Jewish Labor Committee chairman: J. B. S. Hardman, Amalgamated Clothing Workers newspaper editor; Leo Krzycki, American Slav Congress president; Albert Einstein, noted scientist; Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary; Joseph Weinberg, Workmen's Circle president: Raymond Gram Swing, commentator; Rev. Henry Smith Leiper of the Universal Christian Council; Dr. Frank Kingdon of the Union for Democratic Action; Dr. Alvin Johnson, New School for Social Research director; Dr. B. Hoffman, Jewish Writers Union president.

Erlich, a member of the Executive Committee of the Labor and Socialist International, and Alter were leaders of the Polish resistance to the Nazis after the Beck government had fled. They were arrested by the Stalinist authorities after the fall of Poland and not released until after the German attack on the USSR and the signing of a pact between the USSR and the Polish government-in-exile. It was reported that they were preparing to join a Polish army being raised in the Soviet Union when they were suddenly arrested once again.

Blue Network Rules Out Criticism of Government Officials Over the Radio

By JOHN BATES

The present trend toward suppression of free speech and a free press was first emphasized by the Post Office Department's attack upon The Militant.

This week the drive toward fascist-like censorship appeared to be gaining momentum as the National Broadcasting Company moved to muzzle radio commentators who have been critical of various Congressmen and governmental departments.

The Latest Victories Of the Soviet Union

The Red Army's capture of Kursk is in all probability a much greater victory than Stalingrad. It is a major breach in what was the Bryansk-Orel-Kursk-Kharkov-Voroshilovgrad-Rostov line and permits us to hope that the continuation of the offensive may force the Nazis to abandon the entire line and fall back to the Dnieper.

We can be sure that the Soviet victories are not only shaking the strength of the Nazi forces, but are also inspiring the peoples of occupied Europe to free themselves from the Nazi yoke. And, as the example of Yugoslavia indicates - see John G. Wright's article in this issue — the European masses in freeing themselves from the Nazi yoke want real freedom and not the yoke of their former rulers.

Both the Soviet victories and their effects on the occupied countries are being estimated with mixed feelings in certain quarters. This fact is brought out by the very well informed head of the London Bureau of the Chicago Sun, Frederick Kuh, in a dispatch dated Feb. 4, which says:

"The Allied governments in London and the British people are increasingly discussing the consequences of the current Soviet victories and their possible culmination in Russian supremacy in Europe.

"... A front page editorial in the Liberal weekly, the New Statesman, states:

"The Russians fear that when the continent is invaded by Allied armies the blow may be so delivered as to be indirectly aimed at the Soviet Union as well as against Nazi Germany. To many such suspicions may sound exaggerated, but let us not forget what no Russian ever forgets -- that the last war ended with Allied intervention not in Berlin but at Archangel.'

Another passage in the New Statesman editorial which Kuh quotes in his dispatch states:

" There is grave danger reflected in the absence of Soviet representation at Casablanca, that Stalin would see in Allied intervention in the Balkans an intention to build a barrier against Soviet influence in an area where in any case the population will look rather to Russia than to the western democracies.""

Kuh himself adds to this the following: "Polish premier Silorski is known to favor

If the union movement retreats on this issue, est possible cut in its income. the employers and reactionary politicians will feel The maneuvers in protection encouraged to launch new attacks against it. What of these profits are now centeris required therefore is a bold policy: ed around the Ruml tax plan

The renunciation of the no-strike pledge - to and a repeal of the \$25,000 ceiling on salaries, both of which the serve notice that the workers mean business.

capitalist class is trying to push The resignation from the War Labor Board of through Congress. all union members — to halt labor coloration and The Jan. 2 issue of Labor, ofsanction for a body openly committed to freezing ficial organ of the Railroad

wages while living costs keep rising. The launching of a struggle for the rising scale of wages to meet rising living costs — to concretize the demand which every union man and woman wants realized.



CIO, said in the CIO News of BOUND VOLUMES large incomes at the expense of the national treasury. It (the OF Ruml plan) would mean in future years heavy gains for the highest THE MILITANT income brackets — particularly those which have benefited most from the swollen war profits of 1941 1942." The effect of the Ruml plan Now Available at would be to transfer to the shoulders of the workers an even \$3.00 each greater share of the cost of the war than they already carrywhich is the reason why so many Limited Supply-Order Immediately from Big Business spokesmen and newspapers are howling for its THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION adoption. What the big income group would be able to pocket. 116 University Place - New York City from this plan would be added to

tain profitable contacts with one another across the battle lines our original editorial, "to maintain foremost interested in telling the other across the battle lines while America. contending countries die."

(Continued from page 1)

war."

millions of workers of the con-Further proof of this obvious tending countries die." Here, then, within two days of

workers and farmers for support each other, are two further proofs | against the truth-suppressors agencies had to initiate or of our original contentions. What "THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE threaten court action in order to we said was true and remains YOU FREE!

Big Business Pushes for Adoption Of Ruml Plan

Big Business, which reaped off in the future by the working presidential decree, has so many 25% more war profits in 1942 class. loopholes that it does not seriously

As for the \$25,000 salary limita- affect the income of the capitaltion, the employer class is at- ists. But Big Business is determintempting to scuttle it by attach- ed to oppose the principle that ing a repeal rider to important ceilings can be legally placed legislation in Congress. The \$25,- upon salaries, regardless how 000 salary limit, imposed by high they run.

FEBRUARY SOCIAL The Socialist Workers Party will hold a **VALENTINE PARTY** Feb. 1, "They (the workers) oppose any program which cou-series of windfalls to Saturday, February 13 **Refreshments** - Fun Dancing Special Entertainment 116 University Place New York

According to PM's Washington correspondent, Kenneth Crawford, the Blue Network drastically censored the scripts used last Sunday night by Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson, both commercially-sponsored network commentators.

Crawford reported on Feb. 9 that the following rules will henceforth apply to news comments read over the Blue Network:

"No remarks shall be made which are derogatory of any member of either House of Congress, member of the President's cabinet or any other person holding any public office.

"No derogatory or insulting remarks about either House of Congress or any groups of members in either House or any Federal Agency or employee thereof.

"No remarks which might impute guilt to individuals or organizations not already convicted or suppressed or outlawed by the Government."

Under such rules commentators would be prohibited from criticizing any act of any government official or bureau and would be forced to maintain silence about such reactionary groups as the Dies Committee, the poll-tax bloc, etc.

Last Sunday radio officials forced Drew Pearson to eliminate from his talk a passage disclosing that Wendell Willkie is writing a book on foreign affairs in which he will criticize the State Department for "selling democracy short in North Africa." Pearson also was forbidden to say that Beardsley Ruml, author of the Ruml plan, was "an innocent instrument" of the war profiteers.

While Crawford says that the network promulgated these rules without receiving specific orders from the government, it appears most likely that radio officials were unquestionably "advised" to take these steps. For radio stations continue in business only through the permission of the Federal Communications Commission, a government body appointed by the president.

(*) .

The Trotskyists were the first to feel the whip of censorship because they are the most uncompromising opponents of reaction everywhere. But that the Trotskyists will not be the last victims is shown both by the attempt of Biddle in The Militant case to establish a Post Office precedent which could be used to gag all papers, and by the present attempt to stifle all criticism of government officials and policies over the radio.

The entire labor movement must enter the struggle to preserve free speech and free press, for in the final analysis it is the existence of the labor movement itself which is at stake in this fight.

