New York Meeting Friday To Protest Post Office Attack On 'Militant'

Will Rally Support to Help Challenge P.O. Order in Court

"No return to the witchhunts of 1917-1918! No government blackout for freedom of speech! **Protect the free press!**"

These are the slogans under which the Civil Rights Defense Committee is holding a mass meeting on Friday night, March 26, in protest against the recent Post Office order revoking the second-class mailing of The Militant.

The meeting — which will begin at 8:15 P. M. at Manhattan Center, 311 West 34th Street, near Eighth Avenue, New York — has been called not only to protest the first attack on an anti-fascist labor paper since the war began, but also to mobilize support in behalf of The Militant's announced intention of contesting the Post Office order in the courts.

Speaking at the meeting will be a number of well-known representatives of labor and liberal organizations:

Clifford Forster, for the American Civil Liberties Union, which has labelled the Post Office attack as "the gravest threat to freedom of the press that has thus far arisen in this war."

Layle Lane, member of the National Committee of the Negro March-On-Washington Movement and former Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers.

Albert Goldman, attorney for The Militant and the late Leon Trotsky.

Louis Nelson, manager of Knitgoods Workers Local 155 of the ILGWU, AFL.

John Finerty, representing the Workers Defense League, wh was attorney for Odell Waller, Tom Mooney and Sacco and Vanzetti. Emanuel Garrett, editor of the weekly, Labor Action, which has

also denounced the Post Office ruling against The Militant. George Novack, national secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, who will act as chairman at the meeting.

Anti-Labor Drive Spurs Formation **Of A Labor Party**

By WILLIAM F. WARDE

Several events of the past week have thrown light on the forces which are steadily driving organized labor toward independent political action.

On March 14 the Greater Detroit and Wayne County CIO Industrial Union Council held a political action conference in Masonic Temple. Over 900 delegates were present. Allan Haywood, national CIO vice-president; R. J. Thomas, UAW president; August Scholle, Michigan ClO president; and George Addes, UAW secretary-treasurer,

were the principal speakers. These speakers presented an sponsored by the ultra-reactionofficially-endorsed six-point plan aries in the Democratic and Refor the organization of political publican parties. These laboraction by CIO union locals: haters are not satisfied with binding the labor movement hand CIO POLITICAL

ORGANIZATION

1. That a political action com- aid of his labor lieutenants, has mittee be established in each lo- managed to do since Pearl Harbor. While labor appears pros-

2. That these committees be co- trate and helpless, they see their ordinated by Congressional dis- chance to cut the trade unions to pieces and prevent them from

THE MILITANT PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1943

Indicates He Will

The Miners Union

Oppose Demands of

President Roosevelt inter-

vened in the mine-wage nego-

But in the same telegram mak

FIVE (5) CENTS

War Labor Board Flatly Rejects **AFL-CIO Request For Higher Wages**

Trotsky Sequence Proved Frameup Aim Of Movie Frameup Aim Of Movie Mine Fight WLB Votes To Maintain Its 15% Wage-Freezing Formula By E. R. Frank

No matter what the fi-|all, what is one more lie in a pic-|"truth." They are careful not to ture full of falsification? reveal who was the "authority" nal version of the motion But apparently somebody in for it. That's not necessary when Hollywood acquainted with the they can slander Trotsky an picture, "Mission to Mosofficial Stalinist lies about the other Bolshevik co-workers of cow," will show when it is trials saw this scene and pointed Lenin in the "trial sequence" presented on the screen a out that since it was an easily for which they at least have the exposed falsification, its inclu- "authority" of Stalin and the few weeks from now, it sion would do more to hurt than GPU and the "revelations" of has been definitely estab- to help the purpose of the pic- Davies four years after the trials, ture. Consequently, according to in 1941 when Hitler's attack lished that the purpose of the most recent reports, it has again made Stalin into an ally of Washington. its authors, advisers and been eliminated. The report that the picture CONTINUE TO PROTEST!

producers was to film the would show Trotsky meeting with biggest frameup lie in the von Ribbentrop was first printed history of motion pic- March 17. The historical truth that the picture is being attacked tures.

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challenged in a letter to PM by Warner Brothers, the Hollywood company which produced the New Leader, Social Democrathe picture from the book by ex- tic newspaper.

Ambassador Joseph E. Davies, it-WITHDRAWN, BUT self provided the proof last week NOT REPUDIATED when it admitted that it had in-On March 19 PM printed Bell's serted into the picture a scene protest, together with an answer showing Leon Trotsky, one of the and a movie still from "Mission mounting offensive against labor leaders of the Russian Revolution to Moscow," showing actors supand founder of the Red Army, meeting with the Nazi von Ribin part:

bentrop in the German Embassy "We asked our reporter (in in Oslo, Norway! The Davies' book and film give the official Stalinist version of ported back yesterday by wire thorizing the scenario, have been the infamous Moscow Trials of 1936-37, which were staged to Bros.: 'We had ample authority sode of the Trotsky-von Ribbendiscredit and eliminate many of for truth of this scene. This week, trop sequence. Opponents of the the working class opponents of however, it was decided to drop Stalin-Davies-Hollywood school

Protests against the film must be reaching sizeable proportions.

in the New York daily, PM, on On March 14 The Worker said would be retroactive to that date. The continuation of the of this scene was immediately "by a small clique of Trotskyite contract on this basis, demanded and Social-Democrat supporters by the union and previously re-Daniel Bell, managing editor of of the Hitler agents, Erlich and jected by the mine operators, al-Alter. But let them rave - nothough it is a customary proce-

ody will listen to them." dure in mine negotiations, repre-Three days later, however, the sents an initial victory for the same paper admitted that War-UMW ner Brothers "are being showered with a stream" of protests and appealed to its readers to send letters to Warner Brothers "con-

gratulating them for a faithful von Ribbentrop. PM's answer said trendering of an epoch-making for a \$2-a-day wage increase. ROOSEVELT'S STAND Warner Brothers' intentions in producing the picture, and the Hollywood) to recheck and he re- State Department's aim in au-

this statement from Warner made perfectly clear by the epithe Stalinist bureaucracy in the scene since Trotsky's dealings of falsification should continue to send protests to Lowell Mellett

der No. 9250. . ." ·

mands.

By E. R. Frank

WLB Votes To Maintain Its

267

At a stormy session last Monday the War Labor Board flatly rejected the demand of the AFL and CIO representatives that the "Little Steel" formula be junked and that wage increases be allowed taking into consideration "a new realistic figure based upon the actual cost of living to the worker."

tiations this week, asking the The War Labor Board also rejected the demand mine operators to agree to conof the AFL and CIO representatives for the reopentinue their present contract with the United Mine Workers be- ing of the packinghouse and the West Coast aircraft yond April 1, with the undercases, in both of which the Board had denied wage raises restanding that wage readjustquested by low-paid workers. ments when finally agreed on

The four members representing the "public" united with the four representatives of industry on Monday to make it clear that the Board would fight to the end to keep the workers chained to its formula preventing wage raises over 15% above the January 1941 level. By its own action the WLB thus confirmed John L. Lewis' description of it, at the current coal negotiations in New York City, as "a court packed against labor.

The demands of the AFL and CIO representatives that wages be unfrozen, which preci-

pitated the crisis in the Board, bers, the labor leaders declared can be traced directly to the that they would abide by "the present coal controversy and the democratic majority." However, ing this request, Roosevelt clearly indicated his intention of fighting the mine workers' demand stand of the United Mine Workers.

PRESSURE ON AFL AND CIO LEADERS "The dispute", he said, "must

The Lewis denunciation of the be settled like any other labor WLB and the wage-freezing

dispute under the national nostrike agreement of Dec. 26, "Little Steel" formula, coming on 1941. . . that is, by collective the heels of the Board's decision pargaining, conciliation and final in the west Coast aircraft case, determination, if necessary, by subjected the AFL and CIO repthe National War Labor Board... resentatives to the ever-growing the coal negotiations now taking "If any wage adjustments are pressure of their own rank-and- place in New York will again le members and the fear that al

even here, they felt it necessary to declare that they were going along with the majority decision only "for the time being" and that they would keep up their fight against the WLB's wage-freezing

policy.

FIGHT NOT OVER YET

The "time being" will unquestionably be of short duration. The next crisis that will occur in crisis in the

Board has become a discredited

ship into the hands of John L.

The crisis of the War Labor

3. That delegates be selected recovering any of their pre-war from the districts to act in con- powers. junction with the State CIO in Lansing in obtaining desirable legislation.

4. That delegates be sent to Washington to act in conjunction ing to break with them - unless with the CIO Washington groups. 5. That the CIO work cooperatively with the AFL, the Rail- port Mayor Jeffries of Detroit road Brotherhoods and other unions to abolish anti-labor legislation.

6. That the executive board of the Wayne County CIO council appoint a committee to work with the political action committees established in the locals.

According to Detroit press reports, the speakers stated that the political action committees will break down membership in each union local by residence, with individuals assigned in each ward, precinct and district to work for favorable legislation.

"ALL POLITICAL QUESTIONS NOW"

Last October, in his speech to the Tenth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party. James P. Cannon pointed out that "The fight for the smallest economic questions become of neces-

situation here." sity a political question" for the Giraud's speech, insists the But, even if Nogues goes, someworkers under wartime condi-

tions. The CIO leaders involun- March 15 N. Y. Times, gave thing worse has replaced him. Frenchmen "new confidence in THE CREMIEUX LAW tarily confirmed this fact at the conference when they declared their great tradition of 'liberty, Giraud's speech as formally restorthat their plan for political action had been adopted as a means equality and fraternity'." of regaining ground lost when

Yet, except for two or three the unions gave up the right to dismissals, the whole Vichy gang strike for the duration of the war continues to rule, headed by Peyand as a means of protecting sorouton, civil chief of North Africial gains.

a. Peyrouton is the former These leaders arc being com-Vichy Minister of the Interior, pelled by force of circumstance who, in an interview with the to acknowledge the necessity for French press in November, 1940, political action by the trade stated: unions. They do so partially to

cover up their own betrayal of the workers' interests when they a Hitlerite; I am proud of it." One promised "concession" to property requirements which have the more basic problems of the handed over the strike weapon democracy is the possible future kept practically all the seven mil- Yugoslav conflict - the class to Roosevelt and the bosses in resignation of Nogues, Governor. | lion Arabs disfranchised. exchange for a few unfulfilled promises. But they are also im-General of Morocco. He is the pelled to enter the political arena gentleman who at the time of the crimination" proclaimed by GAlanding of the Allied troops on raud in reality means lowering international connections with the by the government's control over all important issues affecting the Nov. 7 in Algeria, ordered the the Jews to the level of the mis-

working class today from wages to food-rationing.

THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE while still others were seized in under the Third Republic. The immediate cause of their Tunisia where they were accused political activity, however, is the of acting as "American agents."

USSR, and which were rejected by world labor opinion as crude frameups. The trials were filled The betrayals of the two capiwith all kinds of false charges talist parties are so flagrant that

Giraud Disfranchises

lated rejection of Vichy as a real turn to "democracy."

Jews As Well As Arabs

By BETTY KUEHN

14 speech at Algiers are being handed out by the press of the

Two mutually contradictory explanations of Giraud's March

On the one hand the capitalist press praises Giraud's be-

On the other hand, a dispatch from Algeria in the March

"Those who call for 'full democracy' do not understand the

Morocco because of their "intense rather than raising the status of

pro-United Nations feelings," the Arabs to that of the Jews

and foot, as Roosevelt with the

ed its active leaders.

'democracies.'

22 N. Y. Times says:

against Trotsky, all of which were even their labor accomplices have later irrefutably disproved . become alarmed and are threaten-

for another term. Jeffries smash- ONE BETTER THAN ed the city transport workers' THE TRIAL SLANDERS strike last summer and victimiz-Nevertheless, the Stalinist au-

The American press hailed

ing the "democratic" laws of the

But the Cremieux law was one

Giraud announced its abrogation.

Algerian Jews the right to be-

come French citizens automatic

ally without going through certain

steps required of the Arabs. With

Thus the "end of all racial dis-

Giraud and the French capital-

(Continued on page 3)

The Cremieux law of 1870 gave

Third Republic.

thors of the movie scenario and Now, says Thomas, "We have the Hollywood whitewashers of a man at the head of our city the bloody Stalin regime decided and co-ordinate the activities of government who, even though he to go the Moscow Trials one better and to insert this scene. After (Continued on page 2)

In other words, the scene was Office of War Information Film so obviously phoney that the pro- Bureau, Washington, D. C., and ducers cut it out - but they to Warner Brothers, Hollywood, still pretend to stand by its Calif.

amply exposed in trial sequence'.



By PHILIP BLAKE

The Communist Party is so "incentive pay" schemes being to speedup the workers through Rickenbackers and the Stalinists. and starve labor."

the institution of the "incentive | Yet the Stalinist Daily Worker pay" system that it does not last week had the nerve not only hesitate to print the most braz- to print a story pretending that the UAW executive board had en kind of lies about the stand come out for the "incentive pay" taken on this question by the plan, but also an editorial contrade union movement. gratulating the board for adopt-As reported in last week's is- ing such a "constructive policy."

sue of The Militant, the inter-Here is the truth about what national executive board of the actually happened: CIO United Auto Workers met in WHAT HAPPENED

Columbus, Ohio and voted on The labor' reporter of Detroit News, covering the UAW March 10 to oppose the speedupboard meeting in Columbus, o

March 10 sent his paper a repor which began as follows:

John G. Wright to **Speak On Civil** War in Yugoslavia

"The Civil War In Yugoslavia" is the topic of the timely speech to be given by John G.

character of the internal struggle

between the Mikhailovitch forces

and the Partisans, the nature of

Soviet Union.

of Social Science.

Wright, well-known Trotskyist discourage the institution of pieceof the laws of the Third Republic. writer and lecturer, at the next work even as a war-time measure." session of the Sunday Open In addition to adopting this gen-116 University PL, New York, age" such speedup plans, the board adopted a resolution to implement frozen. The background of the civil war

in Yugoslavia has already been its decision by keeping close check sketched in a series of articles by on all speedup-piecework plans WORK OR FIGHT"

said in part:

"The United Automobile Work-

ers (CIO) executive board today

unanimously reaffirmed its long

incentive pay plans in the auto-

The story then went on to quote

mobile industry."

the abolition of this law, both Wright recently concluded in The brought up in local unions and On March 17 the House Naval A new bill was introduced into equality to women, many other-"My enemics accuse me of being Jews and Arabs must now com- Militant. In his lecture Sunday plants. This resolution, introduced Committee voted favorably on the the House last week by Repre- wise pro-labor people have been ply with rigid educational and Wright will give an analysis of by UAW vice-president Walter P Johnson "absenteeism" bill, known sentative Howard Smith of Vir- fooled into backing it. Reuther, who the Detroit News

as a "work or fight" measure and ginia, veteran enemy of labor. reporter calls the board's "most requiring requests to draft boards This measure seeks to outlaw any bills. Nobody in Congress seems Then there are the various tax outspoken critic of piece-work," for deferments of workers to be union rule or practice or contract interested in tax. legislation to accompanied by their "absentee" provision which in any way "in- place the burden on the wealthy

"In plants where incentive records. It also instructs the war terfores with the full utilization and the corporations, which can systems have or have not been in contractors to supply the Labor of the nation's manpower in the really afford to pay; everybody in struggle, the relation of the Yugo- existence and the membership in Department with the names of present war:" it would also Congress does seems interested in arrest of hundreds of Jews in crably exploited colonial masses, slav war to the defense of the such plants is desirous of having workers absent without prior and prohibit foremen from belonging increasing the burden on the an incentive plan, such plan must thorization. Effect of its adoption to unions. Smith himself com- masses; almost everyone in Con-The Sunday Open Forum is held be approved by the international would be to place a powerful mented that the bill was "pretty gress agrees that heavy withholdregularly each week under the executive board and must con- weapon against militants in the broad"-an admission that if it ing taxes will be taken out of

auspices of the New York School form to the requirements and hands of the employers. The Austin-Wadsworth labor tivity could be included under it middle of this year. (Continued on page 2)

made they must, of course, be moral leadership would pass over Board. Already the national spotmade in accordance with the act to Lewis if they did not take a light is on Lewis and workers of Oct. 2, 1942, and executive orlead in voicing the demands of the from coast to coast are eagerly American workers for wage in- watching the developments in the But the miners had already decreases to meet soaring living coal negotiations. The War Labor nounced the War Labor Board as costs.

'a court packed against labor" In fact, this pressure resulted agency and its labor members are which had already prejudged and on Monday in the first admission increasingly forced to apologize decided against the UMW de-And they had already by the AFL and CIO spokesmen for remaining on it. However, stated their opposition to "the that the "Little Steel" formula these labor representatives, by act of Oct. 2, 1942, and executive was a wage-freezing device. their momentary retreat in Monorder No. 9250," which froze Hitherto they have aided and day's session of the WLB, have wages in the vise of the WLB's abetted the administration in again relinquished moral leader-"Little Steel" formula, as a poli- maintaining the pretense that the

Lewis and the mine workers. intent on its current campaign pushed by the employers, the cy designed to "fatten industry "Little Steel" formula was only wage "stabilization" instituted in Board is not over. It has merely Almost simultaneously with the interest of the workers. been postponed-and that for a Roosevelt's telegram upholding But the government's determin- matter of weeks. The new threats the authority of the WLB in the ed attitude and the pressure of of repressive anti-labor legislamine negotiations, that body was the industrialists have again for tion, arising in Congress instead meeting on March 22 and decid-

the moment succeeded in bull- of dampening the movement, will ing not to change its "Little dozing the timid "labor statesmen" only serve as an additional Steel" formula by an iota. Roose- of the AFL and CIO. Confronted irritant to spur the labor movevelt's Economic Stabilizer Byrnes by the barrage of the industry ment forward and to strengthen has already publicly announced members and their public rela- the demand that the "Little Steel"

(Continued on page 2) tions counsel, the "public" mem- formula be scrapped.

CONGRESS BILLS SEEK TO RAISE PRICES AND TO INTIMIDATE OR CRIPPLE UNIONS

The House of Representa- draft bill has already received the and the employers would be able tives on March 19 adopted the support of the War Department. in the name of "patriotism" to standing opposition to the use of Pace bill, which revises the Roosevelt has asked that no action junk all the regulations and conparity price formula of farm be taken on it now because he cessions gained by the unions in does not think that it is needed combatting the speedup, etc.

products and which would have yet. This bill would endanger the the effect of raising food prices operation of union contracts and "EQUAL RIGHTS" BILL

R. J. Thomas, UAW president, as by almost 10%. The Senate has would nullify the closed shop. The CIO News of March 22 resaying for the board: "We have already passed a similar measure, The Hobbs bill, which is ports that one of the anti-labor definitely committed ourselves to the Bankhead bill, so the danger scheduled for an early vote in bills being most actively pushed is great that the two houses will the House, is allegedly directed at the present time is the so-called compromise on the measures, both against "racketeering;" but its "Equal Rights" amendment which of which will mean a drastic cut language about protecting com- would deprive women workers of Forum, March 28, 8 P. M. at eral categoric decision to "discour- in the living standards of the merce against "interference by all protective legislation. This bill workers whose wages have been violence, threats, coercion or in- has been opposed by the AFL, timidation" could be interpreted the CIO, and the Railroad Brother-

by anti-labor courts to include boods, but because its backers legitimate union demands. pretend that it would give

were passed almost any union ac- wages of all workers by about the

THE MILITANT

A Short History Of 'The Militant' By HELEN RUSSELL The vear 1933 marked a turn By HELEN RUSSELL The vear 1933 marked a turn

(Continued from page 1)

mies like the Southern poll taxers was supported by labor time and at the head of Roosevelt's Demoagain, is against time-and-a-half cratic party? THE FORCES AT PLAY The CIO and AFL leaders may protest against the crimes of the

support, Thomas has no more to Democratic-Republican anti-labor say than: "It is time for our lo- conspirators and threaten them tions. But they fear to break clearly and cleanly with the capitalist politicians. They hesitate to take the road to independent tion of labor officialdom to the political organization. At the anti-labor drive was provided by same time they are being pushed Teamsters International Presi- toward some sort of independent dent Daniel J. Tobin in an article political action while they mainin the latest issue of The Team- tain their connections and work sters Journal entitled: "Demo- for further collaboration with the

| Roosevelt, or by confessed ene-

In Detroit, for example, it apchairman of the labor division of pears that the unions are prethe National Democratic Commit- paring to lay a basis for their tivity in the wards precincts and tor at the White House. He ob- Congressional districts. This kind tained the Roosevelt administra- of political organization can eastion's aid in the prosecution ily make Detroit's CIO unions against the Local 544-CIO team- the most powerful single force ster leaders of Minneapolis who in local and state politics.

But these moves are being ion. They propose to enter the Today Tobin has to warn the arena of labor party politics out a state or national organiza-Tobin asserted that many labor tion. The official leadership leaders who had supported the wants to keep all lines of retreat Democratic party in the last three open for support of Roosevelt's Now the AFL leaders are whin- elections now feel that they are re-election in 1944 and for deals "being sold down the river" by with lesser candidates of the capi-

The militants in the CIO and crucified, let us be crucified by this timidity of their leaders. over the capitalist parties once If such yelps of distress can the opportunity for real labor popage editorial on "A Political come from case-hardened bureau- litics is presented to them. They crats of the Tobin type, what are beginning to realize more "The dealer in this dubious must be the sentiments among and more that the trade unions



(Continued from page 1)

plans may become effective."

position to them.

union.'

Then, on March 18 the Daily

Worker ran a story listing the

seven provisions, adopted by the

sub-committee of four. The first of

smashing progressive unionism in guarantees approved by the in-Minneapolis, they would move ternational union before such very embarrassing position into further to cripple all unions. Dur- plans may become effective." Then, says the Detroit News campaign to reintroduce the the miners are opposed to putting Review didn't once criticize Gov- story, "the board set up a com- old speedup-stretchout-piecework their fate into the hands of the ernor Stassen for his vile role in mittee of four to write compre-system that it took the trade WLB. The treacherous act of the denying democracy to the drivers. hensive regulations for locals to unions so many years to abolish.

pay for the sixth day in the 48hour week." Yet, despite all Jeffries' blows against the workers who put him in office with CIO originate with the boss organi-leaders to front for him in his cal unions to study this particu- with reprisal at the next eleclar situation.'

Yesterday's Minneapolis Star-Journal tells how Stassen on the TOBIN WARNS

> Further evidence of the reacemergency conference cratic Party Forgets How Hun- capitalist parties. gry It Used to Be." Tobin was

State Federation of Labor, has tee in the campaigns of 1932, own political organization and ac-1936, 1940. He is a frequent visifore the legislature."

AND STASSEN

AFL leaders supported Stassen 1941. in the 1942 elections. Ever since

Roosevelt's telegram, therefore, refusing to permit the drivers to movement!

> ing that Stassen isn't playing fair for March 11 contains a front-

Shell Game":

more widely known as the Stassen Slave Law that he put over,"

During the fight of the Minneapolis drivers against the Tobin machine in 1941, Local 544-CIO warned the union movement that

Lewis has already stated that ing that historic fight the Labor

their far-reaching proposals," as "moderate." The paper repeats the lie that "the governor eans toward the unions."

(Continued from page 1)

sponsored by farm producers' co- that "there must be no further operatives, would accomplish the increases in wages beyond the

OPERATORS HAPPY

Require all unions to register the lap of the government, while Advocate and the Duluth Labor power. These men, he said, now with the Secretary of State, giv- letting their agents in Congress ing names of all union officials, shriek and threaten all kinds of tive movements with having supdetailed financial statements, de- dire consequences against the ported Stassen in the last election. those who don't claim to be our They will not hesitate to throw

Former Senator Edward R. sary to effectuate the purposes | Burke, spokesman for the southof this act"; lay down criminal ern coal operators, announced penalties for non-compliance with that he would recommend acceptthe above bill; give the secretary ance by his group "because he of state a dictatorship over the felt that under the legislation union movement, permitting him and executive orders mentioned to certify or withdraw certifica- by the President 'there can be no tion from any union (even the increases for the miners.' . . . He capitalist papers admit this did not think the Labor Board measure would give the secre- would approve any increases. .

ton yesterday affirming the 'Lit-Define robbery and extortion the Steel' wage formula." (N. Y. so as to embrace the ordinary Times, March 23.) The northern activities of unions; condemn all operators also agreed to accept if Stassen-Roosevelt succeeded in members of a union as "conspi- Roosevelt's proposal. LABOR'S FIGHT

rators" if one union member became involved in violence; define a union demand for wage increases as "extortion."

THE STASSEN BILL

TWO-

The year 1933 marked a turning point in the history of The Militant. Up until then this padirected primarily at the Communist Party, and attempting to international revolutionary socialism. But the Communist International sank deeper into the morass of bureaucratism, adven-

The German events of 1930-33, culminating in Hitler's seizure of power, graphically demonstrated ed too. that the Communist International the historic declaration of the a New International." spoken before a large number of

upon the development of the workers: it had outlived its historic function. The necessities of the struggle for socialism required a new party and a new international based on the return to new party and international became the primary task for The Militant.

this issue (Oct. 7, 1933) The Militant begins to reflect the new toward the building of a new Our aim is to transform The Miintended mainly for Communists American workers."

unfold the history of the great growth of organized American labor. The country's basic industries - coal, auto, steel, etc. cities, as was the case in Minneastruggles such as had not been seen before in the Western Hemisphere.

the picket line throughout the country, and The Militant was may have lacked the professional

turism, and capitulation.

The AFL pointed out last was beyond reform and could month that many of these state CIO has pointed out that the never again lead the workers in bills have been drawn up in al- licensing bill would enable emthe struggle for socialism. A new most identical language, and instrument for this historic task revealed that its backers include union's license just when a conhad to be forged. And on Sept. the anti-labor "Christian Amer-30, 1933 The Militant published ican Association" and the Associated Industries. Rickenbacker, National Committee of the Com- the front man for the National munist League of America (Op- Association of Manufacturers, and position): "For a New Party and the reactionary Lee O'Daniel, poll tax Senator from Texas, have

The Third or Communist International had turned into a brake the state legislative bodies asking registration of unions and officers. for the passage of anti-labor laws. **BILLS ADOPTED** the principles of Marx, Engels cial reports annually to the Secre- by all unions. pletely betrayed. To build this of dues, fees and assessments; THEY FEAR LABOR PARTY

As the editors put it, "With

Militant for these years is to see sippi Delta.



The anti-labor drive in the unions to incorporate under the bring it back to the program of state legislatures is beginning civil code; abolish the checkoff to bear fruit. Vicious bills to as now instituted; make all union undermine the unions have al- a vote by the members of require ready been passed in certain on all expenditures over \$50. states, and many more are un-MASSACHUSETTS bills would der consideration, with the dan- require licensing of all unions, ger great that they will be pass- filing of financial accounts with

the state, and the imposition of bar closed shop contracts. The ployers to ask for revocation of a tract is being negotiated. MICHIGAN, center of the

powerful auto union, is also being union-smashing tide. offered a bill requiring incorpora tion of all unions. OHIO bills would limit the

closed shop, regulate union dues, and, as in so many states, require A bill in the MISSOURI State

Senate would require union officials to be native-born, resident In KANSAS last week the in the state at least five years, and

State Legislature adopted a bill requiring unions to submit finan- course, a yearly financial report passage of five vicious labor bills. tary of State, including payment

ordering the licensing of business A particularly interesting bill, agents; and banning "jurisdicwhich many state legislatures are now considering, is one which

tional disputes." The ARKANSAS House of prohibits financial contributions rights of employees so striking; Representatives has passed a bill by unions for political campaigns. prevent any person ever convicted was greeted with joy by the mine punishing public assemblage near Among others, the Michigan, a plant on strike by prison terms Massachusetts, California, Texas, union official; prevent a union with their own strategy of sitting protect Stassen and present him course of the Communist League of one to two years, and contain- Minnesota and Kansas legislatures ing a clause against "threats of have such bills on their calendar. workers in another city; bar all concessions to the mine union, party of Communism in America. violence" which could easily be This is a recognition by the interpreted to prevent peaceful capitalist politicians that anti- union to a sister union; litant from a propaganda organ persuasion to join an organization. labor legislation can have the The Workers Defense League says effect of turning the workers in into a popular agitation paper ap- that the bill was aimed not only the direction of independent poli pealing directly to the mass of against the unions in industry, tical action. The creation of a but also against the Southern labor party now would wir

Articles on the great national Tenant Farmers Union, active allegiance from a large section strikes of 1933-36 figured prom. among the exploited sharecroppers of the union movement, and far inently. To read the pages of The and tenant farmers of the Missis- sighted reactionaries are trying to place obstacles in the path by

The lower house of the TEXAS making it illegal for unions to Legislature has already passed a give financial support to a party bill requiring the registration of of their own.

unions and the filing of member- These laws would make it were rocked by strikes. Entire ship lists, financial statements and almost impossible to form a labor other data useful to anti-labor party. But an Independent Labor polis, witnessed militant union groups. Other Texas legislation Party based on the unions and a would outlaw the closed shop and fighting program would make it require that 75% of a union's in-almost impossible for the reactionaries to pass their anti-labor come remain in the state.

Labor was on the march and ban the closed shop; require legislatures.

there with them. Numerous articles were front line dispatches Sunday Open Forum from strikers themselves who saw that The Militant represented The reporting Hears Charles On Fight may have lacked the professional touch, but it bore the stamp of Against Rising Prices

Unions In Minnesota

certain restrictions which would of anti-labor legislation similar in character to that being pushed in most state legislatures toleadership to call an emergency state convention to stem the

Some 750 delegates of the State Federation of Labor will meet tomorrow in St. Paul to consider Roosevelt the critical situation.

Taking full advantage of the ficialdom during this war period, the owner of real estate. And, of Minnesota are pressing for the

following: outlaw strikes against Little Steel formula." the state or any of its subdivisions; take away civil service

tary of State may consider neces-

CALIFORNIA legislation would bills-in Congress or in the state powers over union";

them in the same way that a dog

can get along without fleas."

5 Vicious Bills Menace

By JACK RANGER

- Confronted with a barrage chestnuts out of the fire. day, the Minnesota union move- sociated Industries and other ment has forced its reluctant boss groups were working

Taking full advantage of the slavish attitude of the union of- Enters Into the employers' organization and Mine Fight

Four of the bills, ostensibly

of a felony from serving as a operators. It fits in very well in one city from representing back, doing nothing, granting no financial contributions from one dumping the responsibility of re-

tails of all contracts, and "such miners and the labor movement other information as the Secre- as a whole.

tary of state "life and death in view of its action in Washing-

MINNEAPOLIS, March 20. zations, who are using the back- anti-labor drive.

eve of the State Federation of STASSEN'S METHOD Labor Back in 1939, as today, the As-"bluntly" told the farm organizations he "would not stand for through Stassen to cripple the and only wanted to pass his own union movement through legisla- anti-labor bill which is described tive action. Then as now Stas-sen utilized so-called "farm"

But Robert Olson, the very conservative president of the now had to admit that provisions of the governor's bill "are the most vicious of any bill be-

LABOR LEADERS

were convicted, together with So-The Stalinist leaders of the cialist Workers Party leaders, in taken in the most disguised, timid, state CIO and a majority of the the federal courts in November, half-hearted and ineffective fash-

the fight between the Minnea- Democratic Party he has served backwards. Without its real name, polis drivers and Tobin (during so slavishly that it must stop without any militant pro-labor which Stassen supported Tobin by "crucifying" the trade union program, without a banner, with-

vote on union affiliation), the labor conservatives have tried to as labor's friend.

jecting the miners' demands into with them. The St. Paul Union the party they helped put into talist parties. World are charging their respec. say that: "If we are going to be AFL do not, we are sure, share The Minneapolis Labor Review friends."

game is Governor Stassen. It is the rank and file workers in the need their Independent Labor not the first time that he has trade unions who don't want to Party to halt the anti-labor of. manipulated the shell and the be crucified, either by those who fensive of the bosses and their peas in such a political bam- claim to be their friends, like Democratic-Republican agents. boozle The first time it was the so-called Labor Relations Act.

genuine working class struggle.

The Militant was not a mere onlooker but actively participated in labor's struggles. For instance, during the general hotel strike of New York in 1934, the paper came out three times a week with the latest strike developments. Leaders of the Trotskyist movement, among them James P. Cannon addressed the striking workers. The Militant also reflected the interests of the jobless workers, from the days of the Bonus Army down through the organization of powerful national unemployed organizations.

In the struggle to build a revolutionary socialist party and to unite all the revolutionary elements, the Trotskyist movement underwent a number of organizational changes. In 1934, the Communist League of America (Opposition) joined together with the American Workers Party headed by A. J. Muste to form the Workers Party of the United States. The New Militant, as the Party's organ was then called, continued the work and the tradition of its predecessor.

In 1936 when a leftward turn in the Socialist Party made that party the center of attraction for various left tendencies, the Workers Party decided to enter the ranks of the Socialist Party to build a united left-wing socialist movement. On June 6, 1936 the New Militant called on all revolutionary workers to join the Socialist Party, which had just broken with its reformist Old Guard wing.

Thus the publication of The Militant was suspended - but this was to prove only a temporary measure. Within the space of little more than a year, events resulted in the reappearance of the paper.

(Next week's installment in this series tracing the history of The Militant since 1928 will deal with developments between 1937 and U. S. entry into the second world war.)

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

"The living standards of the every time they resort to blackmasses are under constant attack mail and intimidation, the govtoday because profits are sacred ernment gives way because it too would make it a criminal offense in peace, and because the govern- profits come first and foremost. "But the capitalists." he conment agrees with the employers that their profits must be main- tinued "play no useful function in It would bar unions from contritained and increased, no matter society. They take in the profits,

what happens. This was the keynote of the lecture delivered by C. Charles last Sunday evening before the Open Forum of the New York School of Social Science. He stated it succinctly, and went ahead to incomes are frozen by the War Judge Padway, who has been prove it in detail.

higher prices both open and State Federation of Labor to lob-He showed that the employers hidden, and then drastically cut by against the anti-labor propoare ready to let the crops rot on by the highest tax rates in the sals, the legislature "might as the ground, that they are prepared nation's history-is to take control well outlaw labor organizations unquestionably continue to count polis held a special meeting look- only a small obstacle to an organto slaughter milk cows, that they of prices and rationing and altogether as to all but remove on the fact that their drive for are willing to create shortages or distribution and production out their reasons for being." intensify existing shortages, that of the hands of the employers and they don't hesitate a minute to their government agents and to encourage the formation of black put them under the direction of markets-unless their rate of mass consumers' committees profit is maintained. whose aim would be to preserve And he demonstrated too that not profits but the living standards lmost every time the employers of the workers and dirt farmers

exert pressure on the government. and lower middle class.

Despite the Post Office cancellation of our second-class mail rights, this paper continues to be sent through the U.S. mails. Be sure to get your copy regularly:



The fifth anti-labor bill, the AFL and CIO members of the

only one with which Governor WLB, who while putting up a Stassen is publicly identified, verbal fight against the Board's wage-freezing policies, continue under capitalism in wartime as is committed to the belief that for one union to aid another. to prop up the Board whose sta-Anyone donating food to strikers ted function is to continue wagewould be guilty of "conspiracy." freezing, places the United Mine Workers in a difficult position buting to political funds. It and again imposes on them the but they produce nothing. The would outlaw the sympathy necessity of breaking through the workers can get along without strike and the secondary boycott. steel cage erected around them The passage of any one of

and all of U. S. labor. But it is these bills would deal a cripplobvious from the proceedings of The way out of the present ing blow to organized labor in the Scranton Tri-District Condilemma of the workers,-whose Minnesota. In the words of vention as well as from Lewis's Labor Board, diminished by brought to Minnesota by the miners are determined to do just party." that.

> The miners have counted and higher wages has aroused sym-

pathy and wholehearted support Just as in 1939, when Stassen on the part of workers in all the put over his Slave Labor Law unions. during his first administration,

labor's enemies are maintaining The debt of gratitude which the fiction that it is the farm or- all militants feel toward the mine ganizations who are chiefly union for having taken the lead pressing for passage of anti-la- in exposing the rotten character of the government labor agencies

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bor laws. The truth is, as Padway told and for having shown how to halt he House and Senate labor com- the retreat of the labor movemittees, that the Minnesota anti- ment should be translated into ac- obvious to more and more worklabor bills are almost identical tion on the part of every local ers that only through their own with a number of such bills in- union, openly backing the UMW's party can they defend their intertroduced in various state legis- stand and pledging complete suplatures now in session. They port to its struggle.

The

Central Branch

Celebration

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Socialist Workers Party

The Minneapolis Central Labor follow in considering incentive Union on March 10 adopted reso- pay." Reuther was selected as one on this issue, with the result that lutions condemning Stassen and of the four on the committee.

his labor bills. One resolution STALINIST DISTORTION states that Stassen, in voicing liberal sentiments before the 1941 AFL convention, was "a wolf in sheep's clothing." In a crack at Tobin, the CLU condemned AFL international unions for "fostertion by the local unions, and even union. ing Stassen's presidential aspiratook steps to make sure that those tions."

LABOR PARTY NEEDED

The New York School of Social Science

Presents

THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF 6 LECTURES ON

"THE SOVIET UNION AND THE

CAPITALIST WORLD: 1917-1943"

by FELIX MORROW

Editor of Fourth International

Title: "WORLD CAPITALIST INTERVENTION

IN WAR AND PEACE"

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 31

at 116 University Pl., New York

Even conservative AFL leaders in Minneapolis are now stating speech in New York that the that "What we need is a labor

At a conference Monday night AFL union officials in Minneaing toward some form of independent labor political action in the of the workers down the river coming city elections.

The meeting was disrupted. ty." So the Stalinists, whose speedhowever, by Republican and Democratic politicians who, in their up plans have been under attack role of union leaders, effectively in a number of auto union centers, prevented the adoption of any got around the stand of the UAW concrete measure for establishing executive board in Columbus by just not printing anything about a labor party.

it. Instead they waited a whole Nevertheless, the pressure from the union ranks for a labor party week until the national office of is mounting daily, as it becomes the UAW had made public the lis of provisions, drawn up by the sub-committee of four which would have to be conformed with by those local unions wanting to ests against the bosses and the adopt "incentive pay" plans boss parties. despite the executive board's op-

25c per lecture

They went too far out on a limit they received only the contempt and well-earned abuse of the informed militants in the auto To any honest person the above centers. Now they hope, by distortstory makes the facts perfectly ing the position of the UAW exclear. The UAW executive board ecutive board, to make it appear opposed the "incentive pay" plan, that the Stalinist position is very decided to discourage its adop- much like that of this important

such easily-detected falsification?

Because only by lying can they

hope to squirm out of the

which they were placed by their

The Stalinists have no intention locals which still wanted to inof discontinuing their campaign stitute the plan would have to for the speedup, however. In fact, 'conform to the requirements they intend to push it harder and guarantees approved by the than ever, acting behind the cover international union before such of the seven-point provisions designed to safeguard the locals But honesty and Stalinism have from the worst consequences of little in common. Falsification is the "incentive pay" schemes. This was demonstrated by the Daily ization ready to sell the interests Worker editorial of March 20, which hails the UAW seven-point in the interests of "national uniprovisions as "a constructive policy." The militants in the various union locals must remain on guard against the anti-labor policies of the Stalinists.



these provisions warned that no "incentive pay" plan could be applied until it has received the approval of the local union or plant unit "and of the international The Stalinists, well-aware of what had happened at the Columbus meeting, nevertheless dared to begin this story listing the seven provisions by saying that the UAW had announced "approval of incentive pay as a measure for increased production and pay envelopes." And over

the story the Daily Worker carthis headline: "AUTO ried UNION BACKS INCENTIVE PAY AS MEASURE TO BOOST PRODUCTION; Adopts Policy for New Contracts."

WHAT ARE THEY AFTER? Why do the Stalinists resort to A New, Timely 32-page Pamphlet by C. Charles 5c per copy $3\frac{1}{2}c$ in bundles

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If This Is Progress —

The United Press reported last | illustrating the progress that has week that a women and her father been made in the South in the in Corpus Christi, Texas, had been fields of justice and politics. The found guilty and sentenced to voters of East Baton Rouge Parish prison for keeping a Negro as a were to elect a district judge on slave on their farm. Neighbors March 23, and one of the canditestified that the Negro had been dates, named Womack, advertised kept in a chicken coop and was for votes on the ground that his whipped with chains when he opponent had been guilty of only disobeyed: once he had tried to fining a Negro \$5 for hitting a escape, but he was captured and white boy who had demanded that "afraid" to make another attempt. the Negro give him his seat in a

Well, it's good to see that there bus. Womack proudly boasted of is something for which oppress- the fact that in such cases he has ors of the Negro masses can be always imposed the most severe punished by law. For even though sentence possible under the law, it's almost 80 years since the abo- six months in jail, and asked: "Which one of these men do you lition of chattel slavery, the Negro remains oppressed in so many want to protect your rights, your fields that it is still a novelty to home and your family in these find laws operating to protect perilous times?" any of his rights.

Twenty-five years after the first "war for democracy" and in Almost 80 years since the Civil the middle of the second year of War, and it still seems that there will have to be some kind of the second "war for democracy," revolution before an anti-lynch the government is still playing around with the question of em bill is adopted by the government.

Year in and year out, Demo- ployment discrimination against cratic or Republican administra- the Negro. Two months after tion, the anti-lynch bill gets McNutt called off the the railroad kicked around and buried in com- hearings and six weeks after mittee. This years' bill, introduced Roosevelt promised they would be less than three months ago, has | held, the two of them, assisted by already been swallowed up by one Biddle, are still trying to deter- Jewish Workers League (Bund) Union, gives weapons to the of the House committees and it mine the fate of the Fair Employwill take the signature on a ment Practices Committee, are the Stalinist bureaucracy against minate the minds of the workers discharge petition by a majority still trying to work out some forof members of the House before mula that will quiet Negro and the international struggle of people of Hitler-occupied Europe, the bill will even be brought up discontent and yet satisfy the poll tax Congressmen. for a vote. * * * If this is progress, protect us

Twenty-five years after the end of the first "war for democracy," Negro and labor organizations are still trying to get some kind of

ernment at least protected some bill passed to abolish the poll tax of the rights of the Negro, even which disfranchises six million if only for a few years. But towhite and four million Negro peoday the government itself sets ple in the South. And they are the pattern of discrimination and getting no more help from the segregation, as was once again New Deal Democrats or the Reshown last week in a statement publicans on this issue than on by Judge William H. Hastie, who the anti-lynch bill. As on the antiresigned last month as civilian lynch measure, it is necessary to aide to the Secretary of War beget half of the House to sign a cause of Jim Crow in the air fordischarge petition in order to obces. tain a vote on this bill.

from it!

After the Civil War the gov-

even though many of the colleges

The Army Air Forces have Some columnists in the capitaldecided to give soldiers five ist press - and in the Negro pamonths of academic training in pers too, it must be admitted ---selected colleges before they begin delight in quoting figures to show army flying training. The men how much "progress" the Negro will be taught physics, mathehas made since the Emancipation matics, history, English and geo-Proclamation. But so far as graphy by college faculties and lynching and voting goes, the Newill live on the college campus. gro is on the same old merry-go-But. Hastie now charges, all round, with most of the progress Negroes eligible for the program necessary for equal rights still will be segregated and sent to to come. Tuskegee Institute in Alabama

progress!

One of the favorite topics of selected for the program do not the aforementioned columnists is deny admission to Negro students.

Polish Refugee Offices Are Abolished In Soviet Union

THE MILITANT

By JUDITH JANOW Polish refugees in Russia. It thus defenseless and alone, the refugees Polish refugees in the distribution

It has been learned here that gave legal recognition to the died like flies. the relief offices maintained by of thousands of Polish refugees Soviet agreement in September, same reactionary, anti-Semitic the Polish embassy in Kuiby- who fled into Russia before the 1941, thousands of refugees were clique that ruled Poland before shev, USSR, have been closed advancing German troops or who released from jails and concentra the war, so it would not be sur by order of the Soviet author-were evacuated by the Russians, tion camps. There started a slow prising if this was true. ities on the pretext that they were perishing of cold and hunger trek on foot from remote parts of harbored spies. This latest in the Siberian wastes.

move, coming on the heels of TREATMENT OF the announcement of the execu- REFUGEES

tion of the two lewish-Polish socialist leaders, Erlich and Al- part Jewish women and children ter is doubtless part of the di- -were treated by the Stalin govter is doubtless part of the di-plomatic struggle over the east-They were shipped in unheated in Palestine and to the Far East. ern provinces of former Poland, box cars to the remotest sections The civilians got but little of this occupied by Stalin in 1939 and of the country, many to the help. lost to Germany in 1941.

Party of Socialist Revolution):

of Poland, is a blow delivered by

capitalism.

Siberian tundra to fell wood or The Polish relief offices were perform other hard labor; thou- DISCRIMINATION ON set up in Kuibyshev soon after sands were imprisoned or thrown BOTH SIDES conclusion of a special agreement into concentration camps. With-

of relief. The Polish Government horrible fact that the hundreds | With the signing of the Polish- in-Exile represents essentially the The dire plight of the Jewish

Russia southward, Food and cloth- refugees was increased, a few ing were allowed to be shipped to months after the signing of the Russia duty-free for distribution Soviet-Polish agreement, by a through the Polish Embassy. The Soviet government order exempt These refugees-for the most lion's share of relief, however, ing a majority of the Jews from went to men of military age who the privilege of receiving relief or were quickly whipped into Polish duty-free packages from their battalions and shipped to Teheran, relatives abroad. This was done on the grounds that most of the Jewish-Polish refugees came from

From time to time accusations

between the Polish and Soviet gov- out clothing, without any provi- have been heard that the Poles ernments for immediate help to sion for shelter, without medicines, discriminate against the Jewish



The Militant has received the assassination of Leon Trotsky by following statement by the Inter- the GPU.

the Fourth International (World EFFECTS OF STALINISM 1917, lead by Lenin and Trotsky. Stalin, by all his reactionary Stalin's murder of Victor Alter acts, tends to alienate the workers to live, in spite of the Stalinist and Henryk Erlich, leaders of the from the defense of the Soviet bourgeoisie in their efforts to dothe defense of the Soviet Union and tends to repel the oppressed continue to defend the Soviet Unthe toilers to destroy fascism and including the workers of Ger-

many, from the Soviet Union BOLSHEVISM VS STALINISM In their slanderous assertion Stalin's reactionary work would that Alter and Erlich, left-wing result, were he successful, in

Social Democrats and political ad- transforming the Soviet Union versaries of the Fourth Interna- from an inspiration to the opstrained only by the diplomatic tional, called for peace with Hit- pressed of the world into an obler and were agents of Hitler, the ject of loathing.

Stalinists are merely continuing | But he must not, and shall not, this latest atrocity of Stalin to the frameup pattern laid down succeed! The revolutionary workagain identify Stalinism with in the Moscow trials and in the ers will continue to distinguish Bolshevism, the Stalinist bureau-

Shachtman Still Evades The Fundamental Issues By FELIX MORROW

The Feb. 27 Militant had a |--that is, after he must have by Stalin. Not Bolshevism, but ing existence on the non-arable news-item on a speech I had known already of the appearance capitalism and its Social Demomade, "The Class Meaning of of my article-he writes a piece the Soviet Victories." In a few longer. At least, one might think, lines the reporter tried to sumat last he tells us what the Soviet marize a speech which had last- Union is-so far he has only told ed an hour and a half. The re- us what it is not. But no. His porter over-simplified; particu- article reads us a lecture on what larly he failed to indicate that Trotsky's position really was, but by the "class meaning" — the which he, Shachtman, does not agree with. main point of my speech — I

meant above all the capitalist man's piece is the box in the reaction to the Soviet victories.

middle of it announcing, "We However, the next issue of The regret that lack of space makes

it impossible for us to comment

between the Stalinist bureaucracy and the Soviet Union, product of and misery. The lot of the Jewishthe great Workers Revolution of

The Russian revolution continues description. degeneration, in the nationalized economy which arose out of that anti-capitalist revolution. The revolutionary workers, in firm political opposition to Stalin, will

> ion against any and all attacks. Many reformist Social Demo-

> > (Continued from page 1)

ists dare not enfranchise the 7,-000,000 oppressed Arabs in Algeria. the British Parliament. It pro-The 980,000 Frenchmen would be poses a modification and extension completely out-voted by the native of the present social insurance racy with the Soviet Union.

The workers must not permit themselves to be confused by dependence. The Algerian Arabs are prethese opportunist leaders. Staldominantly a peasant people. They That is to be determined later. inism and Leninism are deadly were driven off the fertile coastal opponents. Bolshevism lives in the Fourth International, found. lands by the French imperialists, ed by Leon Trotsky, persecuted

lands. cratic agents, bear the historic ARAB AND JEW about the news-item, but six times responsibility for Stalin. the chief exploiter, the majority These class-collaborationist Social Democratic leaders, by their of the Arab masses come into ployment that may occur in prisupport of capitalism since contact with the exploiter mainly vate industry.

* * * World War I, have up to now - through the middlemen, the shop The reports embody the hopes with the aid of Stalinism since keepers, small businessmen, etc., and dreams of the more intelli-- been able to save the who are often Jews. In the eyes 1924capitalist system outside of the of the Arabs, therefore, the Jews gent section of the capitalist class Soviet Union. The Soviet Union cannot but appear as agents of for a solution of the problems was isolated and this isolation French imperialism. This economic that will confront capitalist so-The best commentary on Shacht-

the uprooting of the Stalinist

'NOT GUILTY'

ORDER FROM

created the conditions for the antagonism, not racial or religious ciety after the war. Roosevelt rise of the Stalinist bureaucracy. questions, is the issue between and all the New Dealers and liberals want the system of private By pointing at Stalin's crimes, Arab and Jew.

The U.S. Beveridge Plan Its Meaning And Future

- THREE]

ism function, this idea, in solv-

The likelihood is very great

able. The present Congress is in

control of people who have Rick-

enbacker's ideas and not Roose-

velt's, and the probability is that

the reactionary trend of the capi-

talist class will continue. There

By M. Morrison

The two reports of the Nation-lidea that one can furnish jobs al Resources Planning Board, and security to everybody by limitsubmitted to Congress by Presi- ing the extent of profits is indeed dent Roosevelt, will serve the lib- utopian. Quite possibly some of eral democrats as an answer to the recommendations of the Planthe question uppermost in the ning Board can help to a certain minds of millions of people as extent. It proposes a gradual dethey work and fight and suffer. mobilization of the armed forces This question is: what are we after the war in order to give infighting for? From now on the dustry a chance to absorb all the answer to the question will be returned soldiers. That is of that we are fighting not only for course better than to throw all the four freedoms (which evident- the soldiers on the labor market ly were a little too general to sat- at one time. But as is usually the isfy the masses) but also for the case with plans to make capitalright to work and for social se-Eastern provinces occupied by curity and for a better world if Russia in 1941, and thus were not

ing one problem, succeeds in creating another. To demobilize the and when victory is achieved. recognized by the Soviet governarmed soldiers gradually means I do not mean to say that in to continue spending enormous having the plans prepared Roosesums for their upkeep, thus crediplomatic move laying the founda. velt did so simply for the purpose ating a financial strain. of being able to give the masses tions for later Russian claims to It may well be that the demand these parts, its immediate effect an idea as to the meaning of the for durable consumers' goods, the war. In fact the report on social was to deprive the Jewish refugees production of which had to be curinsurance was prepared prior to of any benefits under the Polishtailed for war purposes, will bring the outbreak of the war. It can be Soviet agreement. Moreover, the some spurt to industry. But there readily admitted that the basic Soviet government did not hasten can be no plan for the employpurpose of Roosevelt in having to bestow on these unfortunates ment of all the returned soldiers the plans prepared is to solve the the "benefits" of Soviet citizenship--it denies them all right to problems confronting capitalist and all the workers now em-

ployed in war industry that can work, continues to keep them at society. This does not detract from possibly be effective other than forced labor in utter destitution the fact that the reports will be a plan based on the idea of utilused for many other purposes, the izing all the productive forces for Polish refugees in Russia beggars main one being to give the masses the welfare of the people. Such a an ideal to fight for, to give them plan is impossible under capitalsome hope and encouragement With the closing of the Polish ism. relief offices, a new blow is that after victory is won they will

delivered to Polish refugees in not return to a world without jobs and without security. Russia and relations between the that the reactionary sections of And, as John L. Lewis has sug two governments enter a new the capitalist class will succeed gested, the reports can very well stage of open hostility and rivalry. in preventing the adoption of the be used to divert the attention of the masses from their demands plan or in whittling it down to a point where it will be unrecognizfor an immediate raise in their

wages. * * * Insofar as its social insurance provisions are concerned, the plan submitted by the NRPB is quite similar to the one submitted by

is no reason to expect otherwise. Sir William Henry Beveridge to The reactionary character of the present Congress is in itself conclusive proof of the futility of attempting a gradual modification population which aspires to in- laws, without setting any definite and reform of capitalism so as to standard of compensation for sickprovide the masses with livable ness, unemployment or old age. conditions. Here we have Roos-The plan differs from the Bev-

evelt, the reformer, in power for ten years and in spite of that the eridge one in that it formulates and have had to eke out a starv- proposals about the necessity of reactionaries gain control of Conparticipation of the government gress. Why? The basic reason is that Roosevelt's inability to solve in private industry, of participation of labor in management and the problems of society by means Although French imperialism is of large-scale government pro- of his reforms disheartens some jects to take up any slack in em- sections of the population and ir-

ritates others. As a result, since these is no party of labor, offering the masses a program that they would fight for, the reactionaries gain.

It is a law that in the period of the decline of capitalism any attempt to reform it is doomed to failure. With the consequence o solve any basic pro

to the support of the reactionary

forces. The Social-Democrats of

Germany proved this; Leon Blum,

in France, proved it. The Social-

Democrats of Spain proved it. The

American workers should learn

The task of revolutionary Marx-

ists is not simply to attack the

reports because their recommen-

dations, even if accepted, are to-

tally insufficient to solve the prob-

lems confronting the masses. That

would be an approach too abstract.

to be effective. Nor is it sufficient

to criticize it in the manner of

John L. Lewis, who declared the

tended to divert the attention of

the masses from the necessity for

an immediate and substantial

Both assertions are true but it

is insufficient to stop there. The

fact remains that the masses

want jobs and are justifiably

fearful that they won't have any

after the war. The fact remains

and want it badly. The very fact

from these historic lessons.

Giraud Denies Vote to Both the

ment as citizens of Poland.

While this was clearly

cratic leaders, their boldness re- Jews and Arabs

needs of the capitalist governments they serve, are utilizing

education. They never tire of the Social Democratic leaders of the appearance in the March in this issue on the growing telling about the progress being are merely trying to divert at-Fourth International of my article, tension over imperialist spoils be-What is the purpose of all the made in this sphere. A good sign tention from their own. talk we hear about "progress"? | with the same title as my speech, | tween Stalin and other members of the true situation, however, was It is intended to make the Ne- embodying the main point of that of the United Nations. . . In a AGAINST STALINISM provided by the Workers Defense League last week, when it quoted groes think that gradually, as speech. Any honest reader, then, coming issue Max Shachtman will FOR DEFENSE OF USSR from the Journal of the National time goes by, things will get bet- could read that 7,000-word article discuss this highly important ter and better, even if the Negro and get the full elaboration of my question." Since then another Education Association to show themselves to turn from the Sothat more than half of the 61,000 struggle for equality is discon- position. issue of his paper appeared, but Any honest reader-but not Max still no discussion of this "highly Negro teachers in the segregated tinued or suspended. But this is great crimes. The foundations of spokesmen warn them that the Shachtman. We have long been important question." Ever since Jim Crow schools are receiving a lie, and a mighty dangerous the Soviet Union in the form of Arabs would treat the Jews still one. If Negroes were to fall for it, awaiting his review of our posi- the Stalingrad victory the entire less than \$600 a year. Other apthe nationalized property still worse. propriations for education of all progress - real or imaginary tion on the Soviet Union; that press-bourgeois. Stalinist, ours. remain. The Soviet Union still - would come to an abrupt halt. position appears in its most Negroes in the South, where most etc.-has been preoccupied with arouses the class hatred of world rounded form in Leon Trotsky's this question. But the months What Negroes need now is not Negroes live, are proportionately capitalism. The Soviet Union, citizenship as well as to retain low. God help the Negroes who fairy tales, or admonitions to be-"In Defense of Marxism-Against pass, and not a peep out of Shachtbased on nationalized property, the citizenship of the Jews. But are satisfied with this kind of lieve these fairy tales, but fightthe Petty-Bourgeois Opposition," man. must be defended against any that way is closed by the intering organizations and a fighting which was published in book form Now that the Soviet reverses in and all imperialist attacks. months ago. In that book Schachtthe South have temporarily abated program to achieve equality now. While firmly defending the So- North Africa. A friend in Louisiana this week Pie in the sky is no substitute man's name appears many times, the press discussion of this ques- viet Union, the revolutionary in connection with some extremely tion, no doubt Shachtman is workers must continue to battle sent us a newspaper advertisement for a square meal. unflattering statements by Trotsky breathing easier. He knows that against the Stalinist influence

iitant carried the announcemen

concerning Shachtman's analysis the line he is committed to— in the ranks of the workers, A NEW BOOK Shachtman has firmly resisted the a quarrel on the part of the Soviet Union, preparing the stage for obvious-enough idea that he should Union over "imperialist spoils"-HISTORICAL SKETCH A WORKERS' PROGRAM **\$1** Bu FREDERICK J. LANG IONEER PUBLISHERS . NEW YORN 182 Pages - \$1.00 Order from PIONEER PUBLISHERS, 116 University Pl., N. Y.



enterprise to remain intact with The Hitlerite scape-goat - the Vichy anti-Semitic laws - are the capitalists making a reasonthus revoked, only to be replaced able profit and with the workers by a "democratic" Jewish scape- having constant employment and earning a decent wage, with sogoat - mollifying the Arabs cial insurance to take care of all through repeal of the French ciuntoward eventualities. The vi-The workers must not permit tizenship of the Algerian Jews. sion is of a capitalist world where Lest the Jews of America and

iet Union as a result of Stalin's elsewhere complain, Giraud's all classes of society live amidst peace and plenty. That it is essential to have some plan to make capitalism function after the war is over is clear to The obvious way of mollifying everyone outside of the dumbest the Arabs would be to give them reactionary circles. The millions of men returning from the armed forces will not take kindly to looking for jobs and finding none, ests of imperialist domination in after having fought and suf-Into the minds of the proposals to be utopian and in-

fered. Giraud's action against the Jews

there will penetrate the nasses clearly shows the nature of his simple but all-powerful idea that "democracy" and that of his if the government can spend bilof the Russian question. Yet so far characterization of the issue as within and without the Soviet is also a preview of the treatment lions of dollars to make war, it raise in their wages. can and should do the same to the Jews are going to get in the

New York

give everyone a job. And if the future from the "democracies" in government should fail to take the rest of the world-unless the the measures necessary to promasses first replace imperialism vide jobs for everybody, it will

> become all too clear that capitalism can give people work only for that the masses want security lestruction and death.

It is only an ignoramus like that Roosevelt has his board come Rickenbacker who can convince out with the reports constitutes himself and try to convince others a recognition of the deep concern the masses have with the probthat the soldiers are fighting for rugged individualism. The truth lem of security.

is that, in the overwhelming ma-Revolutionary Marxists will jority of cases, they are fighting support Lewis's struggle for a raise in the miners' wages. But because they have to fight. They are not fighting for Roosevelt's they will also stress the necessity democracy, nor for Rickenbacker's of jobs and security and the need rugged individualism. for a program to give jobs and But this is true: when they resecurity. The essence of that turn they will want jobs and program must be the taking over

wages, and woe to the social sys- of all major industries by the govtem that cannot provide them ernment and their operation unwith jobs and wages. Roosevelt der workers' control. It is this which alone will constitute a first understands that; Rickenbacker and those whom he represents do major step in bringing jobs and security to the people. not. That is why Roosevelt wants

a plan, at least for the purpose of giving the masses hope. * * *

If Lewis were to say that the masses cannot and should not rely on Roosevelt and the Democratic Party to bring jobs and security

To a Marxist who understands but should organize a Labor Party that it is the profit motive that for that purpose, he would be hitmakes capitalism function, the ting the nail right on the head.



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FOUR-

THE MILITANT

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1943



THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views 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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the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of e v e r y class-conscious worker.

To defend the USSR as

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' Govern-

dire straits, and that he withdrew his promise when the Empire's fortunes took a turn for the better; they realize that a Churchill promise to the British people, given in a time of crisis, can similarly be withdrawn when the crisis is temporarily surmounted; so perhaps Churchill stood to gain by not making promises.

But a hope is no more digestible or nutritious than a promise. Churchill's speech demonstrated that he and his class have nothing to offer humanity just as the Tory government's action on the Beveridge plan showed that they stand as an obstacle to even the most modest reforms. The hope of a better world can be realized only by sweeping this obstacle aside.

Foremen And Unions

On March 18, the General Motors Corporation sent a telegram to four administration departments demanding that the government ban the unionization of foremen' and lower managerial employees. The cry for governmental aid fell on ears by no means unsympathetic to the corporations' plight. Representative Smith of Virginia, responding to his master's voice, immediately introduced a bill which would forbid employers from dealing with unions which admitted supervisory personnel to membership.

Why this plea to the government? What is the significance of the widespread interest in organization among foremen?

In its earlier periods, when capitalism was marked by smaller aggregates of capital, the owner and the manager were one and the same per-- LEON TROTSKY son. Since the establishment of large-scale corporation capitalism, there has been a division between the functions of ownership and management. While the stockholders own the corporation, clip coupons representing profits and are complete parasites, the actual management of the plants is in the hands of the corporation officials.

> The higher groups of corporation officers are part and parcel of the owning groups. They receive large salaries, plus bonuses, derived from the exploitation of the workers and are usually themselves large stockholders.

> The lower strata of corporation management is in a different position. They do not have the intimate connections with the owners of the corporations that the top officials have. Their salaries are but a small fraction of those received by the upper officials. They are also in close contact with the workers.

> Prior to the great wave of union organization, the lower foremen were willing servants of the corporations and fell under the domination of the capitalist class.

> But a change has taken place. In the face of rising living costs, foremen's salaries remain far behind. They have to work long hours of overtime, often with little or no overtime pay. The job of enforcing the policies of the corporations on the workers is no longer an easy one. The workers, feeling the power of organization, are no longer the weak, unprotected, disunited and servile mass of yesterday.

> Caught between the two fires of organized capital and organized labor, the foremen and sub-foremen are quite understandably attracted to the idea of organization and a possible alliance with the labor movement. They have seen the unions make forward strides and improve the wages and conditions of their members, and they would like to achieve the same results for themselves by organization. The shakiness and instability of the capitalist structure is demonstrated by the fact that such industrial and financial giants as Ford, General Motors, the great coal operators, etc., can no longer hold the loyalty and support by their own authority of the lower ranks of their own managerial personnel and must call upon the government to intervene and maintain "discipline" and authority for them in the shops.



The columns are open to the opinions of the readers of The Militant. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers, but keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed. - Editor.

Sends Funds to Aid **Post Office Fight** Editor:

Discusses the

Editor: !

Mine Negotiations

for the sixth day. that illusion. But it would require In presenting the demands of some super kind of conniving for the miners to the coal operators him to extricate himself from the Because I believe it is in- at the Appalachian joint con- present situation without shedding reasingly important to present ference, John L. Lewis said, "The his mask.

in the form of the extra half-time part in keeping the workers under

James Cook

Explains Why Unions

Now that practically all the

vorkers have felt what it means

o pay stiff income taxes, and now

that the House of Representatives

has shown where it stands by

Right now, while Congress is

naking plans to raise taxes even

higher, and while it is considering

bills to strangle the unions if they

want to fight for better conditions

is the time for us to act.

Harrisburg, Pa.

I would like to see this subject he imperialist nature of the coal miners are hungry. They are present war, a character becoming ill-fed and undernourished. When given some more attention in more and more clear, I am en- the mine workers' children cry your paper. closing a contribution to be used for bread, they cannot be satisfied

in your court battle against the with the 'Little Steel formula.' He Post Office decision barring The also cited statistics from coal Militant from the second-class towns showing a 124.6% rise in food costs since 1939. mails.

Should Act Now Lavle Lane. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sent New York City one of its sob-sisters into a mining Editor:

town to pretend to find the underfed children referred to by Lewis. Of course he couldn't find any; "not in want, miners say' was the conclusion drawn from his "investigation." But in the John Bates' article on the course of his article he cited a

adequate in at least one respect. After the listed deductions of The article made reference to an 'ace in the hole" that the government has-to stretch the work doctor's fees, union dues, etc., and "assignments" to the company week to six days for the miners store, the mine worker has exactly and thus give them a larger wage income. This trick is so outlived \$5.50 left out his two week wage of \$92.40. His war bond deduction at present that it has been completely forgotten and not even was \$2.50. He couldn't give 10% referred to by either the coal toward war bonds even if he operators or the miners in the wanted to.

If we wait much longer, a lot In my opinion the fight of the present negotiations. of the workers are going to be-The fact is that the miners have miners' union at present is the come demoralized and decide that now for some time been working most critical issue that has yet the unions aren't worth anything the six-day week. The operators confronted the Roosevelt adin war time. When that happens, on the basis of this have received ministration and its "New Deal" then the employers will really try permission from the government labor policies. Up to now Rooseto go to town on us. to raise the price of coal. Only velt has paraded as a "friend of Packinghouse Worker, about one-third of this price rise labor," dropping a crumb here and Chicago, Ill. has been passed on to the miners there and succeeding for the most



MARITIME, A Historical Sketch and a Workers' Program, by Frederick J. Lang. Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York City, March, 1943. 182 pages, \$1.

Every seaman concerned about the well-being and the future of the maritime unions in the face of the present aggressive drive to stamp them out of existence will be interested in this latest publication of Pioneer Publishers. Written by a seaman who has evidently long made the forecastle his home, the book displays on every page intimate first-hand knowledge of day-to-day problems aboard ship as well as the more general issues faced by the unions in their long struggle

A long felt need among militant seamen has been a brief authoritative history of the maritime unions. Lang's book meets this need. He describes how followers of Karl Marx, members of the First International, organized in 1885 on the West Coast the union which was to become the powerful Sailors Union of the Pacific. Following those early days, Lang records Andrew Furuseth's great contributions in ending medieval laws that enslaved seamen and in extending the union brotherhood of the sea.

History of Maritime Labor

From the end of the progressive period of

What Others Say About P. O. Attack On 'Militant'

NEW REPUBLIC

Last week we re-printed the comment of various labor and liberal papers and organizations on the Post Office order revoking The Militant's second-class mailing privileges. All of them with but one exception, protested against the Post Office: the Workers Defense League, the Civil Rights Defense Committee, The Nation, The New Leader, and Labor Action. The exception was the Stalinist Morning Freiheit. This week we print other comment:

In an editorial entitled "The Three Freedoms," the March 15 issue of the New Republic condemns the Post Office attack on The Militant and says:

"To us this virtual suppression of a paper which . .could never be accused of the slightest sympathy for Hitlerism, contains disturbing implications for the future of free speech in this war. If newspapers can be barred from the mails because, among other things, they accuse the United States of collaborating with the fascists. . . then surely we may as well abandon all pretense of enjoying at least one of the Four Freedoms as long as the war lasts."

THE PROGRESSIVE

Sharp criticism of the Post Office order cancelling the second-class mail rights of The Militant was voiced in an editorial column of the March 22 issue of The Progressive, the La Follette weekly published in Madison, Wis.

"... the Post Office Department's order strikes us as a shady and dangerous interference with freedom of expression in the midst of a war ostensibly being fought for, among other goals, the right of all people 'everywhere in the world' to write and speak freely without fear of government reprisal," said the article

Noting that the order was put over "with the connivance of Attorney General Francis Biddle," the article discusses some of the "crimes" with which The Militant was charged, and says:

" "'Charges of fascist collaboration' have been spread all over the pages of publications which are otherwise strongly pro-Roosevelt. If by 'stimulation of race issues' the Attorney General means published attacks on the glaring discrimination against Negroes, he will have to bear down on nearly all of the liberal and radical press of America. . .

"Certainly the action of the Post Office and Justice Departments makes a mockery of the government's claim that it will tamper with free speech only where there is a 'clear and present danger' to the conduct of the war."

WEEKLY PEOPLE

"On February 25, the same Attorney General who advised action against The Militant told the annual Judicial Circuit Conference that the fear widely held that civil liberties would be encroached upon had 'almost disappeared.' If this fear had 'almost disappeared,' the decision of the Postmaster General (in the case of The Militant) should serve to revive the fear," says an editorial in the March 20 issue of Weekly People, organ of the Socialist Labor Party.



voting to repeal the limit on miners in the March 13 issue of salaries over \$25,000 a year, I miner's bi-weekly payroll stateour paper is completely inthink it is about time for the ment. unions to get together to put an end to this "Little Steel" formula the various taxes, insurance and that prevents us from getting any wage increases. .

ment.

9. Defend the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

Churchill's Speech

Winston Churchill began his radio speech on the post-war world last Sunday by deriding those who make promises which cannot be kept. He then went on to promise that he would make no such promises because he did not know what the situation would be when the time came for fulfilling them, because he might not even be in office then.

It must be remembered that Churchill has always been most reluctant to discuss war aims and the post-war world. If he does so now, it is because the masses of Great Britain are becoming increasingly determined not to return to the world of depression and hungen in which they lived before the war. Churchill must speak on the question now because the masses are embittered and aroused by his government's refusal to take practical steps on even the Beveridge social-security plan.

Churchill more or less kept his word. Instead of promises, he offered the masses hopes. The hope that they will have social security and be able to avoid a catastrophic depression — even though the capitalist system responsible for insecurity and depression will be maintained, if Churchill has anything to say about it. The hope that they will have lasting peace and be able to enjoy the benefits of international cooperation - without the removal of the cause of war and nationalism, the capitalist system which breeds economic and political rivalries. The hope that the educational system will be improved, that children will have milk, that mothers will have more babies, that farmers will produce more crops, that equal opportunity will be extended to all - all these and many more Churchill lavishly offered the British people last Sunday.

Perhaps Churchill acted wisely in not making any promises. Some of the capitalist papers in this country think perhaps he sensed that the masses are getting sick and tired of promises and he hoped to regain his political influence among them by presenting himself as a realistic and honest man when compared with the liberal fakers. In addition, many British workers have not forgotten that Churchill promised independence to India when the British Empire in the Far East was in

The controversy over the foreman illustrates also that labor can become the leader of the whole people if only it has the program and the courage. to lead.

Pioneer's New Book

Pioncer Publishers, dedicated to the publication of Marxist works to arm the fighters for socialism, has done it again — for the third time in three months.

First, around the beginning of the year, it published the 240 page book by Leon Trotsky, "In Defense of Marxism," which has already secured for itself a lasting place in the list of Marxist classics.

Second, Pioneer issued the popular 32-page pamphlet by C. Charles, "Your Standard of Living," which analyses the problems of rising prices, frozen wages, black markets, food shortages, etc., and points the way toward their solution by working class action.

And now comes another book, "Maritime," a history of the industry and a program for seafaring workers, the first detailed Marxist study of the structure and problems of the martime industry and the relation of the government to the shipowners and the maritime workers. (See review elsewhere on this page.) By the publication of this 182-page book, selling at the low price of \$1, Pioneer has rendered a genuine service not only to the militant seamen but to the entire American working class.

Pioneer Publishers, we are informed, has plans to bring out many other works of a theoretical nature, to serve the practical and theoretical needs of the class-conscious workers. The way to further Pioneer's publishing plans is by giving its latest works the distribution they deserve.

against predatory shipowning interests.

Lang's malysis is thoroughgoing. Basing himself on the Marxist theory of economics and politics he bares the fundamental relation of the maritime industry to American economy. This industry, he shows, occupies a vitally strategic position. In the titanic struggle of contending imperialisms for domination of the world, which characterizes our epoch, ships link the home base with the advance forces, whether they be the house flags of shipping companies in the periods when hostilities are suspended and rivalries limited to the economic sphere, or the national flag when armed conflict is resumed.

Because of this vitally strategic character of the maritime industry — especially in utilizing sea lanes to bind together a world empire -each of the major powers attempts to maintain a merchant fleet under its own control. The fact that the combined merchant fleets of the world exceed the amount required to handle world trade makes it necessary to subsidize the private shipping companies, that is, guarantee them profits out of the public treasury.

Graft and Government Policy

Lang's revelations of shipping company piracy in the way of subsidies, graft and profits should enliven many a dull hour in the forecastles of the American merchant marine. Lang has searched diligently through obscure documents and well-buried public records to assemble irrefutable facts describing how the strings of the public purse were turned over to the shipowners. American seamen, struggling to maintain their bonus rates and union contracts under war conditions and now confronted with paying an unprecedented income tax in the face of skyrocketing living costs, will undoubtedly appreciate this section of the book revealing the hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars poured into the pockets of shipowners by generous government officials.

Of great service to seamen concerned with spreading unionism is Lang's analysis of the government's attitude toward the shipowners on the one hand and the men who work the ships on the other. Lang outlines the history of government paternalism toward the shipowners, showing how the government of Big Business always displays the greatest solicitude for the interests of the shipowners no matter how badly they mismanage the industry or how greedily they rake in profits. In contrast to this touching concern for the wealthy shipowners, Lang shows that in its relations with underpaid seamen the government of Big Business in every crucial instance cracks down brutally. Union men desirous of acquainting new comers to the industry with the history of government strike-breaking following World War I will find the facts handled graphically and compactly in this book.

Furuseth's International Seaman's Union. Lang outlines the contributions of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), showing how their militancy and spirit of self-sacrifice became a part of the tradition of maritime unionism, but how in turn after Furuseth the IWW proved incapable of meeting the political problems which world war, world wide depression and fascism have placed before modern unionism.

The role of Stalinism in the maritime field likewise receives careful attention. Lang offers an abundance of facts and quotations from the well-known representatives of Stalinist views in maritime labor to prove his thesis that since the days of Lenin and Trotsky the Communist Party has degenerated into a mere instrument of Stalin's foreign policy which in the maritime field as elsewhere subordinates the general interests of the working class to the temporary needs and requirements of the Moscow bureaucracy.

With the resurgence of the maritime unions in the 1934 and 1936-37 strikes and the organization of the east coast in the National Maritime Union and Seafarers International Union, maritime labor gained the strongest positions in its history. But it likewise faces an unparalleled anti-union drive with the administration riding hard in the saddle for the shipowners. One of the most worthwhile parts of Lang's book is its closing chapter suggesting a feasible solution, a program of action that can bring the unions out of the present impasse.

A Program for Seamen

This program of action - the program proposed by the Socialist Workers Party - should prove of interest to American labor in other fields besides maritime. It proposes specific measures such as setting up workers' control over the present irresponsible managers of the shipping industry through committees of workers elected to check the books of the companies, to determine whether their rate of profit is exorbitant or not, to expose their business secrets and shady deals - in brief to establish a responsible control over a vital public utility.

The aim of workers' control is the establishment of an efficient workers' management of the industry and the outright expropriation of the parasitic shipowners.

To achieve this end, however, the program calls for independent political action, an end to company unionism in politics which leaves Big Business free to shape the government and government policies to suit their private interests.

Maritime, a Historical Sketch and a Workers Program, we feel confident, will prove popular not only among workers on the deep sea and inland waters, but in landlocked industries as well.



Last week a battalion of military police at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, put on an "anti-riot" demonstration. According to the St. Paul Dispatch of March 17, it was "one of the few public displays of tactics of the highly-trained military police of the United States Army of World War II."

The public demonstration got a lot of advance publicity in the press; Army observers came to Snelling from all parts of the country. The scene of the demonstration was a mythical "Bear Cat Ammunition Co." The military police who played the role of the "rioters" carried "agitator signs" and banners reading "Strike" and "More Pay, Less Hours," and "yelled like an infuriated mob."

They were "charged" by another group of military police, in a wedge-shaped formation, bayonets outthrust, followed by an armored car and more soldiers. Needless to say, the "rioters" were subdued, and the demonstration was declared to be a success.

A delegation of union leaders from the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly called on the Army officer in charge to protest. They said nothing about the obvious fact: that the demonstration proved the soldiers were being trained for anti-labor purposes. Instead, they complained that the public would get the "wrong impression" that war workers were striking. They declared that Japanese prisoners, and not war workers, should have been used as the "rioters." This is known as swallowing the camel and straining at a gnat.

