Let the People Vote on War!

At the Moment War Breaks, Every Person Will Be Forced Under the War Machine's Totalitarian Heel

By JAMES BURNHAM

Totalitarian War

IN PAST civilizations, war was usually the business of a restricted class or caste of the population. The great majority not only took no part in the fighting, but, in point of fact, their lives were very little affected, even indirectly, by the conduct and outcome of wars and battles.

In feudal times, for example, most of the people were serfs and vileins, who lived attached to the land where they were born. They gained their sustenance from locally self-sufficient agriculture and simple handicrafts, with scarcely any trade or commerce. They were required to turn over a certain percentage of their crops to their feudal lord, and usually also to work for a certain number of days each year on jobs assigned to them by their lord or his bailiffs. They were not, however, subject to any kind of military service.

With the exception of one or two of the Crusades, wars were fought exclusively by members of the feudal nobility itself, assisted by their personal servants who acted, however, in non-military capacities. Fighting was considered, you might say, to be a "privilege" and prerogative of the nobility. In these feudal wars, not many persons, even of the nobility, were killed. Most weapons were crude, suited not for mass slaughter but for individual, hand-to-hand combat; and fairly adequate protective devices, such as armor and shields, were worn.

The results of these wars, moreover, did not greatly affect the conditions of life of the great majority. Sometimes a chivalric army would commandeer all the crops of a given district, or even lay it waste by fire and pillage. But, since the armies were small and slow-moving, the roads few and poor and scattered, this did not happen often in any particular place. And the question of who won the war was of hardly any concern to the average serf. His duties and obligations were the same whether Baron X or Count Y was his lord.

Even in the first centuries of modern times, the situation did not greatly change. In fifteenth century Italy, for instance, where the first stage of modern civilization reached its height, the powerful cities usually conducted wars by hiring mercenary armies. Most of the citizenry kept busy at its industrial and commercial tasks, and the major inconvenience of war was only an added drain on the treasury.

Everybody Involved Now

Today, everything is changed. The world-wide division of labor, the development of a world economy, rapid transportation and communication, more or less universal education, have transformed war from the sport of nobles or the profession of mercenaries into a mass enterprise involving every single member of the population. Directly or indirectly, everyone is part of the war machine.

In the first place, in our day, vast numbers of the population are directly concerned in the fighting of a war. The war armies are not restricted groups of professionals but mass armies made up of millions of individuals. Most of these millions are drafted or conscripted from the broad ranks of workers and peasants and farmers. In the battles of modern wars, great masses of people are killed or wounded. In the war of 1914-18 at least thirteen million were killed, and about thirty million more were wounded.

But with the growth of new methods of fighting, such as airplane bombing and gas attacks, many persons who are not soldiers are killed and wounded in modern battles. A bomb or a gas shell does its work as quickly on old women or children as on men with uniforms.

In modern war, moreover, death and wounds and disease are not confined to the battlefields. Scarcity of food, disruption of medical service, dislocation of hygienic and sanitary measures, all extend the casualty lists traceable to the war by untold millions.

These factors, however, all of them directly bound up with war in its fighting aspect, by no means complete the picture. The war of 1914-18 taught us that in modern war, the entire population and all activities must be assembled into the war machine. The army is no longer just the soldiers in uniform; everyone belongs to the army. Every factory, mine and mill and farm go on a war basis. Education and movies and religion and art are harnessed to war propaganda. All organizations, such as political parties and unions and clubs and fraternal societies, either line up for the war or are illegalized. No "individual freedom" is tolerated. Everyone must think and talk and act for the war, or be subject to the most severe penalties.

Includes All Humanity

In short, war has become, in our day, totalitarian. War is no longer a matter for some sections of the population, and some types of activities. War dominates and controls the total life and activities of the totality of the population. The governments and general staffs of every nation recognize this to be the case. That is why the war plans of all governments include the organization of the whole country and the entire population along totalitarian lines. In the case of the United States, as elsewhere, these plans are fully prepared. Many of them are included in the famous document known as the "Industrial Mobilization Plan," the provisions of which are scheduled to go into effect on "M"-Day—the day that war begins.

The problem of modern war is, thus, a problem for every human being. With the destiny of each one of us at stake, it would seem wise and proper for us to try to decide reselves what to do, and not to turn ourselves blindly

over to the hands of others. (Continued in next issue: "The History of the Ludlow War Referendum'

Socialist Appeal

Official Organ of the Socialist Workers Party, Section of the Fourth International —Issued Twice Weekly

VOL. III, No. 50

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1939



3c a Copy

BUILD WORKERS'

DEFENSE GUARDS

Workers! One Hundred Percent Support to the WPA Strikers!



Coughlin Delivers Fascist Blast Against Workers Defense Guards

Hits Proposal Made By Milton to Local 66 of I.L.G.W.U.

By JOSEPH HANSEN

In a violent one-hour tirade last Sunday over his nationwide radio hook-up. Father Coughlin attacked the formaunion of anti-fascist guards, as if he feared that any minute they might mop up the fascist gangs he is organizing.

Father Coughlin's attack was specifically directed against Harry Milton's proposal to Local 66 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union tnat they organize Anti-Fascist Union Guards. Coughlin's attack on Milton should dispel the last doubt which might linger in anyone's mind that planning to introduce fascism Stalinists. in America

This attack proves once and for all that Father Coughlin

66 of the I.L.G.W.U. by one of ists, and other militants. Only

Union Guard Resolution The resolution urges the I.L. in order to defend itself from lin, Milton stated: fascist groups and preserve the democratic rights and civil lib-

erties of labor. The resolution is now under consideration by the International Executive Board of the .L.G.W.U.

Father Coughlin slandered Harry Milton throughout his entire period on the air, asserting that **Milton** "marched against the people of Spain" He's Got the Idea!



HARRY MILTON

Father Coughlin is deliberately under the domination of the

Milton's Actual Record Harry Milton served with the Independent Labour Party conrealizes perfectly that anti-fas- tingent of the 29th Division of cist union guards are the ONE the Loyalist Army, heroically FORCE which can stop him defending on the battlefields the Spanish workers against Father Coughlin began his the attack of General Franco's bitter and slanderous attack fascist legions. Milton was aragainst the formation of anti-Trested by the G.P.U.-Stalinist fascist union guards by reading secret service—and imprisoned over the air a resolution which with hundreds of his fellow had been introduced in Local militiamen, anarchists, socialits prominent members, Harry by the narrowest of margins did he escape death at the

hands of Stalin's G.P.U. In introducing the resolution G.W.U. immediately to organ- in Local 66 of the I.L.G.W.U. ize an anti-fascist union guard which was attacked by Cough-

> "We must not wait until our own union is broken into and smashed by fascist gangs, as they will attempt tomorrow or the day after, but to stop the fascists now, wherever they attempt to deprive any worker or workers' organization of its constitutional rights.

"The Coughlin gangsters have already broken into a fear!

Radio Speech Proves Stop Coughlinites

workers' headquarters - the Debs School-and have succeeded in breaking up numerous meetings of labor organizations in the city. Last week they tried to break up an American Labor Party meeting where Michael Quill, president of the Transport Union, was the fortunately the transport workers were prepared.'

A few weeks ago beside the against labor, the Coughlinites knifed a school teacher on 14th Street in New York City and attempted to break into the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, knifing an antifascist who was on guard.

Father Coughlin fears the formation of anti-fascist labor guards more than any other single force which might atto thug his way to fascist power in America.

"Only one thing could have broken our movement—if the adversary had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed, with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our new movement." (Hitler)

"If the enemy had known how weak we were, it would probably have reduced us to It would have jelly. crushed in blood the very beginning of our work." (Goeb-

Coughlin understands that union guards will prevent him fere with work on the projects from introducing fascism

That is why he opposes the

The Fight of the Building Trades Workers Is the Fight of American Labor

President Roosevelt--Strikebreaker

Colonel F. C. Harrington, national administrator of W.P.A., sent the following telegram of instructions to all W.P.A. State Administrators:

Those who do not desire to accept employment under these conditions and who absent themselves from work for five consecutive days or longer, shall have their employment terminated.'

Colonel Somervell, New York W.P.A. Administrator, has declared that "next Tuesday" (July 11) is "the date for discharge of those who stay off the job."

Colonel Harrington is an appointee of President Roosevelt.

Colonel Somervell is an appointee of President Roosevelt.

The Roosevelt Government-STRIKE-BREAKER!

NEW YORK

MINNEAPOLIS

Local 544 WPA Section

Movement Backs Action

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)
MINNEAPOLIS, July 8—The Minneapolis

Building Trades Council will open strike head-

quarters Monday morning at the Central La-

to follow the same procedure as the Minneapo-

lis Council and endorse the strike. A Protest Action Committee, constituted by the St. Paul

Workers Benefit Association, the W.P.A. and

unemployed organization, and the trade un-

ions, has been established to direct the strike

The C.I.O. in Minneapolis has officially en-

The Minnesota Workers Alliance this afternoon issued a call for a statewide W.P.A.

strike, only to take all the guts out of the

strike call by lamely suggesting that "workers

could meet on projects every morning, discuss next steps and leave after an hour or two.'

to close up city W.P.A. headquarters if an at-

In Duluth, W.P.A. strikers have threatened

(Continued on Page 3)

The St. Paul Building Trades Council plans

Joins Strike as Labor

bor Union hall.

dorsed the strike.

Launch Drive to Get **Backing of Unskilled** Workers for Strike

NEW YORK CITY, July 10-Intensified drives to organize the largely unorganized unskilled W.P.A. workers in support of the strike movement called by the A.F.L. building trades were launched early Monday morning, notably by the Jamaica and Astoria divisions of the Unemployed and Project Workers Union of

In a leaflet issued in the tens of thousands to the workers on W.P.A. projects, the locals called upon the unskilled workers to organize

The leaflet makes clear the role of the Roosevelt administration. "The \$10,000-a-year stooges of the bosses in Congress have joined

with \$100,000-a-year President Roosevelt to Guards Are Way to destroy the living conditions of the W.P.A. workers, to slash their wages and lengthen their hours

> "The entire labor movement of the United States," the leaflet continues, "is keenly aware that this is nothing but the first step to grind ALL WAGES below SLAVE levels and to throw every W.P.A. worker out into the streets.'

Calling upon the unskilled workers to join the picket lines of the skilled workers already out, the leaflet concludes by saying: "Your wages, your hours, your livelihood, the very existence of W.P.A. depend upon the successful outcome of this fight. The army colonels are threatening the strikers with arrests. But American labor will not allow W.P.A. to be turned into a concentration camp.

Flying squadrons of speakers have been above - mentioned attacks dispatched to the projects to win workers to the strikers' side. Large numbers of militants are participating in the mass distribution of

AKRON

Unskilled Workers Plan Joint Action With tempt to stop him in his plans Construction Strikers

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) AKRON, O., July 10-Fighting desperately to defend its organization and wage scales, the

A.F.L. building trades unions in three counties

surrounding Akron struck the W.P.A. today. Announcing that they intend to strike until 'Congress passes some emergency legislation to correct the situation," the A.F.L. Tri-County Building and Construction Trades Council, centering in Akron, tied up work on all major W.P.A. projects today.

Major Projects Affected Although only 300 skilled craftsmen are immediately affected by the call, their strike will close the major construction projects. The building trades unions ignored threats of mass firings and of criminal prosecution, with which the formation of anti-fascist the new W.P.A. law threatens all who inter-

Meanwhile, the Communist Party-controlled Workers Alliance worked feverishly to head off any genuine protest from the thousands of unformation of anti-fascist union skilled project workers. Under complete Stalguards with such a deadly inist control, the Alliance openly ordered 800 (Continued on Page 3)

ST. LOUIS

Thousands in Strike Protest Against Gov't Starvation Bill

tempt is made to operate projects.

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ST. LOUIS, July 7-Nearly 10,000 W.P.A. workers are now on strike in seven southern Illinois counties, and the A.F.L. Building Trades of St. Louis voted today to call its 500 skilled workers off the W.P.A. projects in St. Louis and St. Louis County beginning Monday morning. The strike movement has reached a peak. Workers on W.P.A. projects throughout this region are eager to fight the reactionary Roosevelt-Woodrum Starvation Law, and are proving it by pouring out on the picket lines. The chief demand of the strikers, so far, is the rescinding of the 130 work week under the new relief law.

The action of the St. Louis Building Trades Council came after the inspiring news that 650 W.P.A. workers had walked out on strike (Continued on Page 3)

ROCHESTER

Strike Action Spreads Fast as Men Down Tools Spontaneously

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

ROCHESTER, N. Y., July 9-When the orders increasing W.P.A. hours to 130 appeared on the projects last Wednesday, spontaneously the workers downed tools and walked out on strike. Before the end of the day, about 2,000 workers were on strike and by Friday the number had increased to 3,000. Flying squadrons, in the majority of cases organized on the spot, made lightning trips to projects in the area, while the A.F.L. Building Trades pulled its members out on strike.

Administrator Fires "Agitators" In spite of these threats, which on Friday were added to by the threat of arrest and no relief, (Continued on Page 3)

New Deal Officials' Threats Fail to Slow Up National W.P.A. Strike

In the Labor Unions

By B. J. WIDICK

Victory for organized labor in this W.P.A. battle can mark the beginning of a real offensive against the wave of reaction that gathered strength in the past two years.

This fight should serve as an inspiration for the unemployed sharp condemnations and reand project workers through- doubled strike efforts. out the country. Unless the Workers Alliance, and this is head on collision by the threat president of the building trades doubtful, can completely divert of President Roosevelt's apthe energy of the workers.

Strong attention to the need of organizing all W.P.A. and ton, that any striker absent unemployed workers has been brought on by this strike.

Life or Death

To the A.F.L. unions involved this battle is virtually a life Brehon Somervell, Thomas and death struggle. Unless Murray, president of the New union scales are maintained on York building trades council, W.P.A. projects, the door told him off Monday afternoon: would be opened for a nationthe building trade union con-

Considerable dissatisfaction already exists among the building trades rank and file unionists. The C.I.O. has been exploring the possibility of entering that field.

dicate that top A.F.L. leaders had steadfastly upheld for five are already looking around for the scapegoat in the situation. Mathew Woll, prominent in legislative lobbying, it has been hinted, was responsible for the fact that the A.F.L. didn't put up a fight against the Woodrum

The A.F.L. simply can not afford to lose this strike, and the top leaders apparently know ti.

The whole problem of the unemployed and project workers has received a nation-wide spotlight because of the curlast pages of the newspapers.

Victory in this battle brings the possibility of further struggles and victories for the unemployed and project workers. Just as the first C.I.O. strike victories became a national trend, an A.F.L. victory now should serve as a powerful sumulant for all labor.

Up to Unions

The value of organized labor taking up the problem of organizing the unemployed and the W.P.A. workers has been clearly demonstrated by the present situation

Congress" of the Workers Alli- day. ance and all its phoney ballyhoo, to the militant action of the A.F.L. building trades trusting our friend Roosevelt." It weakened the will to struggle of the workers.

The A.F.L. building trades not only have showed themselves as more militant than the Alliance but more capable of putting up a fight for its

And when one reads the Northwest Organizer, organ of the Minneapolis teamsters movement, on the real fight and victories of the unemployed section of the truck drivers union, one sees again the tremendous value and vital necessity of organized labor directly handling the problems of the unemployed and project

FASCISTS THREATEN

threatened to "finish Jew kikes Beach.

and Negers" vilifying

at Your Newsstand sick, we would damn well like only trouble is that no union out and join us"

'WE ARE NOT INTIMIDATED IN THE LEAST' SAY UNION LEADERS

A.F.L. unions and the governing skilled men from other jobs ment over W.P.A. wage rates to report to work on projects grows more grim each day as closed down by the strikers. government officials make "Work will go on, regardless of threats to carry out punitive what the unions say," said actions against the strikers, Somervell. But the men so or-

BULLETIN A.F.L. National Council has called a conference for July 12 of all heads of its international unions on

the W.P.A. strike. and union leaders answer with

Above all, the stage is set for

pointee, national W.P.A. administrator Col. F. C. Harringfrom work five days would be W.P.A. rolls.

Answering a similar threat by the N. Y. administrator, Col.

"We are not intimidated in wide employers' drive against the least by the threat of Colonel Somervell that men who do not return to work tomorrow

> "Our work-stoppage protest against the vicious new W.P.A. law will continue tomorrow and thereafter until the prevailing rate principle, which Congress

> "Utterly contemptible", was the characterization applied by George Meany, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, to New York City Welfare Commissioner William Hodson's threat to refuse home relief to all strikers, and Presi-

Social Welfare. In Rochester, N. Roosevelt - appointed W.P.A. by it." will it be easy to hide it on the director, Robert Hoffman, fired permanently 68 W.P.A. work-lose your jobs", threatened S. P. While thousands of ers-McDowell, Leith, Waldron the Twin Cities and other In Toledo, O., O. P. Van increase in hours, the S.P. lead- would they personally be opplaces to "protect" the proj- Schoik, Chief Relief Examiner, ers of the Workers Security posed to the federation being a

> In New York, Monday after-Col. Somervell, moved to direct return to work.

The strike clash between the strikebreaking attempts, orderdered in almost all cases refused to check in on the job when they found it had been

> charges all persons who inter- lest those going out on strike fere with work on W.P.A.

He got the answer he deserved from Thomas Murray, council:

"The demand of Col. Somerment in prison of these men is at once a long step away permanently removed from from our cherished American broad jump in the direction of a dictatorship of the Nazi-fas-

> er made on American workers the entire history of our country. The workers will not be intimidated one iota by his monstrous and utterly contemptible threat."

> When Somervell pulled the who wanted to go back to work but wanted protection on the job-the "back to work" formula which has come to be known as the "Mohawk valley formula" because of its use there in breaking a strike by the Remington-Rand company, President Murray said:

"It appears that Col. Somervell is trying to employ the dent Meany applied the same noisesome Mohawk Valley forextraordinarily sharp term to a mula. . . The people of New like threat by David C. Adie, York are thoroughly familiar N. Y. State Commissioner of with the despicable tricks of this strikebreaking formula ington a few weeks ago by the curity Federation is right in the and won't be deceived one iota

ers as "agitators." Police were John C. Clarke, Supervisor of W.P.A. skilled workers are on and Rourke made it clear and called in by W.P.A. directors in W.P.A. in Upstate New York. strike against wage cuts and unmistakable that not only told 14,000 striking W.P.A. Federation provide the capital- militant unemployed organizaworkers that they will be inelist press with a statement that tion, but they would be against igible for relief while on strike, they are instructing members the admission of individuals noon the W.P.A. administrator, and gave them until Tuesday to of the organization to return to with political beliefs that would

Strike Sidelights

By STAN LAUREN At the Strike Front, North do it."

Contrast the "Right to Work Beach Airport, Queens, Mon-

The North Beach Airport W.P.A. construction project, unions. The Workers Alliance the biggest project of them all, served simply to fool the unem- is completely tied up. Picket ployed and project workers in- lines are maintained at all know of about twelve men who Its \$54 a month for work that's scheduled for the White House. ally employs 23,000 men.

> morning by the Building and our lives and take pay cuts trying to take care of his fam-Construction Trades Council on without a whimper. Like hell ily on that lousy salary." stration of workers' solidarity got his foot caught as he tried his race en W.P.A. "We Negro night with the White House union involved in the strike was present. Speakers from every union pledged to continue the fight until victory is assured. Thousands attended.

Hundreds of men, coming to report for work, saw the picket line, put their tools aside, and joined the line.

A worker, Herman F., told of airport workers. He lives in the and it's no bowl of cherries. Bronx, and works on one of the When it rains, we have to spend electrical construction projects at the airport. Herman F.'s port and then get told there is

message | before the cut, when we were | for a second. The story that we | throughout the city is the in- | should refuse to carry out the | monthly organ of the French scrawled in a semi-literate making \$85 a month for 120 W.P.A. workers sleep on our ability, not only to get all the instructions of the leaders of Fourth Internationalist Youth. hand, asserted "We American hours' work. Now its the same shovels is just a lot of hot air." then we will get rid of you Neg- uptown in the Bronx. To travel ers and we will have all White here to work every day costs men were sorry to see the la-Nazis and will keep you for me thirty cents a day, plus borers unorganized. "Somehorses, till we kill you all by three and a half hours wasted thing should be done about it" by traveling. That's about \$6 was the unanimous sentiment Appeal reporters. "You can't solidarity in action with the charges. This letter is another indica- alone for carfare. Rent costs of the strikers. Even without a trust these fellows on the big tion that the fascists will at- me \$35 a month and my family union, hundreds of laborers papers to tell the truth. They tempt to whip up a tremendous | don't live like kings. Before I | walked off the projects. race hatred campaign in this get done spending money for country against the Negro and food for my wife and child there is nothing left. If any one tion too. Every laborer that I and we know it, about how

to hear about it. We just can't

hazards the men go through daily when they work for this starvation wage. "The men are has asked us to join them." one always in danger", he said. "I of the laborers explained. "We since last September and I cream on the laboring projects. the demonstration which was time. Nobody knows how many union organizer came around ect where 23,000 of us are con- tect us." stantly facing danger."

our time getting out here to reeveyrthing we've got and don't striking

American Fund Answers Somervell MONDAY MORNING TEST FINDS Threat By Offering Free Legal Aid to Arrested W.P.A. Strikers

On Friday, Col. Somervell 33rd St., New York City, yes- cause the work is not farmed must not starve. had attempted to frighten the terday attacked the threats of out but handled by a subsidiary strikers by announcing that he Colonel Somervell, W.P.A. Ad- of the government does not that 'persons who voluntarily little union estimates of those would prosecute on felony ministrator, that he would ar- make the least difference."

on W.P.A. projects. Relief Bill cited by Colonel teed to workers under the Wag-Somervell says absolutely noth- ner Act. ng about strikes," stated the American Fund in a legal opinion. "The right to strike is one democracy and a running W.P.A. have this right as well is nothing in the Federal Relief Bill or any other act of Con-"It is the most unspeakably gress which takes away this to threaten the workers with lar nature are well-known.

By E. R. McKINNEY

The Workers Security Feder-

ation is the organization of the

J. Clark Waldron, S. P. na-

members were only being "ad-

not giving up the fight but that

make us out to be a pack of re-

llef-fakers. They're not on our

LEADERS SCAB ON WPA STRIKE

Members to Return to Work

With an offer of free legal way deprives the workers of upon the City of New York its Monday morning test, 68, ers. Somervell claimed the defense to all W.P.A. workers the right to strike," maintains which does not allegedly have who are arrested for striking or the American Fund. Where the the necessary funds. That is a recorded off the job. picketing or other issues con-government places orders with question which must be settled nected with the strike, the private industry the right of between the city and the gov-American Fund for Political workers to strike has never ernment officials or the city trades workers reporting for Prisoners and Refugees, 125 W. been questioned. Merely be and the bankers. The needy picket duty.

Law Requires Relief as all other workers and there contention has no basis in law are entitled. or precedent.

shameful and vicious attack ev- right. It is therefore utterly relief from that state while out striking or picketing or for in- day) at 10 o'clock, we will have know how to defend the prevailmonstrous for a federal official on strike. Many cases of simi-ducing others to strike and several automobiles available wage, on W.P.A. and private

"Mr. Hodson and Mayor La-"That the government oper- Guardia object to paying relief American Fund is LOngacre 5ates the W.P.A. projects in no because it imposes a burden 8891.

refuse to work' should not be striking, his bluff was called Intimately tied up with the given relief. It is amazing that by Thomas Murray, president right to strike is the right to workers who are striking to de- of the building trades council, "Section 28 of the Federal picket. This right is guaran- fend a union scale of wages who telegraphed him: which has existed for more than a generation should be accused of 'voluntarily refusing the country. The workers on striking W.P.A. workers are do all in its power to assure in this city, it would seem like not entitled to relief. Such a them of the relief to which they a good idea that you should during the rest of the month,

> "It offers free legal defense "Striking mine workers in to any and all W.P.A. workers little less laughable. Pennsylvania recently received who are arrested either for

> > The telephone number of the

old trick of saying he had lots of letters from "loyal workers" WORKERS SECURITY FEDERATION Popovich Raps Strike-Breaking Of Federation Newly Formed S.P. Organization "Advises"

NEW YORK, July 11.-Condemnation of the strike-break ing statement issued by J Clark Waldron, publicity chair-Federation was voiced today by Otto Popovich. President of the Unemployed and Relief Workers' Union, Jamaica Division, an affiliate of the Work ers Security Federation. Mr. Waldron had advised members of the Workers Se-

Building Trades strike called was fired this week by the to restore the prevailing rate of Rochester local of the Socialist 'Waldron's advice.'' in a militant direction. This ly, "does not reflect our senti- pamphlet "Father Coughlintional publicity chairman of the was the real meaning of the ments. W.P.A. workers in Ja- Fascist Demagogue.

strike 100 percent and will convised" to return to work and membership who held certain tinue to do so despite the press 'we are leaving final decision political beliefs, including the releases of publicity chairman

"Who gave Waldron permission to issue such strike-breaking statements? Certainly not This attitude on the part of the Jamaica Division. We condemn and absolutely repudiate this stooge of the breadline Congress and President Roose-

On July 14, Bastille Day, was bleeding for we hours. He le given the lowest paid and federation members are told to members of the Young People's was dead an hour after he ar- dirtiest jobs on the projects. return to work, to scab on their Socialist League (4th Internarived at the hospital. We have- We would join up and walk out fellow-workers who are fighting tional) will participate in a n't even a doctor at the proj- too, if we had a union to pro- the government for the right to picket line before the French eat and against long hours and Consulate, 610 Fifth Avenue reduction in pay. Waldron says (near 49th St.) at 1 P.M. This A Stalinist from the Workers that the leadership of the fed-demonstration has been called Still another worker told of Alliance, when told that the eration has not ceased to pro- in protest against the represthe conditions on the job. "A lot present strike at the airport is test. That is, Waldron will con-sive measures taken by the of people say that W.P.A. is a a strike against the govern-tinue to give out press releases, Daladier government against racket. Far from it. We sweat ment-something the workers Rourke will interview congress- the French Fourth Internationthe plight of the North Beach like hell while we're working Alliance said it would NEVER men and Leith will sit in his alists, including the Youth, and co-lamely replied that it office in Baltimore. But the other working-class militants, wasn't a strike against the gov- rank and file who have proven for their anti-war and anti-im-

Internationalist youth who have A universal complaint of both | The membership of the been jailed in Paris is Suzanne and non-striking Workers Security Federation Charpy, administrator of 'Rev-"We found it damn difficult think they permit us to let up W.P.A. workers on projects have a job to do. First they olution," until recently the facts about the spreading strike the federation. Support the She was sentenced to 10 months from the capitalist press. but strike by remaining away from in prison for asking the French All the building trade's crafts- even to trust the facts that do work; participate in the picket workers not to support the comlines, bombard the Security ing imperialist war. Comrades "We don't what's really Federation leadership with pro- Morel and Boheys were arrestgoing on", workers complain to tests, repudiate them. Maintain ed and jailed on similar

> "Subsequently, comrade Steve was arrested on the charge of putting up a sticker which said 'This is not our war.' Comrades Schmidt and Regal were also arrested for anti-militarist

The French Government has also imprisoned the leaders of the Constitutional Party of Tu-

NEW YORK STRIKE LINES SOLID

By TONY CHAPMAN ' 000 out of 75,000 workers being work was moving along.

Picketing began this morn-

When Col. Somervell, W.P.A. "Mr. Hodson further states local administrator, tried to be-

Calling His Bluff

take a look-see so that it will be possible for you to appear a

to take newspapermen on a industry, and don't need Somtour of the projects. I shall be ervell or the government's help. very happy to have you come And what help! By destroying along on this trip. I think you the prevailing wage on W.P.A., will find it illuminating.

tion and come along to learn private industry. Unionists the facts at first-hand or are greeted Somervell's alibi with you determined to continue to a horse-laugh. play the ostrich?"

vitation, and continued to deny all his life but play soldier-boy Union Proved Right

press, checking Somervell's chiselers. The workers haev anclaims with eye-witness ac- swered the colonel with the oncounts of their own reporters, ly action he could ever underhad to lean toward the unions. stand: STRIKE.

NEW YORK, July 10-The North Beach airport project. W P.A. strike gained ground in usually employing 23,000 work-

"It will take twenty years to finish the airport at the rate ing, with thousands of building they are going today", declared Thomas Murray for he unions and the press reports had to concede his point.

Adding to national W.P.A. administrator Col. F. C. Harrington's arguments for the 130hour work-month, Col. Somervell today went further than his chief. Harrington had argued primarily on the pretext of efficiency: Somervell, answering "The figures which you are reporters' questions, went on to "It has been contended by to work". The American Fund giving out reveal that you eith- indict skilled workers as "chis-Colonel F. C. Harrington, for Political Prisoners and Ref- er do not have the facts in your efers". "The short hour system vell for the arrest and confine- of the democratic rights gained W.P.A. Administrator, and lo- ugees supports the strikers in possession or else you are de- permitted workingmen to work by the workers which has been cal Relief Commissioner Hod- their attempt to defend the liberately concealing the truth. on W.P.A. and then go out and recognized by all the courts of son and Mayor LaGuardia that union scale of wages and will As the administrator of W.P.A. chisel on their fellow workers at less than prevailing wages said Somervell.

This slimy piece of hypocrisy won't get Somervell out from "Tomorrow morning (Tues- under. The unions of this city according to Somervell, he is "Will you accept my invita- helping the prevailing wage in

This professional militarist, Col. Somervell ducked the in- who has had nothing else to do and get three square a day on the government cuff, has the But even the daily capitalist nerve to call decent union men

man of the Workers Security Federation was voiced today Rochester Gears into Nat'l Anti-Coughlin Campain

(Special to the Socialist Appeal) eral weeks Coughlin salesmen ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The have been hawking "Social de-salesmen on the streets selling

Despite the fact that for sev-

nis, as well as other anti-imperialist militants in Algiers and

|Syria.

The demonstration will express the solidarity of the Y.P. S.L. with the anti-war fighters in France who have fallen victim to the reactionary measures of the Daladier government. A committee will approach the consul with the folof Algiers, and of Munir Rayes threatened by arrest. and his comrades in Syria, Stop jailing the anti-imperialist fighters of the colonies. (3) Full right of all organizations ever, did not check the carry-

Important Notice 'AMERICA'S 60 FAMILIES' by Ferdinand Lundberg

now available at \$1.49 A book that reveals who really controls America and how they keep their power. No revolutionary agitator should be without a copy. LABOR BOOKSHOP

116 University Place New York City (Add 3c per book postage)

curity Federation to return to opening gun in its campaign Justice" unhindered in the work in violation of the A.F.L. against the Coughlin fascists busy downtown streets, as soon as the S.W.P. members appeared with the Appeal they wages on all W.P.A. projects. Workers Party, when it put were taken by the cops to the clared Popovich indignant the Socialist Appeal and the couldn't sell papers on Main police station and told they Street. When the S.W.P. salesmen gave the lie to the cops by ites were given freedom of the Main Street, the city's "finest" pleaded ignorance of the fascists' existence.

When the S.W.P. members pressed the cops to the wall by showing them flesh and blood 'Social Justice' salesmen on the corner, the station house boys ducked by saying that the Coughlin crowd had newsboy badges. On inquiry, the S.W.P. members were told by the imlowing demands: (1) Immedi- partila arm of the law that ate release of Rigal, Steve, they could get no permit what-Schmidt, Boheys and Charpy. soever to sell on the main Stop the persecution of the anti-street. The S.W.P. salesmen war fighters of France. (2) were given the same run-Immediate release of the three around when they attempted to leaders of the Constitutional sell the anti-Coughlin pam-Party of Tunis, of Chabane Ali phlet, only this time they were

But Sales Continue This police persecution, how-

of France and its colonies to ing forward of the anti-fascist publicize and fight against the campaign. Socialist Appeals and pamphlets were sold on the streets just off the Main Street and canvassed from house to house with great success. Several large outdoor rallies were held and young workers at the meeting volunteered to sell the anti-Coughlin pam-

Thus far, over 500 pamphlets have been sold in this town by the Rochester branch. The workers of this city are learning from the Trotskyist activity and the rest of the organizations' inactivity who the real anti-fascists are.

THE CONVENTION PHOTOS

By an unfortunate error, the descriptive lines underneath the series of photographs of men and scenes at the National Anti-War Convention of the Socialist Workers Party printed in the last issue, were omitted. Interested readers may compare the photographs with the following:

TOP ROW (from left to right): Howard Stump, Quakertown, Pa.; Robert Birchman, Indianapolis, Ind.; Vincent R. Dunne, Minneapolis, Minn.; Ernest Erber, editor of Challenge of Youth; Ernest R. McKinney, New York City.

BOTTOM ROW (from left to right): Reuben Plaskett, lead er of Newark, N. J. unemployed, speaking at convention mass meeting; James P. Cannon, national secretary, S.W.P., open ing the meeting; Genora Johnson, Flint, Mich., womer's leader, addressing meeting; Max Shachtman, editor, Socialia Appeal, delivering anti-war report.

NEGRO ACTOR acting executive secretary of story is practically the story of no pay that day. If we miss people, we know, never signed render, to scab, to betray their of Youth, twice-a-month organ the Negro Actors Guild of every W.P.A. worker who hree days' work because we the Roosevelt-Woodrum starva- fellow workers on the picket of the League. "Among the 4th America thsi week received a works on one of the six hang- have to . . . well, we're just tion bill! swastika-signed letter which ers under construction at North fired. When we work we give

Nazis will finish the Jew kikes, pay for 130 hours. I live way

Another worker told of the the leadership does not want

The laborers want organiza- side." Strikers add, "They lie, can figure out how we can buy talked to explained his desire many of us are out; and they Buy the Socialist Appeal clothes, or pay for a doctor to be a union man and strike keep trying to scare off the when someone in the family is with the skilled workers. "The non-strikers who want to come

This scabbing action of the

unemployed formed in Wash-leadership of the Workers Se-Socialist Party under the lead- line with their actions when ership of Art McDowell, Na- they set up the organization in "Back to work on Monday or tional Labor Secretary of the Washington. There these leaddrive the federation inevitably clause, inserted in the constitution, excluding workers from

> in the matter to them." Wal- belief in a dictatorship of the Waldron. dron said that the federation is working class. Opposed Demonstration

Waldron, McDowell, Leith and Rourke was further demonhave been out on this project don't live on peaches and strated in their attitude toward to a false sense of security "by times. The airport project usu- have lost their lives in that plenty hard. I know that if a Leith and Rourke were flatly hundreds have been injured. here we all would join. No man against the demonstration, the A mass meeting was held this And we are expected to lose can feel like a human being others giving only luke-warm support. In the face of this opposition, the militants could onwe will. Why, only the other One of the Negro laborers ly get through a vote to hold the airport. A better demonday, one of the Negro workers told how hard it is for men of the demonstration on Sunday could not be found. Every to take a truck out of the mud. laborers would organize in a empty and the streets deserted. He lost his foot, and he was minute. The W.P.A. big shots This policy now bears its taken to the hospital after he think that colored folk have to thoroughly rotten fruit. The ernment because the people is indisputably that they want to perialist activity. the government. Oh, yeah? The fight, have been told to sur- As reported by the Challenge

W.P.A. striking workers.

At Your Service THE APPEAL POSTER SHOP

Join the Socialist Workers Party

In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens _

Marceau Pivert Joins List of Persecuted Anti-Militarists

In addition to our comrades Rigal, Steve and Schmitt, a whole series of other militants in the labor movement, ranging from the anarchists to the Socialist Workers and Peasants Party (P.S.O.P.) are now facing full-barrelled persecution for anti-militarist work in France.

Latest among the attacks against the antimilitarists is the prosecution initiated by the Daladier regime against Marceau Pivert, leader of the P.S.O.P. Pivert has been indicted for "provoking the military to disobedience." The charge is based on a leaflet issued by the party at Cherbourg, calling upon the reservists to act against their arbitrary detention in barracks beyond the twenty-one day period they were called out for. A local leader of the organization, comrade Mariette, had already been charged on the same grounds.

In a statement to the court, comrade Pivert takes full responsibility for the action of the Cherbourg branch of the P.S.O.P. Defending their action, he reaffirms its correctness and denounces the war-mongers in the following

"I declare that the appeal to the reservists seems to us especially justified since, as we have proved in the columns of our paper Juin 36, the big capitalist powers which are the origin of the war threat continue to exchange among themselves the materials necessary for war-minerals, gas masks, airplane motors,

The first hearing of the case was held on June 21. The actual trial is due to be held later this month.

Strikes Against Lower Living Standard Spreading in Indo-China

Numerous important strikes are spreading throughout French Indo-China, linked with mass demonstrations against the new pro-war taxes. Both the strikes and the demonstrations are directed at the declining living

On May 8, more than 3,000 workers went out on strike at Haiphong with the following demands: 1. Increase of 30 per cent in wages; 2. Regular payment; 3. Sick benefits; 4. Recognition of shop delegates; 5. Suppression of unjust fines. The strike started with the weavers of the "Cotonniere" factory, and soon spread to the whole taytile field. After sixteen unjust fines. The strike started with the weavspread to the whole textile field. After sixteen days of struggle the basic demands of the

strikers were accepted and the strike settled. On May 31, more than 2,000 workers at the navy yard in Saigon went out on strike against an attempt to cut down the rate for overtime work. The strikers are demanding time and a quarter for overtime during the day and time and a half for night work. At the present writing the strike is still spreading.

A strike of 3,000 unskilled coolies in the Saigon-Cholon region has broken out recently with a demand for a twenty per cent increase

Anti-tax demonstrations have been held in Saigon, Hanoi and Haiphong.

At the same time, the colonial lackeys of stion of the strike wave now French imperialism have cracked down on the in progress on the W.P.A. native working class press. No less than three projects, gathered tonight at a their own protest after seeing that the Alliance editors of working class journals have been mass meeting of the New York had sold them out for the last time. One plan arrested in recent weeks, among them our Local of the Workers Alliance is to mass hundreds of unemployed to besiege comrade Nguyen Van Qua of La Lutte, organ held at Stuyvesant High School, the Chamber of Commerce and rubber facof the Indo-Chinese section of the Fourth In- to hear the program their or- tory employment offices, demanding the jobs ternational.

Canadian Comrades Organize Farmers Branches In West

Within the last month, our Canadian comrades, the Socialist Workers League, have organized two new branches in the Western part ments made by Sam Wiseman, 46 cents an hour!" is the battle cry. of the Dominion. The branches are located in Stalinist chieftain of the Workthe towns of Wiseton and Saskatoon, Saskat-ers Alliance, meant. Here is chewan and are composed almost exclusively an exact quotation: of farmers. So popular has the party become in these towns that for the first time in its they are going to fight to a finhistory the local authorities granted the use ish. Now that means that the show of opposition, the Workers Alliance has of the schoolhouse for a meeting of a political W.P.A. workers have been party. A meeting held there on June 14 at-called out on an unlimited tracted farmers from the whole countryside strike until they win, and that tant action by both the C.I.O. and the A.F.L. who came to listen to Carl Hichin, Western organizer of the League. Most of the partici- its mind. To us such an action pants braved heavy rainstorms and almost impassable roads in order to attend.

Congratulations to the Canadian section of Stalinist way of looking at a the Fourth International! In breaking the mass movement which has ground among the farmers they have accomplished a real pioneering job for our movement in North America. It is an example worthy of emulation by our comrades in the farming regions right here in the States.

ployed or unemployed, skilled or unskilled. "Impractical!!"—a movement which the most conservative stratum in the labor movement has been impelled to undertake, because that is the only way to save the skilled crafts from starvation wages and jobless-

is impractical."

distort and gloss over the real

fight only against Republicans. Wiseman once again pulled

But the masses wanted a real wages and conditions.

abolition of the eighteen months

As usual, the Stalinists pro- friend, LaGuardia, in an emwhen after proposing the stop- him to do." page, every speaker apologized Another worker asked why in advance for the possibility of the W.A.A. didn't pull out the

Voice of Workers

WAA Head Workers! One Hundred Percent | Chicago Snipes at Support to the WPA Strikers!

Term Strike Action

On to Roosevelt

By RAY ROBBINS

by the building trades unions!

"Impractical"!-that is the

pirations of every worker, em-

"Impractical"; Hang

(Continued from page 1) strikers back to work last week. The Stalinists rushed to the press a statement that they could do nothing since the new W.P.A. regulations were law.

The Akron branch of the Socialist Workers Party distributed hundreds of copies of the Socialist Appeal to project workers who massed in front of the W.P.A. headquarters NEW YORK CITY, July 1— in an attempt to get their jobs back. Workers Almost three thousand W.P.A. surrounded the comrades who distributed the workers and unemployed, ea- Appeal, and listened with keen interest as the ger for action under the inspirparty's program of action was explained. Other Workers Act

On the projects, unskilled workers planned ganization had to proposed to which Congress said they could find if they back up the fast-growing strike. only looked hard enough. But what did they hear! A

Many workers who will not be laid off indastardly, underhanded attack tend to put out one-fourth less work since their against the valiant strike led wages have been cut one-fourth.

"Our wages have been cut from 60 to 46 Yes, that is what the statecents. So we'll give them 46 cents work for

Both C.I.O. and A.F.L. central bodies in this county have passed strong resolutions condemning the new law. But thus far only the "The A.F.L. leaders say that A:F.L. has backed up its words with action.

Forced by mass indignation to make some called a half day "holiday" tomorrow.

The urgent need of the day is united milimeans when Congress changes to aid in organizing a genuine project workers and unemployed organization backed up by the rubber workers.

raised anew the hopes and as-

(Continued from page 1) (Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, July 8.—The strike of W.P.A. workers that began spontaneously July 5 in Minneapolis and St. Paul has now spread to Duluth, the iron range, southern Minnesota and the Dakotas. An estimated 10,000 are out in Minneapolis, 7,000 in St. Paul, 5,000 in Duluth, 10,000 in the iron range, and thousands more in southern Minnesota and the Dakotas.

The Minneapolis Building Trades Council of The main part of the meeting the A.F.L. has officially sanctioned the strike was consumed by the long- and agreed to stay out until all W.P.A. work-

Friday morning the Policy Committee of anti-Roosevelt meaning of the the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, authorstrike movement and re-direct | ized to speak for all the unions on strike quesit into the safe channels of a tions, endorsed the strike.

F.W.S. Joins Strike Saturday morning the Federal Workers Secout the moth-eaten apology the tion of General Drivers Local 544 held a mass Stalinists use to explain away meeting in the strike headquarters of 544's Roosevelt's leadership of the Transfer Section at 7th and Bryant, and voted cording to his fantastic tale, the Building Trades Council, to strike all W.P.A. Roosevelt-Woodrum starvation projects until the government backs down and

fer Glass" who put over their more ugly aspects of the Roosevelt-Woodrum The Sailors' Union of the Pacific under- slick conspiracy in the dark act will confront the unemployed, such as the

Hudson Speaks

The mass meeting voiced its vigorous aprecord in support of the strike. ganizer, Teamsters' Joint Council organ, spoke But the A.F.L. called the in favor of supporting the Building Trades strike," Wiseman quickly add- Council and urged the unemployed to demand tories and give jobs to all workers at union

tight corner between their loy- work and wait for OUR representatives in The tactic (and it follows naturally from alty to the Roosevelt war deal Congress to fix the wages and hour provisions. are the representatives of the bosses. And they The four point program which might as well know right now that we don't them stay on the Potomac," stated Hudson. 'The new relief bill is shocking proof of the

need for real workers' representatives and a workers' government, for a break with both the New Deal and the Old Deal, for the building of an independent labor party both locally and nationally. This won't be the first demonstration provoked by the Roosevelt-Woodrum bill. There will be others. This one is a spontaneous action on the part of hundreds of thousands of W.P.A. workers throughout the nation. The demonstrations to come must be better organized, more centralized and coor-

Committee of Five Hundred

The Committee of Five Hundred, set up a few days ago by 544's Federal Workers Section, will meet at 5 a.m. Monday morning to direct the closing of the projects. All W.P.A. workers were instructed to come to the Federal Workers Section strike headquarters at lief Administration gave case 6 a.m. to aid in shutting the projects.

The Saturday evening papers have just come out and record that Minnesota W.P.A. officials are concerned because even the watchmen are for relief were given still anstriking the jobs and leaving the equipment other stiff cut. unguarded. The W.P.A. heads are planning to call the cops to guard the tools and give tific" budget worked out by the protection to those who may try to fink.

It was pointed out at the Federal Workers just how much a family could Sections meeting that the boss papers are hid- "hve" on, was a long time ago ing the truth about the extent of the W.P.A. chopped down. On the basis of walkout. Each locality is seeking to make it not having enough funds, the appear that the W.P.A. workers in that city authorities were providing cliare isolated and that very little strike action ents with 80 percent of the esis being taken elsewhere. A reading of the timated "scientific" budget. press from a dozen or so widely scattered Now they have put through an cities indicates that the boss press is con-additional 15 percent cut. In sciously following out a policy of belittling other words, the client is now and underestimating the widespread strike to get 65 percent of the esti-

Rochester

(Continued from page 1) the W.P.A. workers continued the strike with undaunted enthusiasm.

trolled Workers Alliance came clearly into ing driven back to direct relief. view as soon as the strike broke. In the first The city is putting up no money place, the W.A.A. stooges called on the W.P.A. at all; the state is giving four officials and announced that the strike really willion dollars monthly out of wasn't a strike at all but only a "protest." its average monthly sales tax Then at a mass meeting which they held at the of eight million. Even this sum Labor Lyceum, they spent a major part of is the result of a compromise. their time attacking the Socialist Workers Governor Horner offered only Party for handing out leaflets to the workers three; Mayor Kelly insisted on

Robert Hoffman, local W.P.A. director, crats, each trying to outdo the struck savagely at the strike by immediately other in his support of the New dismissing without hearings 65 workers whom Deal, "settled" the relief queshe labelled "agitators." He also made public tion alright. They might just as the Roosevelt administration's answer to the well have put the clients in workers' demands—that all workers who did trucks, taken them to the nearnot return to work by Tuesday would be fired. est quarry, dumped them in The Postcard Brigade

role as relief-smasher-in-chief.

In response to the demand of the workers The Chicago Relief Adminispresent for the formation of a strike commit-tration does not hire experts at tee, Costa, Stalinist leader of the W. A., called high salaries for nothing. These for . . . getting up petitions to send to Congress experts know their stuff. They and "our" President. That, for the Stalinists, have everything figured out so constitutes militant action. Clayton Bennem. that the clients will keep the Socialist Workers Party organizer in Roches- breath of life in them. But very ter, spoke to the assembled workers, and re- little more. ceived a good hearing when he called upon them to fight to the end for a decent living standard on W.P.A.

ng of strikers has been called by the unskilled workers of one of the projects to level. Even the best planning form an organization of W.P.A. workers to in the world cannot prevent meet the growing needs of the strike move- rickets, bad teeth, anemia.

(Continued from page 1) at Scott Field, army air base near Belleville, ately and, as a result, people

A mass picket line was formed by the Scott Field strikers, blocking the highway leading no household items, no amuseto the air base with a human wall of men. nients. Afterwards, a great cavalcade of 150 automobiles and trucks carried flying squadrons of given away. But often there is Scott Field pickets through the neighboring little available besides housecounties. The walkout at Scott Field, which dresses, slips and bloomers for became the spear-head of the strike move- the women: for the men, work ment in this area, came as a result of a mass shirts and overalls. All last meeting of 600 W.P.A. workers at Belleville winter there was no warm unlast night, adopting a resolution to continue derclothing for adults and no the strike movement despite the threats of the undervests for children were Roosevelt Relief Czar, Col. F. C. Harrington.

The spirit of the workers is very high, and but easier than overcoats. they are determined to win their fight against the relief-smashers in the only way possible- extra dollar on the budget and on the picket line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMP SEVEN OAKS. Eatentown, N. J. Tennis, swim- ten get gypped because youming, ping-pong. Plumbing. have to sign for the articles be-\$2.50 per day. \$14 a week. fore you get them. Car leaves every Friday at 7 p.m. from 58 E. 4th St. to Camp. Make reservations, use of Camp Kitchen. \$20 for efficiency and they get it. the summer. Phone: Eatentown 515.

cate Socialist Appeal.

INFORMAL HOUSE

Box 245 Kerhonkson, N. Y. (Near Ellenville) 20 acres of greenland in the Zatskills, 40 acres of pine for unbathing; handball, ping pong, archery; swimming and horse-

archery; swimming and he back riding nearby; dancing. UNUSUALLY LOW RATES \$18 Weekly \$6 Weeken

Busses met at station Tel. Kerhonkson 118 R

Slashed

Officials Introduce Cut with Warning to Case Workers

By S. B. GRANT

"Don't show any fear! If the relief client thinks you're afraid of him, he'll take advantage of you'

This was the warning that supervisors of the Chicago Reworkers on July 1, when the already deficient client budgets

Bad as it was, the "scienrelief authorities, estimating mated budget needed for existence! No wonder the officials have to warn the case workers not to show fear.

A Permanent Cut

Is this cut temporary? No, it may go even lower. Thou-The reactionary role of the Stalinist-con-sands of W.P.A. workers are betelling the workers the truth about Roosevelt's five. They settled it between them. Both these ardent Demoand covered them up.

Slow Murder

Food allotments are calcun the barest Children of two are often so undernourished that they cannot walk or even stand. The rent allotment has been reduced but the landlord has not lowered his price proportionare compelled to sacrifice some of their food money for rent. And no electricity, no clothes.

Sometimes W.P.A. clothing is given. Shoes are hard to get,

Some families (not all: an you're out of luck) get surplus foods such as oranges, butter, beans, celery, flour, eggs. But who knows when these are going to be passed out? You never. know what you're going to get, or how much. Besides you of-

Bosses Still Balk

But according to the Tribune please! You may also pitch and the business men, relief your tent at Seven Oaks. We costs are too high and have to equip it and you can have be cut. They clamor for more The Tribune editors and the

business men don't have to live on beans and neckbones. They MODERN APARTMENT to don't have to worry about milk sub-let. E. 4th St. Refrigerat- and rent. They don't have to or, etc. Low rent. Communi- sleep four in a bed and put some of their relatives on the floor or chairs. They don't have to battle rats and bugs. They don't have to go to the johnny in the hall for their drinking and washing water. They don't have to burn smoky Indiana rocks to keep warm. They don't have to wait for days for an interview with some dizzy flunkey who doesn't understand that a client is a human being.

The rich only pay with their money ,not with their lives, like the poor.

On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

Here is a story which ought to be read and thought over carefully by every worker no matter what industry he works in-especially if he is still waiting for President Roosevelt to come through with the many promises he made about the one third of the nation which, said the President, "are ill-fed, ill-clothed and

Today the U.S. Government, the shipowners and the Stalinists are frantically engaged in a three-way attack on the Sailors' Union of the Pacific in a desperate effort to smash the union hiring hall and set up in its place a government-controlled hiring hall.

Now it is a fact, admitted by everyone concerned, that prior to 1934 the seamen on American ships worked and lived under conditions which no human being should be forced to endure. This was admitted by Mr. Kennedy,

report to Congress in 1934. Starvation wages, miserable, clammy, and insect-ridden quarters; rotten food, poorly prepared; long hours with no overtime pay and harsh treatment were all the order of the day. It is also a fact, and one admitted by Mr. Kennedy, that many steamship lines subsidized by the government were then pocketing more than half the amount allowed for wages and at the same time threatening the men with the fact "there is another man on the dock to take your place if you don't like the

treatment." Where was the government then? It did not

"help" the seamen then. At last, no longer able to endure such conditions, the seamen banded together and went

It was a bitter strike. Long, weary days and nights of picket duty in thin-soled shoes and thin, ill-fitting clothes were followed by hunger and cold and tear gas and bullets. Union brothers were shot down. Martial law was declared against them. Police squads charged their ranks with clubs and horses. But because they knew they were right, because they knew they had the strength of their individual brothers welded together in compact resistance against a common wrong, the seamen

won that strike. Out of that victory the seamen won decent wages, livable quarters, conditions comparable to those won by workers in other industries. They established an organization of competent, confident, efficient seamen. They are proud of their record as seamen-proud also of the fact that in little over four years they. raised the standard of their calling from veritable slavery to that of militant union men aware of the class struggle. They call their

organization the Sailors' Union of the Pacific. New Strikebreaking Method

And now, because they know they cannot defeat them in any other way, the shipowners have turned to the government (of the people. . .?) and have managed to induce a government agency to attempt to wreck the S.U.P. by doing away with the union's control of hiring by setting up halls run and controlled by the government.

The Maritime Commission is made up of men selected and appointed by the President and approved by Congress. The Board is supposed to be impartial; supposed to represent the people. But President Roosevelt deliberately went out of his way to select and appoint Mr. Joseph Kennedy, a man who openly represents the shipowners and who openly declares he is opposed to the Sailors' Union of the Pacific in particular and to all unions in general. He was opposed by the union because the union knows he is a shipowners' stooge. The Union notified Roosevelt of this opposition and the reason for it. But Rosevelt merely smiled and said, "I approve of Mr. Kennedy."

And just why is the government so anxious to restore the 1934 conditions? This liberal government and this liberal President is trying its winded speeches of Benjamin ers receive union wages and conditions, and damndest to smash the S.U.P. because unless and Wiseman, Stalinist big to encourage support for the strike from all the S.U.P. is smashed, the government and the shots. Desperately they tried to other working class organizations. bosses will have a hell of a hard time trying to wage a war for "democracy".

Unless the government and the shipowners can browbeat and fingerprint every worker, every seaman, it cannot hope to "defeat reac-

Unless the government and the bosses can regulate wages and hours and conditions. outlaw strikes and prevent meetings and smash picket lines it will be unable to conscript the relief-smashing campaign. Actor to concur in the program of the Minneapolis millions of necessary cannon-fodder.

If the government and the shipowners are unable to employ scabs and finks and dicks law was solely the work "of a restores the prevailing wage clause. they cannot insure a campaign to plunder for small band of fascist minded Speakers made it plain that conditions on profit which they will undoubtedly call a "war Republicans like Senator Car- W.P.A. will get worse and worse, that even to end all war" or a "war for democracy".

stands this very well. The seamen of the secrecy of a smoke-filled con- "30-day holiday"-actually permanent-to go S.U.P. know they have not gone through years gressional conference chamber. into effect August 31, and the shower of 800,000 and years of bitter fighting for nothing. They Finally, after a long har- Four-o-Three slips which Roosevelt has handed are well aware of the situation. And the angue filled with evasions and the jobless. S.U.P. knows it can rally thousands and mil-sniping remarks against the lions of workers around its banner so long as strike, Wiseman perfunctorily it keeps the issues clear and maintains a mili-put the Workers Alliance on proval as Carlos Hudson of the Northwest Ortant stand on the question of the fink hall.

Stalinist Strikebreakers

The government and the shipowners are ed, "and they're the only ones a Twenty Billion Dollar public works and housfighting to smash the S.U.P. openly and with- responsible for it. We take no ing program, to be financed by expropriating out hesitation. But what about the Stalinists— responsibility." This "no rethe bootlickers par excellence and union sponsibility" refrain cropped to the unemployed; to force the government wreckers of the first water. . .? Here is where up time after time in the Stal- to appropriate billions to open up the idle facinist speeches. the rats really give a demonstration of their abilities as finger men and finks. If you have not learned how the Stalinists work from the program of action, and the "I. S. Joseph of the Minneapolis Public Welmany unions they have already wrecked, take Stalinist leaders, caught in a fare Board tells us all to go quietly back to a gander at this slimy maneuver—

their line of betrayal) is to outwardly pretend and their desire to remain mili- | WE haven't any representatives in Congress. to some extent that they are against the fink tants in the eyes of the mem- The Congressmen who passed the Roosevelthall. Then, with this thin covering, they carry bership, had to come through Woodrum bill aren't our representatives, they on a frantic and scabby campaign of petty with some sort of proposal. cheap slander against the S.U.P. and its leadership. They have no following in the S.U.P., the Stalinists proposed, apart want them to come back to Minnesota. Let but they have money which they use to issue a from the building trades strike phoney paper known to the seamen as the demand, were: restoration of "Rank and Filthy". No names are signed to the Federal Theatre Projects; Stalinist bureaucrats from the on fighting, and if we don't get any of the articles in the paper, no names of maintenance of the former unemployed ready for struggle, our demands we'll go to Washfinancial contributers and most indicative of wage differential for the North, became clear from the fighting ington and picket Congress it

all, NO PROGRAM. They attempt to magnify every little issue 'rotation' plan. These four other. and every little beef in the S.U.P. in the hope points are completely within One worker demanded that thta some one will be fooled into believing the the confines set by Roosevelt's the Workers Alliance send a spoke at length of Roosevelt's Stalinists are the champions of union democ- hypocritical criticism of his delegation to LaGuardia to de- good will and cautioned the racy (do you hear me laughing?), and they own relief-slashing bill. Not a mand removal of Hodson, the workers not to let anybody tell try to get their filthy hooks on any and all who word is said in the program relief czar who threatened the them that this strike was diwill be bought or bulldozed or scared into pull- about the amount of the appro- strikers with starvation if they rected "against the real friends

ing their chestnuts out of the fire. Now, if they were concerned about these ground, for the figure of the the five day limit. Wiseman majority in Congress. The vital issues — democracy, militant action on new appropriation, cutting one stepped in immediately and meeting then came to a close each and all questions, there are such unions third off W.P.A., is Roosevelt's stifled this militant demand, as the Furriers in New York, the Longshore- own figure. men on the West Coast, the Teachers Union and the Workers Alliance-not to bring up the pose legislative action to win parrassing position, saying that ing when the Stalinist leaders Painters in New York where the champions of such proposals, but impelled by Hodson is not an issue at the democracy and militant action were just the strike wave they also pro- moment. "I don't think," said Spangled Banner" and adminheaved out on their fat behinds for using rule- posed a local one day stoppage Wiseman in reply to this work- istered a mass oath of alle or-ruin strong arm methods to suppress the on W.P.A. Suspicion of the er, "that the administration giance to the constitution of the membership and where the finky role of Wein-good faith of the Stalinist lead-supports Hodson's statement. stock, the Stalinist, in his dealings with the ers was aroused, however, It was a very stupid thing for bosses almost wrecked the union.

It's a three-way fight to smash the strongest, most democratic, most militant and class conscious union on the West Coast if not in the failing to put through the ac-laborers on all the W.P.A. pro-U.S.A. Any little trick to force the S.U.P. to tion. That is certainly not the jects. No answer from the leadfight on some minor issue, to be drawn out of best way to mobilize the fight-ers. Another member spoke its present stronghold, i.e., the fink hall fight, ling enthusiasm of the Alliance against the Hodson "scab or is all meat to shipowners, the government and membership for militant action. starve edict." He was greeted the Stalinists. But don't be surprised if the Sailors' Union of the Pacific dumps all three overboard. It will if we all recognize the real taken over by the rank and file, to take that bluff from Hodson issues and get behind the fight with both fists. the wide gap that separates the or anybody else. We'll go right

words of one worker after an-

which would have put his

with a thunder of applause When the floor was finally when he said, "We're not going

self." Wiseman had the difficult job of quieting the meeting. He

priation itself. That is sacred stayed on the picket lines over of labor," i.e. the New Deal wtihout any patriotic demonstration. That had been taken care of at the start of the meet led the singing of the "Star

IMPORTANT

fice.

Negro Department opening up. Badly needed: typewriter, cabinet file and other office accessories. Readers are urged to donate these absolutely essential items. Their donations will be greatly appreciated. Communicate with National Of-

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Vol. III, No. 50

Published twice a week by the SOCIALIST APPEAL PUBLISHING ASS'N. at 116 University Place, New York, N. Y. Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for six months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for six months. Bundle orders 2 cents per copy in the United States; 3 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 3 cents. Bronx and Manhattan subscriptions are: \$1.50 for six onths; \$2.00 for one year. "Reentered as second class matter February 16, 1939, at the post office at New York, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

MAX SHACHTMAN Associate Editors: EMANUEL GARRETT

Business Manager
SHERMAN STANLEY JOSEPH HANSEN

FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST **WORKERS PARTY FOR:**

- 1. A job and a decent living for every worker.
- 2. Open the idle factories-operate them under workers' control.
- 3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works
- 4. Thirty-thirty! \$30-weekly minimum wage-30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs
- 5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability
- 6. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
- 7. All war funds to the unemployed.
- 8. A people's referendum on any and all wars.
- 9. No secret diplomacy.
- 10. An independent Labor Party.
- 11. Workers' Defense Guards against vigilante and Fascist attacks.

The Strike Can and Must Be Won

Every decent worker in the United States stands one hundred percent behind the W.P.A

The building trades unions of the A.F.L. have taken the lead in the fight against the infamous

Woodrum Starvation Bill. The C.I.O. is backing the strike to the hilt.

Threats and intimidation haven't stopped the strike. They cannot break it. The power of united, militant, fighting labor is too strong to be broken that way.

That power is not merely the organized ranks of the building trades workers. It is backed by the enthusiastic solidarity of every worker in this country, skilled or unskilled, organized or unorganized, employed or unemployed.

THAT power numbers MILLIONS. All it needs to win is DETERMINATION.

If the building trades workers lose this fight, it will mean a blow, a sharp setback to all labor. But if they win—and they can and must win -they will set an example that will encourage

and enthuse workers everywhere. Who's AGAINST the strike?

Mr. Starvation Woodrum, and all the Congressmen and Senators who have been working overtime on only one job: how to cut wages and lengthen the working-day. Of course, the gentlemen in Washington have their differences: some want to cut the heart out of W.P.A., while others want to cut it out entirely. None of them proposes to cut his own wages!

President Roosevelt is against the strike.

Roosevelt's Colonel Harrington is against the strike and is ready to use scabs to break it. Roosevelt's Colonel Somervell is against the strike and is ready to use scabs to break it.

All the capitalist newspapers are against the strike and are begging the workers not to "fight the government.

But why worry about them?

Woodrum and Roosevelt and Somervell and Harrington and all the newspapers put together can't dig a single ditch.

They can't pour a concrete foundation.

They can't nail a stud or a shingle, lay a brick, plaster a wall, install a plumbing fixture or wipe a joint, or frame a window.

They can't put up as much as a shanty with threats or intimidation.

They can wave the Woodrum Bill or any other Bill from the Atlantic to the Pacific-but not one single building will go up as a result.

All power—above all the power to win their legitimate and very modest demands—lies in the mighty hands of the striking workers.

The only way the strikers can lose is if they let themselves be kidded out of that power!

The Government---Strikebreaker

At 1 o'clock on Monday, the president of the New York and Long Island Building Trades Council, Thomas A. Murray, declared:

threat of Colonel Somervell that men who do not return to work tomorrow will be dismissed.

"Our work-stoppage protest against the vicious new W.P.A. law will continue tomorrow and thereafter until the prevailing rate principle, which Congress had steadfastly upheld for

five years until July 1, is restored"

That's the kind of talk we all want to hear! Any labor leader who continues to stick by his guns will deserve the support of labor.

Who is being threatened by the strike-breaking Roosevelt government and its W.P.A. offi-

Labor! Yes, labor!

When election-time rolls around, they all pose as Friends of Labor. They are all Labor's Benefactors. They are Labor's Protectors!

Labor—organized labor, unorganized labor put the Roosevelt machine into office.

Result? The Roosevelt government has acted like any other employer. W.P.A. has been cut to the bone. Millions have been thrown off relief. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been poured into military and war expenditures.

Roosevelt can't find any money for a decent wage. He finds all he needs to prepare for mass

Now, when workers are striking for a modest wage, Roosevelt and his W.P.A. appointees

"You can't strike against the government! Back to your jobs at slave wages and slave hours! If you don't want to work on our terms -then starve! We'll get scabs to take your

The answer of the workers must be:

"We Fight On!"

"We won't work under starvation conditions for any boss-government or no government. We fought for years to get a decent living wage, and we won't give it up without a fight. And we have the power to win that fight."

The workers put their trust in Roosevelt, and got the double-cross.

The workers put their trust in Congress, in the New Deal, in "Labor's Friends"—and they got the Woodrum Bill.

They got the double-cross and the Woodrum Bill because the Roosevelt Government IS NOT THEIR GOVERNMENT, just as the Roosevelt Party IS NOT THEIR PARTY!

Let that be a lesson for a long time to come: Labor needs a party of ITS OWN. Labor needs a GOVERNMENT of its own.

It can get them only by relying on its own ORGANIZED STRENGTH. And it can win this strike only by its organ-

ized strength. Republican wage-slashers won't lead or win

this strike. Roosevelt W.P.A.-killers and scabs won't lead

or win this strike. How Win the Strike?

In the first place, the workers must not allow their ranks to be divided.

That means: skilled workers and unskilled workers, UNITE!

The enemies of the strikers can win only if they succeed in pitting the skilled workers against Roosevelt's slash relief against the unskilled, using the one to weaken

This is NOT a fight of the skilled workers alone. Therefore, they must do all in their power to bring the unskilled and unorganized workers into the ranks of union labor.

ONE ENEMY, ONE FIGHT, ONE FRONT!

In the second place, this fight cannot and will not be won by staying at home.

Every struck job must be surrounded by a mass picket line so strong and so tight that all the scabs Harrington and Somervell and all the other W.P.A. directors can scrape out of the mud won't be able to pass through.

A mass picket line of all W.P.A. workers, A.F.L., C.I.O., unemployed organizations—the skilled and the unskilled, organized and unor-

Unity of ALL the workers will win the

Militancy will win the strike!

Raise the wage levels of the unskilled! Restore the prevailing rate for all workers! Stick it out till the Woodrum Starvation Bill

Roosevelt's Silence

The national W.P.A. relief administrator, Col. F. C. Harrington, is an appointee of President Roosevelt's. He has never been known to enunciate an important policy without the president's direct approval.

On May 23 the colonel appeared before the House Appropriations Committee and declared: "It is my recommendation that persons em-

ployed on projects of the W.P.A. be required to work 130 hours per month." He said that with Roosevelt's approval. While Harrington mouthes all kinds of threats against the W.P.A. strikers, the presi-

dent, by his silence, approves these attempts to

intimidate the strikers. This strike is, therefore, not only directed against Congress, which adopted the 130 hour provision as law, but against Roosevelt who initiated that provision. Lick them both, brother

Chester Watson is a well-known St. Paul Stalinist—a C.P. official. The New York Times of July 7 reports: 'The strike movement made no headway

still operating were to close down immediately.

Twin City W.P.A. Workers Stage

The main feature of the walkout so far is its unorganized the movement develops into a able.

fired from WPA to their jobs, and pass a relief bill that will give jobs to all unemployed at union wages, will be determined by the decisions of the Building Trades Council and its sister bodies elsewhere. Police Chief Forestal

be "to protect the public." The law-and-order specialists in St. job meetings were held imme- RELIEF BOSSES' THREATS works program.

As if to pour salt in the wounds of the WPA workers, relief heads in both Minne-Strike sentiment spread rapidly apolis and St. Paul announced two weeks after the applicants received their last pay check.

To top it off, State W.P.A. administrator Linus Glotzbach W.P.A. work was closed down. time they are off the projects. Thursday morning a number He gave a final dig by breaking of workers went out to their the news that another W.P.A. projects but refused to work, cut of 3,780 will be made July 10 in Minnesota, in line with

Roosevelt's relief bill. All day Wednesday delega-

the W.P.A.office that if anytions from the projects were trouble started, any projects visiting Local 544's Federal Workers Section office for advice and directives, or were

phoning in asking for speakers. Wednesday evening the F.W.S. mad at the W.P.A. slash, but a delegation to the Thursday meeting of the Building Trades Drivers Local 544's Federal Council, where they will press the Fourth of July holiday. The Workers Section, at the invita- for a program of demands upon strike was started by the skilled tion of the building trades Congress to scrap the relief workers, in revolt against unions, will send several dele-slave bill and pass a W.P.A. the Roosevelt-Woodrum relief gates to this afternoon's meet- bill that will restore the W.P.A, ing of the Twin Cities Building cuts, restore the prevailing Trades Council. Whether the wage clause, and increase the walkout collapses, or whether number of W.P.A. jobs avail-

mass strike demanding that The Federal Workers Section Congress reconsider its dam- has issued a call for a mass nable relief bill, restore the meeting to be held Friday prevailing wage, return those morning, 10 o'clock, in the Drivers Hall.

MOTOR CARAVAN ACTS Thursday morning a cavalcade of 150 cars filled with W.P.A. strikers, mostly skilled workers, toured the cities, seeing that all projects remained closed. The temper of the work-Minneapolis announced Thurs- ers is very militant. Given any day that he would furnish police sort of a positive program by protection if it were requested, the union movement, this strike the State Fair grounds project, and Sheriff John Wall of Henne- will spread rapidly to a nationmembers of the building trades pin County said his policy will wide protest movement that will command Congress to back down on its starvation program and put through a real public

> For years the Federal Workers Section has preached to the unions of skilled workers that they must join forces and give leadership to the unemployed. The lesson is now being driven home with a jolt that will awake even the most smug union bureaucrat.

If an honest-to-God unemployed movement existed nationally to give leadership to ment, the W.P.A. workers really smash through with their demands. Thanks to the Stalinized Workers Alliance, no such national organization serving the interests of the unemployed exists.

Defy Cough in Fascists at **Bronx Outdoor Meeting**

the deliberate duplicity which takable defiance against the leads them to divert the anger Coughlin fascists last Friday Coughlinites for the evening. of the W.A. rank and file from night at Fordham Road and expressing itself militantly Valentine Ave. when Michael plight of the American workers Quill, President of the Trans- and remarked that the Trans-The other day the head chair- port Workers Union, addressed warmers of the Stalinist-con- a huge outdoor street meeting government, but would go to sponsored by the American bat for additional appropria-

Labor Party. "Down with Coughlin's Chrisers in the very shadow of Fordate slogans against this arch- ham University, neighborhood that escaped from a few rum-It was only after several bums at the meeting was like a ours that one of the more alert pindrop in the yell that folan odor stronger than that gen-size gummed all traffic on the

Union Guards Present

ble." Quill told the fascists. An meeting.

Watch Out for Stalinist Scabbing

NEW YORK - Twenty - five | crganized group of 200 Transhundred workers roared unmis- port Worker Union militants meeting. That finished the

Quill dwelt at length on the resist all W.P.A. cuts by the The American Labor tions. Party, he promised, intends to press forward for better houstian Front, Down with All ing, collective bargaining guar-The pickets assembled at the Forms of Vigilantism," Quill antees, and the extension of exhorted his enthusiastic listen- civil liberties throughout the

John Santos, International reactionary organization, which center of Coughlin's dupes in port Workers Union, attacked the Bronx. The scattered and the Wicks Bill which aims to uncertain murmur of protest destroy union status of all sub-

Before the meeting closed, Quill assured the huge crowd that peaceful workers' meetlowed from the crowd whose ings would be held on the same corner here in the future, as well as in the South Bronx. Coughlin stronghold.

"We have a way of taking The Bronx branch of the Socare of you provocateurs and cialist Workers Party sold 75 moved away from that address rooligans if you insist on trou- anti-Coughlin pamphlets at the

among white-collar and professional workers

yesterday. William S. Levner, president of

the W.P.A. Teachers Union, said the execu-

tive board of his union had not acted on the

new schedule of working hours, but that he

did not believe a stoppage would be author-

ized. 'Very definitely we will not do anything

that will jeopardize or curtail the services

of the educational projects to the people of

William Levner is the well-known Com-

munist Party boss of the Stalinist-controlled

A leaflet issued to "All W.P.A. Workers"

by the Workers Alliance of New York says:

'We are preparing a one-day general pro-

test stoppage for all W.P.A. workers in the

The "Workers Alliance" of New York is

controlled by the Communist Party. It is

''preparing'' a ''one-day general stoppage''—

after which its members are supposed to go

Communist Party leaders are Roosevelt boot-

lickers. They don't want any "strikes against

the government." They prefer starvation

wages to fighting. That's why, in their usual

underhanded way, they are trying to break

Watch out for Stalinist scabbing!

Watch out for Stalinist scabbing! The

New York,' Mr. Levner said.

back to work . . . and to scab

the solidarity of the workers

W.P.A. Teachers Union.

State of New York.

The new regulation, which went into effect July

lies not in the fact that the construction workers have a high rate-it is after all low enough-but in the miserable, starvation rate at which the bulk of the W.P.A. workers are paid. This has been, unfortunately, too often forgotten by the construction workers who have been too narrowly concerned with their own craft interests. A lasting victory in the present battle needs the fused strength of all of the relief workers. And this requires broadening the fight to include the burning demands for the lifting of the wage rate of the lower W.P.A. brackets.

If the construction workers inscribe on their own banner the demand for Thirty-Thirty - \$30 minimum weekly wage, 30-hours maximum weekly hours-for all workers, they will find allies in the millions to back them in their own defense of the living standards of the American working

British navy: "The Tientsin events, with support being given to Japan by Germany and Italy, really amount to a declaration of war against Britain, and is a challenge that must be met," that is, by workers torn from their wives and children, and a rifle thrust in their hands with the order to shoot their foreign brother-workers.

By James Burnham Government

The new law which abolishes the prevailing wage on W.P.A. construction projects by decreeing that all W.P.A. employees must work a full 130 hours monthly for the subsistence relief wage is part of a long-term, deliberate plan to smash the wage levels in the construction industries. Like any other similar plan, directed toward a particular industry, this means the attempt to decrease the share of the workers in the total national income, and to increase the relative share drawn by the bosses.

This plan has, also, a political as well as an economic aim. Its author, once more, is none other than Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt has been preparing for the present smashing blow by several years of skillful publicity and build-up. He and his aides have been regularly making speeches, the latest of his own only a few weeks back, on the problem of what is wrong with housing. Beneath layers of rhetoric, the answer always seems to be: wages are too high,

Right now, the Monopoly Committee is conducting hearings on the housing and construction in dustry. Time and again the experts and witnesses come back to the theme: wages are too high

The real political purpose is clear. The New Deal's housing program, to which has been devoted huge mountains of ballyhoo, is an utter flop. Roosevelt needs a scapegoat, and he is trying to find one in the construction workers.

Why Can't Houses Be Built?

The government itself recognizes that at least one-third of the nation lives in sub-normal housing. unfit from the points of view both of hygiene and comfort. Nevertheless, nothing is done about it. The scattered and advertised projects of the Roosevelt administration are not enough to make up for the additional housing that each year falls below the level of decency.

Is there any truth that high hourly wages are actually to blame?

It is true that hourly wages—though not at all annual wages-are comparatively high in the building trades, and this naturally enters into the cost of housing. But consider:

The cost of financing a \$5,000 house or \$5,600 unit of an apartment dwelling, figuring in primarily interest and the other secondary bank charges, runs anywhere from about \$3,000 to \$7,500. The financing charges, that is, reach up to one and a half or more times the initial cost of the house itself! And for this enormous sum, the banks, with their monopoly of credit, do absolutely nothing in terms of socially productive work. All of this money is directly or indirectly sweated out of the labor that goes into building the house and that of the person who inhabits it.

Labor receives in wages a mere 20% to 40% of the initial cost. Who, then, deserves to receive major blame in this comparison?

But the financing charges are only a small part of the story. The profits of the great building materials corporations (U. S. Gypsum, Johns-Manville, American Radiator, etc.) have continued in the millions virtually all through the crisis. Ined land prices line the pockets of real estate operators and speculators. In every building operation, contractors and sub-contractors take their big slice of profits. An ever greater percentage of real estate taxes, reflected in the cost of housing and rent, go to interest payment on bonds held by the big banks and the Sixty Families and to other uses of no conceivable benefit to the people.

In a true analysis, made in the light of social functions performed, labor, which gets no profit and asks no interest, is the least burdensome item in the costs of housing

The truth is that not labor but a decadent capitalism stands irremediably blocking the road to an adequate, or even one-tenth adequate, housing program. Among all the fakes of the dead New Deal, none has been more hopeless or more hypocritical than its housing plans.

Will Roosevelt Succeed?

1st, amounts in effect to a cut of from one-third to two-thirds in the hourly wage rate. As I write this column, the workers concerned are replying to Roosevelt's move in their own proper language: a militant and rapidly spreading strike. All the machinery of Roosevelt's relief administration is being brought into line to smash the strike. Roosevelt, however, counts on a special factor

to aid him. The hourly rates for these skilled workers have been in the past far higher than those for the other W.P.A. workers. Roosevelt thinks that he can exploit this as an apparent "injustice," and drive a wedge between the two sections of W.P.A. workers.

There is an injustice, it is true. But the injustice

Says Sir Roger Keyes, retired admiral of the

"We are not intimidated in the least by the

Strike Against Starvation Bill By CARL O'SHEA (Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, July 6-A spontaneous walkout of W.P.A. workers, estimated by the boss press to embrace 12,500, devel- character. Everyone is boiling oped in Minneapolis and St. Paul Wednesday morning after no one has a program. General bill which has cut wage rates

The strike began at 8 a. m. on the big W.P.A. project at the State Fair grounds. When the men reported for work they found posted a notice of the new wage rates. Skilled workers in the Twin Cities received cut in hourly wages from \$1.25 to \$.71, brought about by the lengthening in hours from 741/2 to 130. Intermediate workers had their hours lengthened from 80 to 130. The hours of unskilled labor were boosted from 88 to 130, all with corresponding hourly wage slashes.

The 160 skilled workers at unions, refused to start work. as did a large number of unskilled workers. A series of Paul said the same thing. diately, with the result that both skilled and and unskilled workers walked off the job. to other W.P.A. projects in the that no relief would be granted Twin Cities, carried along by W.P.A. strikers until at least roving bands of strikers.

Big Cities Solid By the end of the day, 7,500 men in Minneapolis were out and 5,000 in St. Paul. In Duluth announced that "no time lost approximately the same result from voluntary separation will obtained. That is, in the large be considered as allowable this spontaneous strike movetowns where the union move- makeup time." In other words, ment was entrenched, all no strikers will be paid for the other than building trades could

and orders hastily came from

California W.A.A.

In Gross Stupidity

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

SAN FRANSISCO—It's heads

or tails sometimes whether the

plain stupidity of Workers' Al

trolled Workers Alliance order-

ed 30 pickets down to 433 Cal-

ifornia Street in San Francisco

to picket the United States

address with placards and be-

gan picketing the Chamber of

Commerce, shouting appropri-

the Stalinists hold accountable

for the relief slashes instead of

the real culprit, President

rank and filers began to detect

erally given off by a den of the

Chamber of Commerce. He in-

estigated . . . discovered—that

he Chamber of Commerce had

The Daily Worker pretends to be behind

The Minneapolis Journal of July 6 reports:

'The (welfare) board heard Harry Mayville

and Jack Lieberman of the Workers Alliance

plead that the unskilled workers were 'inno-

cently thrown out of work' by the strike of

Harry Mayville and Jack Lieberman are

The St. Paul Pioneer Press of July 6 re-

ports: "Shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Chester Watson of St. Paul, state president of

the Workers Alliance, issued a typewritten

statement in which he said his organization

called a strike. We are advising our members

that whenever a project is struck by another

union that your members should leave the

project in a peaceful manner and send a del-

egation to the district W.P.A. office demand-

ing that they be transferred to another job

and that they be permitted to make up time

"The Minnesota Workers Alliance has not

is not responsible for any strike.

prominent representatives of the Communist

three months ago.

BUT-

skilled tradesmen.

Party—the Stalinists

Chamber of Commerce.

Roosevelt.

liance chiefs is not greater than

Exceeds Itself