

WHENEVER the stooges of big business shout themselves hoarse about the "menace of Communism," you can rest assured they mean you no good. Like the pick-pocket, they step on your toe to distract you, while their nimble fingers reach for your wallet.

At this particular moment, when the trial of the 12 Communist leaders has begun, when all the press rants about Communism, it is more necessary than ever to beware of Wall Street's con men. For brother, they're out to fleece you, and in a big way.

As you well remember, President Truman made many noble promises during his election campaign. He was going to extend the New Deal. He was going to give us a real social security program, with increased housing, education, etc. His publicity boys called this program the Fair Deal, and newspapers like the Chicago Sun-Times, drooled at the mouth in expectation, and said that Harry Truman was advancing the "most radical program in our life-time."

Let's take a look at this so-called Fair Deal. Let's see what Mr. Truman has actually proposed.

The best place to look is in the projected budget for the next year. After all, that will tell us exactly how OUR money collected in taxes is going to be spent—and it is OUR money, that we know by the pay-roll deductions taken from our weekly pay envelopes.



GIL GREEN

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THE BUDGET FOR next year will be the largest ever—some \$42 billion. How huge this is, can best be realized when we remember that the total budget for the year 1941 was only \$13 billion.

Now, that in itself is not bad, depending upon how this money is to be spent. Certainly, no progressive person would object to the expenditure of five or 10 billion dollars for a much needed slum clearance and low-cost housing program. Nor could anyone object to the expenditure of a like amount for increased education, or for increased old-age pensions.

But these are not the kind of expenditures President Truman calls for. Fully 50 percent of the \$42 billion is to be spent for war preparations—\$14 billion for the Army and Navy, and \$7 billion for aid to reactionary governments abroad. More than \$5 billion is to go as interest payments to Wall Street bankers.

A measly 7/10 of 1 percent, or \$290 million, is to be spent on education, and only a pitiful 3/10 of 1 percent, or \$129 million, is to be spent on housing.

And this is what is called a Fair Deal! Under the Roosevelt New Deal, more than 1/3 of the yearly budget was allocated for social security purposes. Under the Truman double-deal, only 7 percent of the budget is to go for social security.

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AT THE SAME time, Attorney General Clark has asked Congress to legalize wire-tapping—something which not even the reactionary Hoover Administration dared to propose. And alongside of this police-state measure, Truman has also asked for Universal Military Training, to militarize the youth of the nation and to prepare them for a new war.

Thus, in the name of fighting Communism, the munition makers and big monopolists are going to reap a royal harvest of super-profits. But the families of Illinois veterans are going to continue to live doubled-up; the Negro people will continue to live in squalid rat-infested and overcrowded fire-traps; and our school system will continue to deteriorate from year to year, unable to give its teachers a decent wage.

These are the things the working people, Negro and white, have got to keep their eyes on as the trial of the Communist leaders gets under way.

Don't be distracted or misled. Communism is not the enemy. The enemy is the Wall Street gang and its governmental stooges who shout "Communism" in order to pick your pockets and destroy your rights.