

# LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 16, 1940

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY, SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

THREE CENTS

# ROOSEVELT PLEDGES THE U. S. TO WAR!

## The Murder of Leon Trotsky

By MAX SHACHTMAN

### Only the Blind Can Fail to See War Participation Near — Says Army and Navy Journal

Who murdered Leon Trotsky?

The creature who actually wielded the weapon that delivered the fatal blow is known. Jacques Mornard or Vandendreschd, alias Frank Jackson, has made no attempt whatever to conceal his own guilt. And how could he, when he was caught red-handed in the act, his expiring victim at his feet?

In spite of this, all the circumstances of the assassination give us the right to repeat the question: Who murdered Leon Trotsky?

The answer is written in the three bloody letters which inspire loathing in the heart of every decent person throughout the world: the GPU.

The answer is written in the name which has become a synonym for everything detestable and disastrous in the labor movement: Joseph Stalin, master-assassin of the Kremlin.

*Comrade Max Shachtman has just returned from Mexico which he visited in order to pay the respects of the Workers Party to the martyred leader of the October Revolution and the Fourth International. During his stay, he had the opportunity to study, thoroughly and on the scene, the details of the investigation now being conducted of the murder—attending, in the course of it, several of the police and juridical hearings of Frank Jackson and Sylvia Ageloff. Shachtman will, in the series of articles that we begin this week, lay bare the motives of the murder which, it has been established beyond any doubt, was the work of Stalin and his nefarious GPU.*

machine-gun gangsters on May 24, 1940. This crew, by his own confession, proudly reiterated only a couple of weeks ago in a letter to the Mexican press and the Chief of Police of Mexico City, was organized and led by David Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican painter and notorious Stalinist. And we shall see that Jackson was intimately connected with the Siqueiros conspiracy.

### A Thorn in the Side of Stalinist Reaction

Trotsky was the most irksome thorn in the side of the Stalinist bureaucracy. He was its most effective critic. Above all, he incarnated the great Bolshevik Revolution which Stalin and Co. had traduced and betrayed. He was not only the living embodiment of everything the Kremlin gang hated, but alive, he remained a constant threat to the security of the usurpers, a potential rallying point of the revolutionary rebirth of the Soviet people, the only visible revolutionary successor to the shaky regime in power today.

Stalin, vindictive, unscrupulous, power-mad, had to get rid of his arch-enemy, and he did.

It may be asked: Is it not possible that even though the GPU wanted to murder Trotsky, an accident intervened which exculpates them from direct responsibility for the assassination, an accident in the form of a demented or disillusioned individual having nothing in common with the GPU, a murderer on his own hook?

Yes, in general it is possible. But not in this particular case. Jackson was and is an agent of the GPU! an examination of the facts impose this conclusion upon any intelligent and even moderately well-informed person.

### Not a Particle of Truth in the "Explanation"

Let us consider briefly the only serious alternative conclusion, namely, that Jackson was actuated by purely personal motives. The assassin declares that Trotsky destroyed his faith, that he became disillusioned after Trotsky's alleged proposal that he, Jackson, undertake a counter-

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"The inevitable conclusion to be drawn from these developments is that the United States has moved to the point where it is committed to assist the British Empire in the war against Germany... Only the blind can fail to see that the United States is rapidly moving towards participation in the world struggle."

This quote comes from the Army and Navy Journal of August 24, and the Army and Navy Journal should know.

We've been saying for many weeks that war participation is Roosevelt's policy, that he has in fact already entered the war save for the actual fighting. But here you have confirmation right out of the horse's mouth.

You see, the Army and Navy Journal isn't meant to circulate among our kind of people, that is the workers. It is published for the benefit of the military high-muck-a-mucks and their subordinates. Roosevelt can try to fool US about his intentions, but not the boys who must do the actual planning and directing. They, the army and navy chieftains, know that a war declaration is in the offing, that conscription, etc., has only one purpose—WAR.

LABOR ACTION has never been blind to this fact. Nor have the army chieftains. And, disagreeing on everything else with the army and navy servants of Wall Street, we nevertheless agree that only the blind can fail to see what is so obvious. Elsewhere in this issue we print a table tracing in tiny measure the road to war travelled by Roosevelt during the last year. We assure you that it has only skimmed the available evidence. But what it says is plain enough. Step by step, Roosevelt moved towards war participation up to his last two steps—the Canadian-American "Defense" Board and the "trade" of battleships for bases—by which he in all respects but one entered the war.

The date for the final step is rapidly drawing near. With conscription a fact, the men trained, it will only be a matter of choosing the time judiciously. There will be an "incident"—a ship will be sunk, someone will be "insulted". The headlines will scream. The propaganda machine will churn on all its cylinders. And then will come a pronouncement: WAR IS DECLARED. They'll try to tell us that it will be a war to save democracy. But only the blind will believe that lie. The war will in actuality be another, and more gruesome, edition of the First World War—a war to save profits. The reasons for it will be basically the same. The false propaganda also the same.

The fact of the matter is this: the capitalists of the world are constantly fighting for profits—profits which are born out of our sweat and toil. If one group gets hold of a colony or

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## Steps on the Road to War

### Fall of '39 —

Arms embargo is repealed in order to make material aid to the allies a possibility.

### January, February, '40 —

England and France cannot get arms fast enough, so they are allowed to buy U. S. army model planes.

### February 5 —

Sumner Welles and Myron Taylor sail for Europe—Welles appointed by the president to investigate conditions in Europe, Taylor as a personal emissary to the Vatican. New York Times comments, "The Welles mission recalled that of Colonel House whom President Wilson sent to Europe in December, 1915, in an effort to persuade the belligerents to sit down around the conference table."

### May 26 —

In a "fireside chat", President Roosevelt announces his "defense" plans to the nation—defense board, mobilization of war industry, hint of conscription.

### June 1-14 —

Army supplies still not reaching allies fast enough, so they are enabled to buy reserve US army bombers. "Technicalities" of Neutrality Act make transportation difficult.

### June 17-23 —

Sidney Hillman is asked by the president to make plans for youth service to government. Burke-Wadsworth universal military service bill is introduced. Knox and Stimson are appointed, to form "coalition" war-time government.

### July 22 —

Havana conference opens, and Hull proceeds to whip Latin America into line, and assure American domination of the Western hemisphere.

### August 18 —

Results of secret Canadian conferences made public. It is discovered that the United States and Canada have a joint "defense" board.

### September 4 —

Roosevelt concludes a deal with Great Britain, exchanging destroyers for military bases.

### Next Month — ?

### A Stiletto Has Replaced the Sickle

Jackson denies vehemently any connection with the GPU and insists that his decision to murder Trotsky was entirely personal—the act of a disillusioned supporter of the Fourth International. The Stalinist press anxiously echoes and re-echoes this explanation, as do all the other attorneys for International Murder, Inc. But as we shall see, Jackson was nothing but an agent of Stalin, launched and directed by him for the sole purpose of destroying Leon Trotsky physically. The Mexican newspaper was right when it printed a cartoon showing Stalin removing the old Soviet insignia of the hammer and sickle and replacing it with an insignia of the blood-dripping mattock crossed with a stiletto.

It is almost possible to exhaust the whole matter merely by asking the question: Who, up to now, has bent every effort to hound Trotsky to his death, and who stood to gain most by it?

The GPU is responsible for the death of both of Trotsky's daughters, one in Moscow who died uncared-for in a hospital and the other who was driven to suicide in Berlin

several years ago. The GPU is responsible for the death of Trotsky's son, Leon Sedoff, who died so "mysteriously" in a Paris hospital. The GPU is responsible for the disappearance—most likely, the death—of Trotsky's other son, Sergei. The GPU is responsible for the imprisonment, exile and death of Trotsky's first wife, Alexandra Lvovna, somewhere in the wastes of Siberia. The GPU is responsible for the death of Rudolph Klement, friend and one-time secretary of Trotsky and then secretary of the Bureau of the Fourth International. The GPU is responsible for the death of Erwin Wolf, another of the friends and secretaries of Trotsky.

Stalin and the GPU officially put a price on the head of Leon Trotsky himself in the first of the great Moscow Trials, where he was officially condemned to death by the Kremlin's puppet court and ordered apprehended—"dead or alive" was implicit in the sentence—by any Soviet citizen.

Trotsky and other members of his household were almost murdered in the dead of night by a raiding crew of

## THE WORLD AT WAR

### Though It Is a Bosses War, It Is the Worker Who Bears The Brunt of Bomb and Bullet

By MAX STERLING

"In this historic hour, the German air force for the first time has struck into the heart of the foe". With these words, broadcast by Marshal Goering over the radio on Sept. 8, the Nazi's began their up-to-now fiercest air onslaught on the British Isles.

In the last few days, hundreds have been killed and thousands wounded by millions of pounds of death dealing bombs that have been unloaded on London by Nazi planes. The workers and the poor of the East End of London were trapped in their stums like rats in this new phase of the total war. Unlike the rich they could not exercise their "right" to move to the country.

The Royal Air Force retaliated by unloading bombs on the crowded cities of Hamburg and Berlin. On both sides the major sufferers have been the civilian populations. The havoc wrought has been so terrible that even the newspaper correspondents are unanimous in reporting that the horrors that they witnessed have no precedents.

Hitler has declared that this is only the beginning, and that he is prepared to continue the war for five years. The move to paralyze the British Isles is bringing closer the Nazi attempt at invasion and in anticipation, the Royal Air Force is blasting away at all the Nazi-held channel ports.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIES  
The desperate appeal by the British High Command to enlist more pilots for its air force shows that the British are hoping to stave off their more powerful opponent by timely help from the dominions and the United States. Churchill has already been referred to as the Anglo-American Prime Minister.

additional shipment of 229 American war tanks to Canada. American intervention on the side of Britain is being speeded up so that whether or not the British Isles are surrendered the United States has been assured that the British fleet will if necessary, remain intact to carry on the war from the Western Hemisphere and the colonial empire.

Reports have been circulating in Washington that U.S. army pilots will be released temporarily for fighting in the British air forces. England has already facilitated this by removing the requirement for Americans who join the British fighting forces to take an oath of allegiance to the British crown.

Meanwhile Congress has brusquely shoved aside all obstacles to the draft so that by October 1 the man power of this country will begin to be firmly harnessed to the war machine. At the same time, the President signed the \$5,251,000,000 bill for the acquisition of the greatest number of planes, ships, and other armaments in the country's peacetime history. Contracts have already been let for the construction of a two ocean navy that will be larger than the combined present sea power of Germany, Italy, Russia, and Japan.

### IN INDO-CHINA AND THE EAST

America's collaboration with Great Britain plus Secretary of State Hull's note to Japan warning her of any attempt to disturb the status quo in the far east has temporarily halted her in her attempt to pass an army through Indo-China in order to attack the Chinese from the south. The Nazi's are evidently encouraging the French authorities in Indo-China to make such a concession to Japan in order to tie up Anglo-American forces in the Pacific so that the Germans can have a freer hand in the Battle of Britain. The Chinese have indicated that as soon as the

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## Labor Needs Its Own Man in Congress!

### Shachtman Committee Opens New Headquarters at 7 W. Burnside

Early action in approving the Burke-Wadsworth military training bill was sharply attacked today by Max Shachtman, Candidate for Congress from the Twenty Third District of the Bronx and National Secretary of the Workers Party.

Just returned from Mexico where he attended the funeral of Leon Trotsky, the Workers Party candidate stated, "It took a mere two weeks for the House of Representatives to follow the Senate in approving compulsory military service for the workers of this country. This frantic haste in passing the conscription bill was marked by a total lack of firm opposition from any member of Congress. Had there been

a real spokesman for the workers of this country on capitol hill during the debate on conscription, it would have taken the combined might of the army and navy to silence him," Shachtman declared.

"Such a spokesman would have stated plainly and firmly that Conscription means the enslavement of millions of workers to the military machine of Wall Street. It would have been the duty of such a Congressman to exert every means in order to forestall and kill a measure that means the coercion of millions into the service of a hell-bent imperialism," Shachtman went on. Meanwhile, as the National Secretary prepared to lead the campaign

for his election to Congress, the drive to secure signatures to the nominating petitions went forward at full speed.

### Meetings Planned

The Campaign Committee announced today the opening of a new Election Headquarters in the West Bronx, at 7 West Burnside Avenue, Room 25.

Campaign headquarters at 1334 Wilkins Avenue has hitherto borne the full weight of the petition drive. The Campaign Committee also announced its intention to make known at an early date an itinerary of public mass meetings at which Shachtman will speak.

## Protest the Lynching of Elbert Williams

A mass meeting to protest the lynching of Elbert Williams has been called under the auspices of the Harlem Branch of the Workers Party on Friday, September 13, at 8 p.m. at the YMCA at 135 Street and Sev-

enth Avenue. Among the speakers will be George Murphy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Conrad Lynn, Harlem labor attorney; and Max Shachtman, Nat'l Secretary of the WP.

### Easy to See Why Profits Are Large

Nineteen pulp and paper companies for the first half of 1940 showed profits of \$24,458,418; 237% over the profits for the first half of 1939. No one should be surprised at this when it is known that the pulp companies have been caught paying 70,000 forest workers as low as ten cents an hour. The Wages and Hours scale is thirty cents an hour.

One of the reasons the sale is so low and why there is so much chiseling is that the pulp companies get a large part of their raw materials in the forests of the South. More than one half of the forest workers in this region are Negroes. Neither the New Deal nor the Republicans would ever think of setting a half way decent wage scale for Negro workers. This would be a blow at "white supremacy," culture, christianity and "national defense."

Elbert Williams was lynched in Brownsville, Tennessee, on June 15 for demanding the right to vote in the coming elections for president of the United States, and other Negroes who also wanted to exercise their constitutional right to vote, were driven out of town and threatened with death if they returned.

### "No Evidence"

The grand jury which investigated the case found that "no evidence has been brought out that might place suspicion on anyone as having a part in the case." This in spite of the fact that those responsible for kidnapping Williams have been identified as some of the "leading" citizens of Brownsville, including the night marshal and Democratic candidate for Sheriff, a police officer and a president of a local bank.

The FBI which also undertook an investigation of the kidnapping and lynching has also been unable to

discover anyone as being responsible! It would now appear that Williams must have kidnapped and lynched himself!

The Workers Party is making every effort to give the widest publicity to the Williams case and to demand the immediate passage of the Anti-Lynching and Anti-Poll Tax Bills which have been pigeonholed in Washington in order not to offend the reactionary southern politicians who have threatened a "revolution" in the south if the bills were passed.

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Enclosed find \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ subscription to Labor Action.  
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## Life and Role of Leon Trotsky Mass Meeting Friday, September 20, 8 P. M.

Max Shachtman . . . Speaker ● Manhattan Plaza, 66 EAST 4th STREET (BETWEEN 2nd and 3rd AVENUES)



## With the Labor Unions

## On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

## A "BLESSING" WE'D RATHER NOT HAVE

Speaking to the American Federation of Teachers, Bill Green is reported to have delivered himself of the following bright remark: "we are not opposed to compulsory industrial service, registration and, training, if that becomes necessary to protect our lives and our homeland."

We are not certain of what Green means by "compulsory industrial service" but the statement is certainly not a good one. It is of a kind with Green's former outburst at the graduation exercises of the FBI police training school. Here he called on the police to clean the racketeers from the union and remarked that "we (the AFL and the police) can be friends and we want to be friends."

One day Green is against the conscription act and the next day he is in favor of compulsory industrial

service for the workers. The workers don't have a tough enough time with the boss now under the system of work for what you get or starve. Green evidently is ready to accept a system that puts workers under the complete control of the government and the bosses without any say in the matter, or any opportunity for organized action for better conditions.

Green thinks that such a step may be necessary to "protect our lives and our homeland." What kind of "homeland" is it that needs labor conscription to protect it? We are against military conscription for imperialist war. How much stronger would we be against labor conscription for the Wall Street War. We would like to inform brother Green that "compulsory industrial service" is one of the "blessings" that has been bestowed on the German workers by Herr Hitler.

## WHERE THE BOSS CAN'T, THE GOVERNMENT TRIES

One of New Jersey's vice-chancellors has delivered a "judicial" opinion of the kind that comes out of Hague's state quite often. The vice-chancellor, one Soocy, voided the closed shop provisions in the contracts of the New Jersey oyster industry. Some little oyster company appealed to the court, against the United Oystermen's Union that had forced closed shop agreements from the oyster companies. The union controls 95% of the 2,200 oystermen in New Jersey and required workers to join the union or get union permits before going to work.

The vice-chancellor held that this practice was "monopolistic" and tended to deny employment to persons who might otherwise be employed.

This incident has some important lessons. Here was a union that was strong enough to force a closed shop

contract from the bosses. Scabs, stool pigeons and union busters would have great difficulty operating. The union could force increases in wages and better working conditions. The bosses were forced to deal with the union and grant their demands. But the bosses knew they had an ace in the hole. This was the government; their government. What the bosses could not do, the government, the state, stepped in and did for them. If the workers fail to abide by the state's decision, the boss can call in the police and the courts to throw them into jail.

Despite all this the workers must have their unions, they must have the closed shop and they must remain prepared to drag concessions from the boss. They didn't build their unions by quietly accepting such decisions as this one by Soocy.

## A TASTE OF A NOT SO "DEMOCRATIC PROCESS"

We stated some time back that the fools in the Capitol at Washington evidently think they can stamp out the class struggle by some such act as sending the Stalinist Harry Bridges back to Australia. They passed a law naming Bridges specifically for deportation. Attorney-General Jackson objected to this bill as not in keeping with "American practice and tradition."

The men on Capitol Hill later took a tip from Jackson to the effect that he could proceed against Bridges, or any other alien under the new Alien Registration Act. Dean Landis who conducted the Bridges deportation hearing had decided that Bridges was not deportable because at the time of the proceedings he was not a member of a "subversive organization." This was based on the Supreme Court decision in the Strecker Case.

They couldn't get Bridges under any existing law and because of Supreme Court decisions. And so what did they do? They passed a law calling for the registration of aliens and included in this act provisions for getting around the constitution and decisions of the Supreme Court. Jackson proudly announced that "since that time (the Landis decision on Bridges) however, in the Allen Registration Act

of 1940, Congress enacted legislation specifically designed to alter the rule of the Strecker decision and to make deportable an alien who at any time in the past has been a member of a subversive organization."

What we want to impress on workers especially is the way that this thing was done. The whole business was a frame-up procedure perpetrated by the government in league with the bosses, particularly the shipping interests of the Pacific Coast. Now it is "aliens." Later it will be any worker who dares raise his head and utter a complaint against the bosses or the government. If you are an "alien" and belonged to a "legal" working class party five years ago and later left that party you can be deported today if some government outfit decides that that party is "subversive." This is what is known to Fourth of July orators, the White House, and to chambers of commerce as "the democratic process." It was this same process that kept Mooney in jail 20 years and that murdered Sacco and Vanzetti.

The only way out for the workers against this sort of "democratic process" is a WORKERS' GOVERNMENT, A WORKERS' CONGRESS, A WORKERS' DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

## REMEMBER THE QUEEN'S "LET 'EM EAT CAKE!"

An official of the British Ministry of Agriculture has been pondering the question of feeding the English workers this winter. Tourists who had seen the fish farms of Scandinavia suggested that England establish fish farms and pay special attention to the breeding of trout. The official replied that trout would cost about fifty cents to farm and would take three years to grow. He then said that the public should turn to catching eels.

"Millions of them are just waiting to be caught and eaten," he said. "In

East Anglia, the Fens, Sussex, Kent and many other parts of the country. In the Autumn they will be making their way to the sea. They should not be allowed to get away. They are first-class food." The Ministry plans to organize eel catching demonstrations.

We would like to remind the Ministry of Agriculture that a short time before she was beheaded by the French revolutionaries, Queen Marie Antoinette had remarked that if the workers had no bread they could eat cake.

## THE LITHOGRAPHERS HAVE AN ARGUMENT

The International Printing Pressmen's Union (AFL) is preparing to hold its first convention in 12 years on September 9. One important issue before the convention is the 27 year old feud between the pressmen and the Amalgamated Lithographers (AFL). The 1918 AFL convention ordered the lithographers to disband and join the pressmen and photographers.

The lithographers refused on the ground that as long as the AFL is on a craft basis there is no reason for them not to have their own craft international. The lithographers said

that if there was one union for the printing field they would join. They were not expelled from the AFL but are not officially recognized.

It seems to us that the lithographers have something here. They are willing to join a printing trades industrial union but so long as the industry is divided and based on craft, then the lithographers want the customary craft autonomy. The simple solution to these problems is unification of the AFL and CIO with the perspective of the complete organization of industry into industrial unions.

## HARLEM HOUSEWARMING

Saturday, September 21st

at 8:30 P.M.

at 33 West 125 Street

Dancing

Entertainment - Refreshments

Joint Auspices: HARLEM BRANCH

WP &amp; YPSL

## Wanted

For very important use in party work the following volumes:

1. The 3 volumes of "Capital."
2. The "Selected Works" of Lenin.
3. The "Proletarian Revolution in Russia" by Lenin and Trotsky.
4. "The Real Situation in Russia."

If you have the above, please communicate with J.R. Johnson.

## The First of a Series of Articles by Max Shachtman

## THE MURDER OF LEON TROTSKY

(Continued from page 1)

revolutionary mission to Russia via the Far East, that Trotsky prohibited his marriage to his sweetheart because the latter was not of Trotsky's political beliefs; and therefore he decided to kill Trotsky.

On the very face of it, this explanation is more than false, it is preposterous.

## Each Claim More Preposterous Than the Last

In the first place, Jackson's "faith" in the revolutionary movement in general and particularly in the Trotskyist movement, was never very profound, and certainly not so profound and all-pervading that its disturbance would lead him to so violent and dreadful a reaction. At most, he was a dilettante and a novice. His "conversion" to the Trotskyist movement dates back only two years, at the earliest. What he calls his ardent adherence to the Fourth International never reached a degree of warmth sufficient to have him become a member of the organization—either in France, the United States, or Mexico. His mode and conditions of life underwent no noticeable change after his "conversion" and he never made any pretense of being any more than a friend or sympathizer of the International.

In the second place, why in the name of common sense should Trotsky select Jackson (if he can be imagined selecting anyone for such a job!) to go to the Soviet Union for "acts of sabotage" and violence? By his own admission, Jackson was known to Trotsky for a maximum of four months. He was invited to the Trotskyist household as a visitor without the recommendation of anybody, known or unknown by Trotsky. Again by his own admission, Jackson does not speak or read Russian or any other Slavic language, a circumstance which is a pretty dubious qualification for a secret agent in the Soviet Union.

In the third place, assuming that Trotsky would even have the slightest interest in whether or not Jackson was legally married to a member of another faction (and in this case, of a friendly faction, to say nothing of the fact that the woman in question was on friendly personal terms with the Trotskyists and the household), what conceivable power could he have in "preventing" such a marriage? If Jackson's love was so consuming that an attempt to prevent its consummation would lead him to murder, what physical or moral or spiritual force could Trotsky or anyone else exert strong enough to stop Jackson from marriage, strong enough to require Trotsky's physical extermination before the ceremony could be performed? The tragedy alone forbids one to laugh himself hoarse from such a ludicrous story.

## His Papers and the Article He Wrote

In the fourth place, Jackson's story of his revulsion against Trotsky for the way in which the latter allegedly treated the minority faction in the American section of the Inter-

national, is so thin that it gives way under the pressure of several facts, Trotsky's "treatment" of the minority occurred before Jackson ever set eyes on his victim. The split in the American Socialist Workers Party, with the expulsion of the minority and the formation of the Workers Party, took place early in April of this year. It is precisely then that Jackson first gained entry into the household in Mexico and met Trotsky. To Trotsky and all of Trotsky's associates who would lend an ear, Jackson repeatedly and vehemently asserted (both before April and afterward) his support of the position of Trotsky and the American party majority. Up to the fatal day of the murder, both in the presence of Trotsky and others and in private, Jackson continually argued for the majority position with Sylvia Ageloff, who sided with the minority. He does not claim to have given, nor did he ever give, the slightest indication at any time, either privately or publicly, of any disaffection with Trotsky or the movement. On the contrary, the article he wrote to show Trotsky in his study, and which the latter was reading when Jackson struck his cowardly blow, was a sharp polemic against the minority, calculated to show that the slogan of the "Third Camp" was the same thing as the policy of Popular Frontism!

And in the fifth place, if, as he declares, his private papers would have served to confirm the story he has been telling in general, and particularly his story about the motives for the assassination, why did he burn and destroy these papers just before committing the crime? This question, skillfully put to Jackson by Trotsky's legal representative, Albert Goldman, during one of the interrogations of the criminal, encountered the stubborn (in reality, the helpless) silence of Jackson. He would not reply; he could not. His papers, falling into the hands of the authorities, might have, and in all probability would have, given more than one clue to Jackson's real connections, to the real authors of the crime, to the real motives behind it.

But there is one more consideration—and it is overwhelming—to show that Jackson's crime was not the simple act of an individual, moved by personal feelings. And that is that Jackson's whole story is a tissue of lies, rent by crude contradictions and preposterous—verifiably preposterous—assertions.

## Why Is Jackson Lying?

Now why would Jackson lie about himself, about his life, his work, his movements, his connections? One might reply: in order to protect himself. But obviously this will not hold in the present case. A suspect might lie and twist and turn in the hope of diverting suspicion from himself, perhaps inculcating another, and thus obtain his liberty. But this is not the case with Jackson. He does not pretend that he is innocent. He was caught, weapon in hand, in the criminal act. He has voluntarily re-enacted the crime at the

house for the benefit of the authorities. He admits the murder, and explains how he planned and executed it. He does not apologize for the crime or seek for a single minute to mitigate his responsibility. He knows, as does everyone, that come what may, whether he tells the truth or not, he will be convicted and given the twenty-three year-sentence required by Mexican law in such cases. He has no illusions on this score, and unless he were stark, staring mad he cannot have. And all observers, including myself, who have seen him, and the medical men who have examined him, testify that he is anything but a madman; rather, he is exceedingly shrewd, astute, intelligent, alert, self-controlled, and even quite at his ease.

Then if he is not (and he cannot possibly be) lying in order to mitigate or cover up his own guilt, he must be lying in order to cover up someone else. That "someone else" can be either an accomplice or a principal—his associate or his boss, or both. In this case, it means Sylvia Ageloff or the GPU.

## Sylvia Ageloff Is Thoroughly Innocent

As for the possibility that it is Sylvia, that can be dismissed instantly. *Nobody* in Mexico who is in the remotest degree connected with the case has the opinion that she can conceivably be involved in the murder as an accomplice, or in any other capacity than that of innocent victim of Jackson's monstrous duplicity. Trotsky's widow, his attorney, the members of the household, all unite in expressing their conviction of her innocence; they have repeatedly and formally stated this conviction before the Mexican authorities and in the Mexican press. Those of us in this country who have known Sylvia throughout her years in the radical movement, and especially those of us who are acquainted with the more intimate details of the case, are no less firmly convinced of her complete guiltlessness.

But even if these things are not taken into consideration, an examination of the nature and trend of Jackson's lies shows that they are not aimed at clearing Sylvia Ageloff of responsibility. He does not, of course, accuse her of any responsibility; quite the contrary. But his falsehoods and contradictions do not relate to her. They relate to his principal, to his masters, to those he served as agent, to the GPU. And cunning though he is, the very story he tells, the very lies he tells, are proof positive to any thoughtful person that the master-author of the crime is the monster who sits on the Kremlin throne, Joseph Stalin. The very lies he tells, we repeat, reveal just what he and his masters want covered up: the direct criminal responsibility of the GPU.

In the next article, we will examine Jackson's story as he told it for the records first of the police, then of the Mexican Attorney General, and finally of the judge conducting the investigation and trial.

## WIDICK SPEAKS AT ST. LOUIS TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Sixty people attended the Trotsky memorial meeting held here last week under the auspices of the Workers Party.

As the principal speaker of the evening, Widick called upon "all revolutionists to gather in mighty protest against the damnable crime of the GPU and to honor the memory of the genius of the world revolution."

The meeting also heard a recording of Leon Trotsky's speech to the 10th anniversary celebration of the American Trotskyist movement.

The Workers Party organized the meeting though it would have preferred a joint meeting with the Socialist Workers Party.

## AKRON MEETING HONORS TROTSKY

AKRON—A meeting in honor of our fallen comrade, Leon Trotsky, was held here Tuesday evening, Sept. 3.

The speaker, Maurice Hess, traced the great practical and theoretical work of Leon Trotsky who led a magnificent revolution and enriched the body of Marxism with his ideas. The crime of Trotsky's murder, said Hess, will be avenged on the day of socialist victory.

One thousand leaflets, exposing the Communist Party and the murder Stalin, were distributed before the meeting. Copies of this leaflet are still being distributed.

## GATES SPEAKS AT PHILADELPHIA SWP MEETING

PHILADELPHIA—A well-attended Leon Trotsky memorial meeting was held in this city on Friday evening, September 6. Although the meeting was called by the Socialist Workers Party, it was supported by the Workers Party which was represented by Albert Gates, from New York.

The meeting opened with a period of silence in memory of the founder of the Fourth International and was followed by the singing of the workers' memorial song. Gates in speaking traced the development of Trotsky's role in the revolutionary movement, the main contributions

made by him to Marxist theory and paid tribute to his memory in the name of the Workers Party.

Felix Morrow, editor of the Socialist Appeal, spoke for the Socialist Workers Party. He dealt with the evidence accumulating in Mexico which demonstrated the GPU hand in directing and carrying through the murder of Trotsky.

## GOULD SPEAKS TO 100 ON LEON TROTSKY

CHICAGO—Over 100 workers attended the Trotsky memorial meeting organized by the Workers Party on August 29. The meeting was organized after the Workers Party had failed to secure a joint meeting with the Socialist Workers Party. Nathan Gould was the main speaker of the evening. Ernest Lund, Chicago organizer, was chairman.

Gould, appraising the work of Leon Trotsky as revolutionist and Marxist theoretician, warned that the commemoration of the great revolutionist's death would not be done in mourning, but in unflinching determination to carry on the struggle for which Trotsky lived and died—the struggle for socialist emancipation.

## FITZBURG-WORCESTER

Memorial meetings to pay tribute to Leon Trotsky, the founder of the Fourth International, were held by the local branches of the Workers Party in Fitzburg and Worcester, Massachusetts. Paul Temple, of New York, spoke for the National Committee of the Workers Party.

## BUFFALO

A Leon Trotsky memorial meeting was held here by the Workers Party. A good number of people were present to hear a representative of the party speak on the life and role of Trotsky.

## CLEVELAND

A Leon Trotsky memorial meeting will be held in this city on Sunday, September 15. M. Hess, representing the Workers Party, will speak on the life of Trotsky.

## Scalise On Trial—Before Wrong Court

Should Have Been Tried by the Members of the Union He Injured

The trial of George Scalise, ex-convict and racketeer, charged with stealing \$60,087.27 from the Building Service Employees International Union, of which he was president for three years, is now going on in the Court of General Sessions in New York City.

From the workers' point of view, this trial comes before the wrong court—a boss court. The thieving scoundrel Scalise should have been tried by the union he robbed and by the scrubwomen and elevator operators he used as pawns in his racket.

The reactionary columnist Westbrook Pegler, who exposed the Scalise scandal, and the boss politician District Attorney Dewey whose office is conducting the prosecution, are merely trying to throw mud into the face of unionism.

## Grad Larceny

Crook Scalise has the honor of being tried under the longest indictment ever returned against a single individual in General Sessions. It contains 49 counts of grand larceny and 11 of third degree forgery.

The prosecution charges that Scalise was putting into his own pockets money that he channeled up for organizing purposes. For instance, the Pittsburgh local was credited with \$13,000, but in the three years of Scalise's presidency, it actually received only \$120. The same kind of falsification was practiced on other locals. Large sums written off for office and legal expenses never went to the persons named, but paid for the swank in which Scalise wallowed. An office boy getting \$10 a week, was down for an additional \$2020 above his wages, not a penny of which he ever saw.

The total taken by Scalise from the union treasury is placed at \$185,965, including his salary which was rapidly raised from \$12,000 to \$20,000 a year. This tidy sum came from the 35 cents a month dues paid by the elevator operators, doormen, janitors and scrubwomen who were members of the union.

## Fake Accounts

The defense admits that the financial statements submitted to the union by Scalise were false, but denies that this means the funds were stolen. Trying hard to wiggle out of the obvious conclusions from their admission of falsification, the defense lawyers have concocted a fancy but fabulous story. Scalise, you see, had

an "agreement"—with whom is not revealed—that he would receive half the dues of all new members.

Since the dues were 35 cents a month, Scalise was "entitled" to 17½ cents per member per month. The membership rose from 1237 to 30,545, and Scalise's take rose accordingly. Could he help that? ask the defense lawyers.

The ramifications of their story includes an explanation for the false financial statements. These smart lawyers say that Scalise had to conceal his take under the cloak of legitimate union expenses because union might get jealous if they knew the organizers on an ordinary pay basis, truth.

Before Scalise struck gold in the Building Service Employees Union, he tried other less lucrative rackets. He has had unsavory connections with the organization of garage workers, beauty culturists, dry cleaners, laundry workers and bowling-billiard parlour employees, in the company of one or more other notorious racketeers.

The defense lawyers are trying to use this fact to prove that Scalise

was a great organizer and deserved what he helped himself to out of the union treasury. They also seek to gloss over the defendant's prison record of four and a half years for conviction of white slavery.

## Labor's Job

The scrubwomen and elevator operators on whom both the bosses and Scalise preyed MUST have a union. But not Scalise's type of union or union-leader. They must, themselves, clean out of the Building Service Union every last remnant of the racketeers—and elect into leadership one of their own members—a real worker, a real unionist. That is the answer to Scalise—and to Dewey and to Pegler.

To leave this job to the bosses' press and the bosses' courts is to give the union-busters a powerful weapon. Any labor leader who shields such crooks as Scalise must be called to account even if he himself is not guilty of racketeering. It will be a great day when the rank and file unionists purge their unions of the racketeers for whom union is only a profitable plaything.

## For Sale . . .

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## Their Government and Ours

Johnny had gotten outside of a can of beer at the union picnic, tossed two ringers in a game of horse-shoes, and was feeling more self-confident.

"I've been thinking over what you've been telling me," he announced to Bill, "and I talked to the minister about it. He said that socialists mostly mean well, but that their system couldn't work."

BILL: Did you ask him whether the angels use the capitalist system in heaven? Maybe they buy their harps on the installment plan for some sainted big-businessman, like Walter Chrysler?

JOHNNY: Well, we're no angels down here, and he says you can't expect human nature to stand for dividing-up, like under socialism.

### Who Divides the Gray and How?

BILL: Dividing up? Maybe the minister mentioned that, but not me.

JOHNNY: Well, socialism wants everybody to be more equal, don't it?

BILL: More equal in the food they eat and the good things of life they enjoy—that's right. BUT IT'S CAPITALISM MEANS DIVIDING-UP, not socialism.

JOHNNY: How do you make that one out?

BILL: Just by thinking for a minute. For example, a few thousand workers, some engineers and managers get together in a big steel plant, and they make a million dollars worth of steel. That's a million dollars that belongs to them. Then what do they do? They DIVIDE IT UP, with a bunch of stockholders who never laid a finger on the job.

JOHNNY: Can't say I like that kind of dividing up. I'll do it with my family, but not with my boss.

BILL: Does your wife pick your pockets too? After the capitalists make you divide up with them, they go through your pants besides for some loose change. Like watering your milk and charging monopoly prices.—No, sir. Socialism doesn't mean dividing up.

JOHNNY: Then how do you expect to make wealth more equal?

### It's the Set-Up That's Wrong

BILL: The main idea is simple. Remember I said that the money-lined tycoons get that way by OWNING, not working. They take away the biggest slice of what you and I produce, and throw champagne parties with it, while the men who do the work can't be sure of having a steak on the table once a week.

JOHNNY: All right, and if you divided up the wealth, the big money would be back in the same pockets in no time, anyway. So what's the percentage?

BILL: You're right, that's just what would happen. AS LONG AS THE BIG MONEYMEN KEPT ON BEING THE OWNERS OF INDUSTRY, and we kept on

being slaves of the job. You've got to change the whole set-up, not just divide up the bank-rolls, if it's all going to stick.

JOHNNY: Maybe I see where you're getting at now. You mean, let the government own industry instead of the private bosses.

BILL: That's PART of it. When that little change is made, you won't see one man rolling in wealth by keeping others in poverty. Why, there's already enough wealth in this country to give every man \$100 a week—the experts say so—provided all of our industrial power is used. It isn't used now, unless some boss can make a profit. WE'LL use all of it, and some more, because our only purpose is to produce more and more goods, for more and more people.

### There Are All Kinds of Governments

JOHNNY: That reminds me of another thing the minister said. He said socialism means the government runs everything and everybody, and that means government tyranny, like they have in Germany. It looks like he's right.

BILL: That brings up the other part of it. IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE GOVERNMENT YOU HAVE.—In Germany, for instance, there are the capitalists who own things just like here. Their government controls things a lot, BUT FOR WHOSE BENEFIT? For the benefit of those same capitalists, plus a rake-off for the government muscle-men. What else would you expect? It was the capitalists set Hitler up to do that job in the first place.

JOHNNY: Then how do you know your socialist government wouldn't look like Germany, or Russia?

BILL: This way. The government has to own industry. BUT FIRST, THE WORKERS HAVE TO OWN THE GOVERNMENT. That's what you have NOT got in Germany or Russia, and that's why the government is used to fill the pockets of parasites just as it's used here.—Do you remember Gene Debs?

JOHNNY: Heard him speak when I was a boy.

BILL: Gene Debs once said—GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRY plus WORKERS' OWNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT equals SOCIALISM. Don't forget either one.

What we want is a WORKERS' government, that's controlled by the workers organizations democratically. Don't let any dictator talk you into believing he'll do right by you. All that means is: he'll DO you.

JOHNNY: Well, I'll see what the minister thinks of that angle.

BILL: Trouble with a lot of ministers is this, same as he said of socialists. They mostly mean well, but they couldn't work—if they thought anything good about socialism.

## Of Special Interest to Women

By SUSAN GREEN

Twenty years ago the Woman Suffrage Amendment was passed and, ever since, the "better half" of the human race in these United States has had the right to vote.

Many of the women who participated in the suffrage movement now boast of their accomplishments. They point with pride to the number of women judges, congressmen, governors.

Women functionaries in a boss government does not make it less a boss government. Nor does war become any sweeter because women politicians are helping to prepare for it.

One of the promises made by the suffragettes was that when women got the vote they would never again allow the country to get into a war. The mothers of the race, they claimed, would no longer stand for the wholesale slaughter of human beings. They would prevail upon the men to turn their swords into ploughshares.

But on the twentieth anniversary of women-in-politics, Congress celebrates by passing a conscription law, and war has become the engrossing industry of the country. Today, more than ever before, human beings are destined for a short life of training for violent death.

The most important promise made by the suffragettes has not been fulfilled, and it could not have been. War is simply boss politics carried to the nth degree. The fight against war can be nothing else than a fight by working men and women against the boss class of both sexes. Politics is a matter of class not of sex.

Nearly everyone knows of Lillian Wald. She spent almost half a century "helping the poor". Now she is dead.

She was the brains and spirit of the Henry Street Settlement on the Lower East Side of New York. The visiting nurses service for the sick people of the slums was her idea. She started the movement for playgrounds for children to take them off the crowded filthy streets. Almost any humanitarian endeavor that did not require the poor to overthrow their masters, got her support.

However, she leaves behind her as much, if not more, poverty than existed when she started her social work. There is still plenty of it on the Lower East Side of New York—more in Harlem—in New Jersey—in Chicago—in the south—in the west. In the fifty years of devotion to the poor, Lillian Wald did nothing towards the abolition of poverty.

She herself came from a well-to-do family. She had nothing against the rich who exploit her beloved poor. The militarist Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his so-called reform program, got her wholehearted approval. But she never gave backing to the idea that poverty can be ended forever by abolishing the boss class which is responsible for it.

Like the doctor who puts an icebag on the fevered head and save on the festering boil but does nothing to drive the disease from the inner organs, Lillian Wald spent her life applying icebags and salve.

The latest intensified Nazi raids on London brought destruction to the densely populated workers' district.

The British government itself admits that many hundreds were killed and wounded. The actual casualties are probably much greater.

The question is pertinent: What were the provisions made by the government to protect the workers, their women and children, from the EXPECTED blitzkrieg? We know there are modern air raid shelters in the business and government sections of London. But what about the tenement districts?

An insight into the kind of protection the British government has provided for the people was given by one of the New York evening papers recently. It printed a picture labelled "This Was a Home Before the Bombing", and underneath was the explanatory note: "British woman, holding her child's money-box and her shoes, views wreckage of her home inflicted by Nazi bombing planes in southeast England. SHE HID UNDER STAIRS WITH HER FOUR CHILDREN WHILE BOMBS BLASTED AREA."

Here is an example of the provision made by the British boss government for the protection of women and children. The stairs of a building which is demolished by bombs is hardly a shelter from those bombs.

In contrast to this exposure of women and children to horrible death, comes news of the tremendous and expensive efforts being made by the British government to preserve the foreign markets during the war. So effective have these efforts been that the incredible has happened, and throughout the war period England has been able to maintain her export trade. All the avenues for bosses' profits must, of course, remain after the war. But a few million lives—what of that!

Here you see the boss regime in operation.

Mrs. Roosevelt is one of the ablest spokesmen for the war-makers in these crucial times, one of the cleverest pullers-of-the-wool over the eyes of gullible people. What everybody does not know is that she earns a pretty penny doing this despicable job.

It is estimated that since she became first lady to the end of this year she will have scooped up around \$1,200,000. When she flitters here and yon, it is more like a scavenger than the dove she is supposed to be.

Every time she lectures she pockets \$1,500—there are millions of families whose total annual income is around one third of that. Her lectures alone net her \$75,000 a year—one hundred and fifty of such families live on this amount, which is only a part of Mrs. Roosevelt's pin money.

She writes for magazines at the rate of one dollar a word; her articles have so far brought her another \$75,000. Her newspaper columns have put \$21,000 more a year into her sock. This year—probably because she is in great demand to help railroad the country into a militarist regime—she will net even more from her newspaper columns.

For fifteen minutes on the air her charge is from \$3,000 to \$4,000. It is said that she gives to charity her earnings from radio—undoubtedly as soothing syrup to her conscience.

This woman of the boss class, the wife of the President of the boss government, pockets as pin money enormous sums fleeced from the labor of the workers. Her relation to the working woman is that of the buzzard to the barnyard fowl.

will in the British Isles, the Italians will attempt a smashing blow against England in the middle east. It remains to be seen whether the Italians are capable of blitzkrieg tactics against the English in this sector of the world war.

### CAROL AND THE BALKANS

One of the by-products of the Balkan "peace" has been the abdication of King Carol and his un-

ceremonious flight from Roumania with his red headed mistress, Madam Lupescu. The ex-King is reported heading for the new world where he hopes at last to find peace and a new life. As this parasite had the foresight not to put all his eggs in one basket—his investments are scattered in all countries and he is said to have \$4,000,000 in England alone—it is certain that, unlike millions of unfortunate refugees, he

## Once Again: Stalin Outstrips U. S. Capitalism

An Associated Press Dispatch printed in the New York World Telegram on Sept. 3 says that:

"A 'marshall's star—brilliant in gold, platinum and diamonds—was created today by the Supreme Soviet to be worn by marshalls of the Red Army."

"The order provided for five-pointed stars with smaller stars in the center, each to be encrusted with five diamonds of 3.06 carats and 26 smaller diamonds. They are to be worn suspended from broad red ribbons."

Try as we will, we cannot think of a fitting comment in the face of such elegance in the land where Socialism has presumably been "achieved."

We are however reminded of an item we overlooked printed two weeks ago. You may yet be able to avail yourselves of the bargain. Lord and Taylor's, the New York department store, has for sale a \$40,000 woman's hat. It too is encrusted with diamonds of a carat weight we cannot recall.

## Pledged to War--

(Continued from page 1)

a market, the other group loses. Hence wars, hence alliances in the war based upon interests that MOMENTARILY coincide. Right now, for example, English and American interests coincide insofar as they are concerned with keeping the spoils of imperialism out of German hands. With Germany and Italy, the reverse is true.

And for America the prospect is an especially juicy one. With Germany beaten, England weakened by the war, the American bosses can virtually dictate the terms of "peace," world domination will be in their hands.

Mind you, we say the bosses. We won't, and can't get a thing out of it. Imperialism serves the master, not the worker.

Oh, we'll be the ones to do the actual fighting and dying. The bosses will be fighting only by proxy. We'll be somewhere in the trench muck of Europe or South America, shooting bullets or dropping bombs at workers who are our brothers not our enemies. Those of us who won't get sent to the front will be back home sweating in the factories, grinding out death-dealing instruments—each one of which pays its little profit to the boss. Some of us will be bombed in our homes, because we, unlike the rich, won't be able to migrate to safe quarters for the duration of war.

Every life we shed will earn its reward—but not for us. The rewards of our sacrifice will fatten the profiteers.

We do not hold life so dear that we would not gladly give it in a cause worth dying for. But that cause is NOT the bosses war. It is our own. Were this war a war for democracy and against fascism, then we would gladly take our place in the battlefield. Our Spanish brothers did that only a few short years ago. Were this a war to spread freedom, to topple the tyrants of the world, to wrest the world from the exploiters, then too we would gladly join the army.

But this is not that kind of war. Only the blind can fail to see that—just as only the blind can fail to see the grave Roosevelt is digging for us.

That is why we again and again call upon you

## Out of the Long Ago Comes a Record Of Roosevelt's Position on Conscription

The Conscript Is Like a Man With a Pistol at His Head

By SUSAN GREEN

Franklin D. Roosevelt has tried to make it appear that his militarism is something created by Hitler's militarism. Most people have this impression. It is entirely false.

Not only has this self-styled defender of democracy always been the advocate of a huge army and navy, but years ago, when no one else was even thinking about it, he came out in favor of universal military training—that is, PEACE TIME CONSCRIPTION.

If one wants to be amused these days, there is a laugh in the fact that the Sir Galahad of Democracy, Roosevelt, was fired with enthusiasm by the army of the Kaiser in the last war. He thought the German junkers had the right idea: CONSCRIPTION IN PEACE TIME.

### STARTED A LONG, LONG TIME AGO

During the last war Franklin D. Roosevelt began to hammer away to get what he wanted. While the war to end all wars—you remember—was raging in Europe, he wrote the following:

"It is not time that the people of the United States should adopt definitely the principle of national government service by every man and woman at some time in their lives? . . . This means service in times of peace as well as in times of war and means service in the civilian branches as well as in the military branches. The day will soon be at hand when the army and the navy of this great republic will be looked upon by its citizens as a normal part of their own government and their own activities.

The principles of democracy did not bother Mr. Roosevelt then any more than they bother him today. The fact that "this great republic" was built by millions of Europeans who came to these shores to escape the slavery of compulsory military training in their native lands, has not registered in his junker mind.

### HE WASN'T FOOLED FOR A MOMENT

Nor was Mr. Roosevelt's advocacy of universal military training due to war hysteria on his part. After

## GENTLEMEN! GENTLEMEN!

The representatives of the people down on the Potomac won't have to do any fighting and dying in the army, so they are serving their country by pounding away at each other in the House of Representatives. The honorable Mr. Sweeney of Ohio and the honorable Mr. Vincent of Kentucky disagreed over the time and manner of conscripting workers into the army. Mr. Sweeney had been speaking and as he went to his seat, Mr. Vincent is said to have stuck a foot out and tripped the gentleman from Ohio at the same time calling, "traitor." It was then that the two lawmakers began pounding each other in the face. The fracas was later "expunged" from the record.

the war he kept right at it. At a Victory Dinner in 1919 he said:

"While a let-down was bound to follow every great national action, I hope that there will still be some kind of training or universal military service. That is the surest guarantee of safety. I think this ought to follow no matter what the result of the peace negotiations.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was not fooled, as were the American masses, by the promise that the last war was fought to end all wars. On October 11, 1919, at the New York State Convention of the American Legion, he again proposed universal military training in the army and navy.

In 1940 it is very clever of the simon-pure democrat in the White House to scare the wits out of the American people by picturing Hitler's dive bombers blasting the streets of New York. By frightening the people he hopes to put over conscription without any resistance. But the record is clear. For more than twen-

to act through your unions to stop the march to war.

DOWN WITH CONSCRIPTION!  
DOWN WITH THE BOSSES WAR!

ty-five years, Mr. Roosevelt has been awaiting his chance.

He has no regrets about what military conscription does to the human being. As a matter of fact he thinks it is just too grand for words. Back in 1912, soon after he became assistant secretary of the navy, he said:

"We want the country to feel, too, that in maintaining a fighting force of the highest efficiency we are at the same time educating thousands of young men to be better citizens."

### BUT THE OBJECT IS CLEAR ENOUGH

The kind of citizens that military conscription manufactures was much more truthfully described by General John F. O'Ryan when he advocated conscription before the last war. He said:

"The first thing that must be done is to destroy all initiative, and that with the training will fit men to be soldiers . . . We have to have our men trained so that the influence of fear is overpowering by the peril of an uncompromising military system often backed up by a pistol in the hands of an officer."

## "The Way of Sacrifice . . ."

Military appropriations and the Burke-Wadsworth bill have put the American Army on its feet. It looms larger and larger in public life as the Roosevelt apparatus urges the population into war.

Army generals, colonels, majors become more important. They comment over the radio and send out press releases. Popular magazines carry their photographs—although movie stars and pretty girls still maintain their monopoly of the covers—and intimate biographies. The military caste is on the upsurge. The soldier as 'hero' is staging his big American comeback.

The USA is taking "the way of sacrifice." The Army is not to be outdone. Without compensation, leaders of industry are receiving "leaves of absence," from bank and corporation directors, to devote themselves to "defense industries," publicists, journalists turn out propaganda copy; educators pledge themselves to "effective cooperation with the National Defense Council, the stimulation and coordination of the efforts of educational organizations and institutions in projects related to the national defense."

### Everybody Gives

There is hardly an organization, financial, industrial, social, political, etc., with the exception of a few uncooperative trade-unions and tiny revolutionary parties, which is not contributing its outstanding personalities—and at a loss to themselves as organizations. The Republican Party, not without demur, gave Stimson and Knox!

The Army is not to be outdone. Short of losing its spiritual honesty and forgetting the magnitude of its responsibilities, it has made sacrifices. Let them not be underestimated!

Before the USA was in immediate danger of "invasion" by hostile forces from a neighboring continent, the American forces were numerically small. But it was choice. While its officer caste did not come from the "Sixty Families" and did not know too much about military matters, it hailed from "comfortable homes" and looked good on a parade ground. Its rank and file soldiers were hand-picked. A man could not be just "in search of adventure" or unemployed. He had to meet requirements.

A potential recruit had to be at least five feet four inches tall; weigh a hundred and twenty pounds (stripped); have a hearing standard of at least 15/20 in one ear and 20/20 in the other; have both his great toes intact and not have lost more than one toe, and the same for his hands where thumbs and fingers were substituted for great and little toes; be free from communicable diseases, hernia, etc., and able to distinguish a private from an officer (for saluting purposes) . . .

To the idealist in the White House "better citizens" are those without any initiative whose fear of the pistol in the hands of an officer.

If there are still folks foolish enough to think that this slavery under a military regime is worthwhile to ward off "invasion," let me again quote Mr. Roosevelt against Mr. Roosevelt.

"Invasion is not what this country has to fear . . . Our national defense must extend all over the Western Hemisphere, must go out a thousand miles to sea, must embrace the Philippines wherever our commerce may be . . . We must create a navy not only to protect our shores and our possessions but our merchant ships in time of war, no matter where they may go."

The present occupant of the White House seeking the support of the masses as candidate of the Democratic Party for another term, has dirty work to do. He must make a nation of conscripts, without initiative and driven by a pistol in their backs, to defend capitalist profits all over the face of the earth.

The other presidential candidate, Wendell Willkie, in a loud voice says "ditto" to the above plans of Mr. Roosevelt.

There were aesthetic and moral limitations: "extreme ugliness" and "obscure tattooing" were grounds for rejection. The examining physician was empowered to decide on whether or not the candidate met the aesthetic and moral standards. Many a man regretted an ill spent late adolescence. It is true that the I.Q. (that's the intelligence rating) regulations were lax. But then the Army is not Macy's.

### Standards Go

But the Army is not to be outdone. It takes the "way of sacrifice" without hesitation.

It has sacrificed its standards—lowered its admission fee of stature and health. It has shown bank, industry, newspaper, church, that it is no laggard while the Atlantic, Pacific, and Rio Grande shores remain unguarded.

Medical officers, Second Corps Area, USA Army have revealed that opportunities for service in the Army are now, under the terms of mobilization regulations 1-9, restricted to men who are only five feet tall, weigh one hundred and seven pounds (stripped); have a hearing standard in each ear of 10/20 or deafness in one ear, and 20/20 in the other; have enough great and little toes, thumbs and fingers to get along with; be free from too many communicable diseases, serious hernias, incapacitating etceteras, and able to distinguish a private from an officer (still necessary: the whole problem of discipline). The aesthetic and moral criteria are discarded. The intelligence levels remain unaltered.

### A Limit

But there are sacrifices incompatible with dignity and honor. The Army has given much. It really can not be asked to give more. It seems that in spite of the "national emergency," according to the report in the New York Times (Sunday, Sept. 8, 1940), that the "irremediably" crippled and blind may be excluded from service. We, for our part, support the Army. We brand as unpatriotic the newspapers who argue that a genuine democracy, fighting for its very existence, must make no exceptions.

Let us repeat: we are for the Army in its struggle to maintain its standards. The blind and crippled must be kept out of the Army. There is no civilization without standards.

## Watch Yourself!

The finance companies are worried about a bill introduced in the House by Representative May. The bill would give the courts power to review and defer payments on articles bought on the installment plan by men in training for army service. The bill applies to rent, and all installment sales on such items as auto-mobiles, radios, washers, etc. The finance men, many of whom are the head of plain gyp companies, talk about "contractual obligations" of men in the armed forces of the U.S. Of course they are out to defeat the May Bill.

All the workers should know about this bill and about the schemes of the finance companies and the installment racket houses. They will find themselves in the army with no means of keeping up payments or fulfilling their "contractual obligations." Workers should also keep these things in mind when they contemplate doing business with one of these installment business houses.

## In an Imperialist World at War, It Is the Poor Who Bear the Brunt of Bomb and Bullet

(Continued from page 1)

Japanese proceed to move through Indo-China they will immediately invade it. In that case the volcano of the world war will start erupting in the war east.

With the arrival of thousands of British reinforcements in Egypt, the ground is being prepared for large scale operations in the middle east. It is possible that while Hitler has Britain with her back up against the

ceremonious flight from Roumania with his red headed mistress, Madam Lupescu. The ex-King is reported heading for the new world where he hopes at last to find peace and a new life. As this parasite had the foresight not to put all his eggs in one basket—his investments are scattered in all countries and he is said to have \$4,000,000 in England alone—it is certain that, unlike millions of unfortunate refugees, he

### CAROL AND THE BALKANS

One of the by-products of the Balkan "peace" has been the abdication of King Carol and his un-

will be able to wallow in the glutinous style that he is accustomed to. The Balkan pot is still boiling. Russia, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia still eye each other with suspicion and no one knows when the next grab will take place. In Yugoslavia a riot occurred when the Stalinists demanded a military alliance between Yugoslavia and Russia. Like gangsters in an illicit partnership, Hitler and Stalin are

maneuvering to strengthen themselves against any future "misunderstandings." At the same time, their present partnership in plunder is best revealed in the following statement of solidarity emanating from Berlin dated Sept. 3:

"Authorized Nazi sources said today that there was no basis for foreign reports that Russia has asked for a clarification of the Axis position

in Roumania. There is no need for any kind of clarification of the German guarantee to Roumania, SINCE GERMANY AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT AND THE SOVIET UNION IS FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE AXIS POWERS' PLANS. Such reports are obviously tendentious and designed to disturb German-Soviet relations."



# Editorials

## OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty Thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers.
3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
4. Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
11. For an independent Labor Party.
12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks.
13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

## "Aliens" in This Land of the Free

The place is the office for the registration of aliens in Atlanta, Georgia. Two Negroes walk up to the desk to be registered. "Are you aliens?" asks the registration official. "Yes Sir," reply the Negroes. "Where were you born?" "In Georgia."

The papers report that these two Negroes were not registered.

We do not know whether or not this story is true. We do not know whether or not these two Negroes were just kidding the alien registration board in Atlanta. What they did may have been due to a lack of understanding of world geography. Any one of these things may be the fact in the case. But this is insignificant and unimportant. **What is important is the fact that Negroes are aliens; not technically and legally aliens, but aliens in fact—in Georgia and the rest of the United States.**

They are aliens in the sense that the laws of the United States do not operate in their behalf and for their protection. Those sections of the constitution that specifically apply to Negroes are . . .

## Kicked Around

—like an old tin can and neither the federal or the state governments do anything about it. When they apply for a job they are told "no" or indiscriminately handed a mop, a shoe brush or a shovel. They go into a restaurant to eat and are told that they will be served only in the kitchen. They go to the theatre and are segregated like something unclean from the rest of the audience. They buy a railroad ticket and are herded into a coop filled with the luggage of the train crew.

Their children are forced to attend school in ramshackle buildings and no one gives a damn if the teachers are only one lesson ahead of the pupils. Negro women are insulted and raped and the "superior" race takes the attitude that this is what they were created for. It is made the rule that Negro children be

dragged from school to work in the fields when the crops are ready for harvest.

In the christian church Negroes are assigned to the gallery and made to understand that christianity is a fire escape for whites only. In any number of places in the South, Georgia for example, the side walk is for white people and Negroes are pushed into the street.

Negro farmers in Oklahoma who demand the market price for their crops are called "fifth columnists." White people who go into Tennessee proclaiming that "Negroes are as good as white people," are branded "fifth columnists" and arrested. Negroes who get the idea that they are really citizens and have a right to vote, are taken by the mob, murdered and their bodies thrown into the river.

The two Negroes who went to register as aliens were correct. They are outcasts, scape goats; the oppressed, the disfranchised, the proscribed. Not just because they are Negroes; for in the same sense, if not in the same degree, the Jews and other minority groups are aliens too. The ruling class, the employers big and small, know that it is good for business, good for profits to have a race around that can be branded as "inferior." This is . . .

## What Hitler Did

—in Germany. This makes the workers of the "superior" race hate the Negro workers. If the big business men and their stooges the "law-makers" can convince the white workers that Negroes are thieves, liars, rapists and degenerates, then it is easy to keep the Negro and white workers fighting among themselves. Under these conditions the white workers will bar Negroes from their unions and the unions will be weak.

The white businessmen, bankers and congressmen know that peace between the races in this country is the prelude to militant warfare against capitalism and the first step in its overthrow. The big bosses understand all too well the meaning of the Worker's Party slogan:

**"FOR FULL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EQUALITY FOR NEGROES."**

## Honesty Or Prostitution?

The Stalinist gossip sheet, In Fact, thrown together by George Seldes and Bruce Minton, asks the question, "Who Lied About Trotsky?" in the September 9 number. Then Seldes goes on to inform those of his readers who are thoroughly innocent, that the only big newspaper which told the truth about the death of Trotsky was PM, the New York daily edited by Ralph Ingersol with the assistance of a band of Stalinists and near Stalinists. Thus PM, "the only big newspaper dedicated to honest journalism" (according to Seldes) said:

"No evidence whatever given out here (Mexico City) connects Leon Trotsky's murder with the U.S.S.R.'s secret police, the local Communist Party or with the previous attempts on Trotsky's life . . ."

—In Fact then goes on to tell that the dispatch to PM is from Frank Jellinek, PM's Mexican correspondent. What In Fact leaves out, however, while singing the praises of PM, is the one big FACT that this example of journalistic virtue, deleted from press service dispatches all references to GPU connection with the murder of Trotsky. In Fact also fails to tell its readers that PM's star reporter in Mexico, this Jellinek, is tarred with the Stalinist brush.

And thus, with brazen viciousness, the Stalinist stooge Seldes, the lilly-white Stalinist tool, Ingersol, and the Daily Worker play the game of, "you kiss me and I'll kiss you," "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

Worse yet, and far more significant, Seldes and Ingersol march arm in arm in the camp of the GPU murderers of Trotsky.

**LABOR ACTION**  
114 W. 14th Street  
New York City

**Dear Friends:**  
I am interested in learning more about the Workers Party and its fight against the bosses' war plans.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_

All of This Goes to Prove That as Between Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Bosses May Have a Choice, But We Have None at All.

## Mr. Willkie Pulls a "Boner"

By FRANK DEMBY

When Wall Street's white hope, Republican presidential nominee Wendell L. Willkie, rushed into print a few weeks ago to denounce the Overton-Russell amendment to the conscription bill, which provides for the conscription of industry, betting commissioners in Wall Street announced that the odds favoring Roosevelt's re-election had shifted from 6 to 5 to 9 to 5. Soon thereafter, Mr. Luce, boss of Time and Fortune magazines, (personal friend of J.P. Morgan), whose publications started the original Willkie boom, began to wonder whether Willkie wasn't another "Fat Alf." Even Walter Lippman has questioned the advisability of Willkie's candidacy. Truly, politics is an unkind game, as Mr. Willkie is fast learning.

Since we were confident a long time ago that Mr. Roosevelt was the best man for the job of preserving American capitalism and preparing American imperialism for war, we cannot register any surprise now that his reelection for a third term seems more or less certain. But two questions continue to puzzle us. The first is: Why are Willkie's backers greasing the skids for his downfall, thus facilitating Roosevelt's victory? And the second, and by far the more important question is: What is the real

meaning and significance of the Overton-Russell amendment?

### IT TAKES A REALLY SKILLED HAND

A superficial answer to the first question is easy. Conscription of manpower is none too popular with the American masses. Conscription of men without conscription of industry smacks too much of rank class discrimination. Not even Willkie's subsequent "clarification" of his position to the effect that he is not against conscription of industry on principle, but only wanted "adequate safeguards," following the lead of a New York Times editorial to that effect, can remedy the effects of that rash moment when Willkie allowed his real sentiments and attachment for property interests to push him into one of the most colossal boners any presidential aspirant has ever made. Willkie is, therefore, a losing proposition. His backers, you may say, don't want to back a loser. Hence, they are withdrawing their support while there is still time to withdraw. Simple? A little too simple.

Our own speculations run along the following lines. Both Willkie and Roosevelt, as we shall have occasion to prove in detail later on, are candidates of the House of Morgan in

a most direct way. The knifing of Willkie is merely evidence of the fact that the Morgan interests prefer the victory of Roosevelt. This decision, in turn, is based on the strengthening of England's resistance to Hitler. Prolonged British resistance, say into the spring of 1941, increases the probability of immediate American entry into the war. To facilitate this delicate job requires the touch and guidance of a master hand in fooling the workers. Who can do this job better, or as well as, Roosevelt? Wall Street may be for Willkie. But a very important section of the American ruling class is working in such a way as to increase the prospects of a Roosevelt victory.

### A VERY CLEVER MANEUVER

When Willkie denounced the Overton-Russell amendment as "socialistic" and threatening to "sovietize American industry," he also denounced those who favored the amendment as sponsors of "a cheap political trick." There is good reason for believing that the timing of the Overton-Russell amendment was a very clever political maneuver. Indeed, Mr. Arthur Krock, of the New York Times, claims that it was designed as a political trap to catch Willkie and the Republican senators.

Be that as it may, Willkie was certainly caught, but a majority of the GOP senators voted for it! The question is clearly not a party issue. If there were any doubts about this, the overwhelming vote in the House for the Smith amendment (which corresponds to the Senate's Overton-Russell amendment) should have dispelled them. Since all the members of the House are up for re-election this year, we can safely conclude that all but 31 members of the House want to be re-elected and don't come from blue-stocking districts.

It is well to point out that the Smith amendment is more precise and not so sweeping as the Overton-Russell amendment although both are substantially the same—they both give the President the power to commandeer plants if the employer proves recalcitrant; that is, should the Secretary of War or of the Navy be unable to arrive at an agreement. In particular, it does not authorize permanent possession by the government, but merely the leasing of the plant by the Government during the period of emergency.

Obviously, the conscription of industry (as proposed in either amendment or in whatever compromise is finally adopted) will not sovietize American industry. So far as this aspect of the question is concerned, the measure is simply another step—and a long one, at that—towards the establishment of a totalitarian state in this country. Far from meaning any tendency towards socialism it will mean the exact opposite—a step towards capitalist totalitarianism.

### PART AND PARCEL OF THE WAR DRIVE

Why, one is required to ask, is this amendment tacked on to the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill? Here, the obvious answer is the only one. It makes a good political appeal (especially for votes) to point out to the workers that only only are they being conscripted but so is industry. As such, it is clearly "fairer." And we are certainly in favor of drafting wealth. The workers, however, must understand that the entire conscription bill, including the amendment to conscript industry, is part of the general drive towards war and the establishment of a totalitarian regime in this country.

Moreover, it gives Roosevelt a chance to pose as the champion of the masses by favoring the conscription of wealth. To be sure, Roosevelt has so far allowed Wallace to do his talking for him. Nevertheless, the whole business, greatly aided by Willkie's boner has strengthened the Roosevelt Administration. It should be obvious to everyone that Roosevelt's fundamental ideas on property are basically the same as Willkie's. Both are wedded to capitalism and the preservation of property rights.

The idea that industry is being conscripted is a pure fake. If that were the case, it would hardly be necessary to spend so much time discussing the excess profits bill. Industry which is conscripted, wealth which is drafted, won't have to haggle about profit. **IT WILL BE OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THAT IS REAL CONSCRIPTION OF INDUSTRY.** To be effective, however, it must be under the control of the workers. As long as the capitalists own the means of production, and J.P. Morgan can make and unmake Presidents, any conscription of industry will safeguard property rights.

**CHALLENGE OF YOUTH**  
**A FIGHTING PAPER**

## THE NEGRO'S FIGHT The Negro Must Have His Share Of the New Jobs

By J.R. JOHNSON

Business is going to boom soon. This capitalist society, under which we live in America, has been stewing in its own juice since 1929. The average unemployment has been ten million, very probably more. Of these, the Negroes constitute at least three or four million. This question of unemployment is a vital question for the workers as a whole, but for Negroes it is life itself.

Now! business is going to boom. People are going to get to work. Bravo! True, it is the building of planes, battleships, guns and tanks to kill people. The more the American capitalists build, the more the German, the Japanese and all the others will build. So they go round and round, piling up the weapons of destruction until they are ready to blow the poor people on earth to pieces. But still, there are going to be jobs. And where there are going to be jobs, there the Negroes must be.

### THE "AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE" ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH

The Negroes are being told that it is a war for democracy. The Negroes reply that it is a lie. Democracy in America is a lying fraud. When the capitalists say that we must preserve the American way of life, the Negroes say that they do not want to preserve the American way of life. It has meant for them oppression, misery, humiliation. The Negro, the poor, hard-working Negro, says that for him this war is a war of his masters. They may force him into a uniform, but support the war, root for it! NO! It is a capitalist war, Wall Street's war, an imperialist war, but not a war that poor people, white or Negro, have anything to gain from.

### THE NEGROES MUST CLAIM JOBS—TODAY!

But does this mean that, because a Negro opposes the war, he has no right to the jobs which the coming slaughter will provide. That is just nonsense. The capitalists are piling up profits on the war orders. For them that is good business. As a matter of fact, a few of them will oppose the war and still make profits out of war orders.

It is a worker's right to have a job. If this dirty bankrupt capitalist system can only give jobs based on war and destruction, so much the worse for the capitalist system. But the worker is not responsible for the capitalist system. If he is a class-conscious worker, he hates the capitalist system. But the workers do not make the war. They can still oppose the war, and still, by rights, claim jobs.

Now the Negroes must claim the jobs—not tomorrow, but today. The Negroes must seize every opportunity—by meetings, by demonstrations, by petitions, by delegations to mayors and corporations, by letters to the press, by telegrams to governors and the President, by proposing resolutions for action in trades unions. By these and all other means possible, the Negroes must let every one know: "You have new jobs for five million people. We Negroes are one-third of the unemployed. We demand a fair proportion of the new jobs. It is our right. We are determined to have it. We shall fight for it. In fighting for it, we shall be fighting for democracy."

### ORGANIZE TO ESTABLISH YOUR CLAIM

No man who talks about the poor Negroes and does not do battle for jobs for them, is any friend of the Negro. Negroes, we warn you! Organize yourselves! Join the workers organizations! If they wish to keep you out, carry on a campaign against them, but, at all costs, establish your claim, your rightful claim to jobs. For if you do not, you will have no strength, no resistance, for the great battles that are to come. Make your voices heard. Claim your rights, organize and fight mercilessly all those who wish to keep you on relief and starving.

But do not think that the struggle is on the economic side alone, that is to say, purely a question of fighting for jobs. No. The political struggle must be carried on. **If Negroes had more political power today, they would be in a better position to make their claim good to some of the new jobs.**

When Negroes go up for jobs, they will find that they lack technical education. They will not have the opportunity to train themselves. That is the result of political weakness. Let us therefore bear it in mind that we can never neglect the political struggle. But, for the time being, in this period, there are going to be jobs and the Negro unemployed must have a substantial number of these jobs.

## 'Nuff Said . . .

The New Leader, organ of the Social Democratic Federation, carries an article on "The Rise and Fall of Leon Trotsky" in its Sept. 7 issue. The article is written by a Vladimir Lebedev. The New Leader describes Lebedev editorially as follows. We accept the partial biography as accurate and submit that no comment is necessary from us.

"Vladimir Lebedev, author of this article on Trotsky, is a veteran member of the Party of the Socialist Revolutionists. HE FOUGHT AS A PRIVATE IN THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE WAR OF 1914-18. After the outbreak of the revolution in March, 1917, he returned to Russia, where he became assistant minister of the Navy under Kerensky. TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN THE SUPPRESSION OF THE BOLSHEVIK UPRISING OF JULY, 1917, LEBEDEV ARRESTED TROTSKY AND OTHER BOLSHEVIK LEADERS.

"It was he who directed the railway explosion aimed to kill Trotsky during the fighting (during the Civil War) and the assault upon his automobile."

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