

Workers! This Is Not Our War!  
It Is a War for Boss Profits!  
Join Hands in Independent  
Labor Action Against the War!

# LABOR ACTION

We Say—  
Conscript War Industries  
Under Workers' Control!

SEPTEMBER 15, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

## UNDECLARED "SHOOTING WAR" IS ON!

### Washington Negroes Will March Against Lynch-Law on Sept. 14!

#### Cobb Killing Is Latest Incident in Long Series

Special to Labor Action

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Washington Negroes have gotten together and are preparing a great march on September 14 against the crimes of Roosevelt's democracy. The march is a protest against the brutality of the police toward Negroes in Roosevelt's own seat of government, the federal capital.

Whereas the lynchings in the South are carried out by mobs, encouraged by the local authorities, Washington carries out its lynchings by the local police, which are shielded and protected by the Roosevelt government.

The march has been organized by the Citizens' Committee against Police Brutality (717 Florida Avenue, N.W., Phone Michigan 2000).

The committee consists of representatives of numerous Negro organizations, representatives of political parties and private individuals.

At Boiling Point

Last week-end the committee met in conference. It was formed owing to the mass pressure of the Washington Negroes who insistently demanded that action be taken against the increasing terror. To appreciate fully what took place at the conference, it must be understood that during the last twelve years, over 60 persons have been killed by the metropolitan police in the District of Columbia. Fifty of these persons were Negroes. This is an average of five per year, worse than the record of any Southern state.

The last case which brought the  
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#### Shoe Workers Strike for Higher Wages

Special to Labor Action

BOSTON—Fifteen hundred shoe workers have been on strike during the past two weeks for a 15 per cent wage increase.

The workers, all members of Boston Local, United Shoe Workers of America (CIO), demanded this increase from the companies a few months ago. The companies were willing to grant only a 7½ per cent wage increase, and the workers were faced with the problem of accepting the bosses' offer, going on strike or letting the case go to the State Arbitration Board.

The workers were in no mood for accepting 7½ per cent, especially when the shoe workers in nearby cities had two months earlier received better than 10 per cent increases. The union officials suggested arbitration, because the manufacturers and the union have a "no strike agreement."

The Arbitration Board toyed with the problem for a few weeks, then handed down their decision, a 5 per cent wage increase, 2½ per cent less than the bosses had previously offered.

This was much too much for the workers. They decided to strike. When the national officials of the union told the workers that they were jeopardizing the national office and their own local by going on an "outlaw" strike, the workers, all militant veterans from Lynn, told them the organization would be kept intact.

A rank and file negotiation committee was set up and the union officials left town. The company officials in the first few days of the strike insisted they would get injunctions, for they could easily prove that the CIO was running the strike and that the shoe workers were still members. But they soon realized that injunctions can't make shoes. So they are now in conference with the representatives of the shoe makers, who neither affirm nor deny their membership in the CIO. They are merely on strike and negotiating for higher wages.

#### 7,500 Signatures Collected In Drive to Put Shachtman, Party Candidate, on Ballot

As LABOR ACTION goes to press, the Shachtman Campaign Committee announces that the 7,500 quota of signatures necessary to put the Workers Party anti-war candidate for Mayor on the ballot has been reached, after only three weeks of an intensive petition drive.

While the legal requirement is 7,500, the Campaign Committee has set a goal of 15,000 signatures to be collected before the end of the petition drive, in order to insure a place on the ticket for Max Shachtman. Since the campaign is only at the half-way point in the six-week period set aside for petitioning, it appears certain that twice the necessary number will be presented to the Board of Elections by October 7.

The total was raised sharply during the past week by a full mobilization of petition workers over the week-end of September 6-7, when over 1,500 signatures were collected. Such mobilizations are scheduled to take place each week-end for the duration of the drive. There were four petitioners who collected over 100 each on Saturday alone.

As a result of the progress made so far, the propaganda election campaign to follow the petition drive has been moved up so as to start earlier than originally planned. Further plans in this connection will be announced soon.

THE WORLD AT WAR

#### Roosevelt Is Going as Near To "Shooting War" as He Can Without a Formal Declaration

By MAX STERLING

The Greer incident is what Roosevelt has been waiting for in order to plunge America still further into the war. After the occupation of Iceland, which brought the United States into the German war zone, such an incident was only a matter of time. Now that it has happened, is there anyone so naive as to believe that in his speech this Thursday Roosevelt will confine himself to a mere protest or warning to Germany that it cease firing on American ships?

The interventionist American press has already given us the cue with regard to the action that will be taken. "Who fired the first shot is not important," they say and they have counselled Roosevelt not to become involved in so pointless an argument. They have pointed out that the issue is much larger. As a minimum, what is involved is the "freedom of the seas" and furnish every aid to her allies in America's unobstructed right to the fight against Germany.

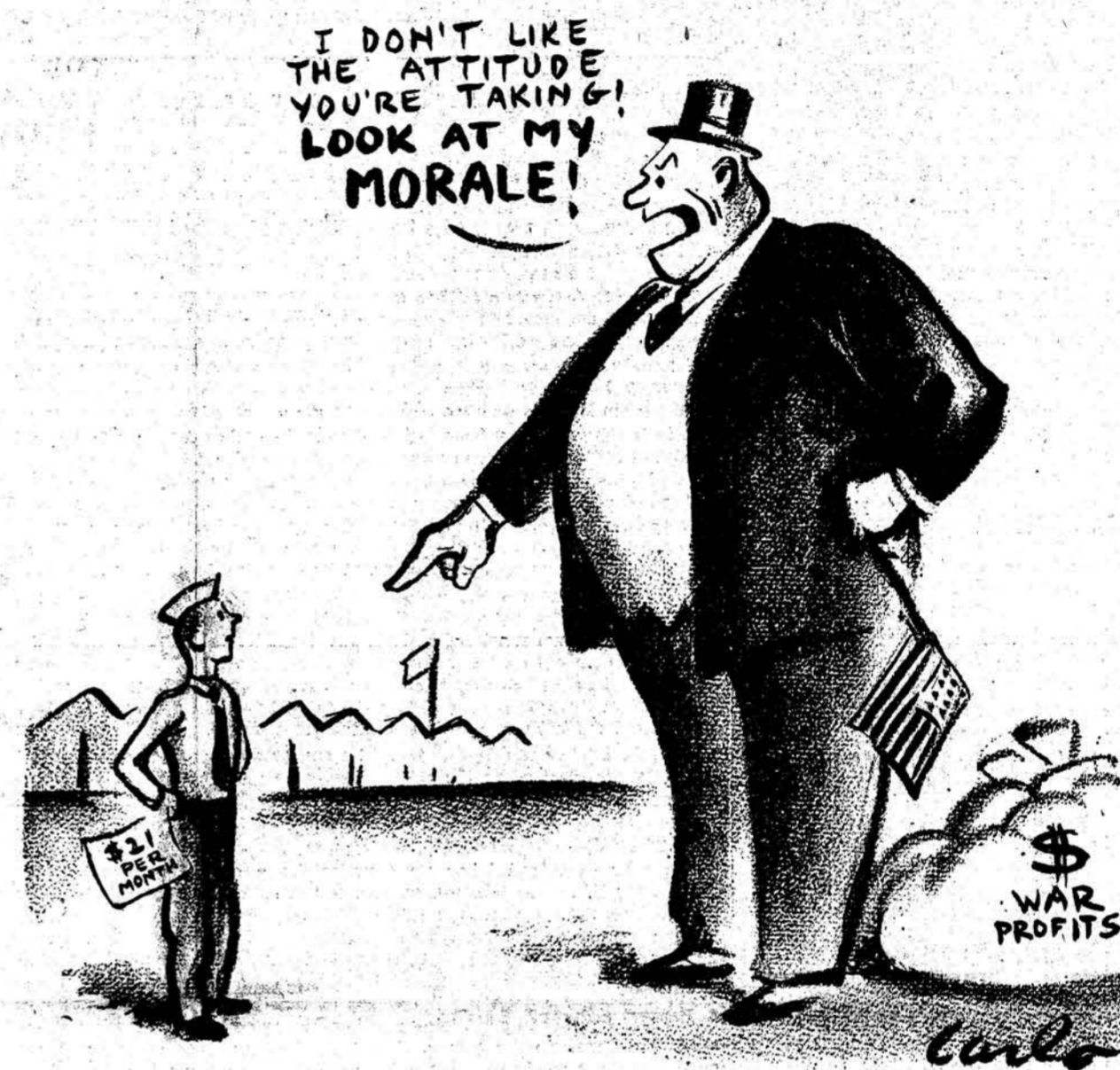
The "freedom of the seas" is a beautiful catch-phrase. As an abstraction it has already been proclaimed by Roosevelt on other occasions. The Greer incident serves Roosevelt now as the pretext with which to transform the abstraction into a concrete reality. In the concrete, "the freedom of the seas" really means freedom of American shipping to all the war zones. As such shipping will have to be protected, it also means convoys. Nothing less than that the American Navy shall take its place beside the British Navy in the Battle of the Atlantic is what the American interventionists expect from Roosevelt's speech.

In the past two weeks the three leading statesmen of the British Empire have called upon America to join Britain in her war against Germany. In his speech Roosevelt will not be able to oblige Churchill, Ford Beaverbrook and the Canadian Prime Minister, Mackenzie King. An outright declaration of war is still too premature, considering the overwhelming anti-war sentiment of the American people. Fortunately for Roosevelt, however, this is not at all necessary. There is a more "natural" method toward the "shooting" war. Shipping to all the war zones, plus convoys, can supply all the shooting that Roosevelt desires.

This is the big step that Roosevelt is expected to take in his speech. If he does this, it will mean that he has dragged the American people into war behind their backs. For by his own admission "convoys mean shooting and shooting means war." Of course there is the possibility that Roosevelt may not go so far as his interventionist friends want him to. That will not be because he does not want to. His knowledge of the American pulse may tell him that one Greer affair is not enough. In that case he will limit himself to ordering the Navy to shoot whatever German naval craft it encounters. This will only delay the next step. But one thing is sure. Whether now or a little later, the order for convoys and shooting is in the cards.

While American participation in the Battle of the Atlantic reaches a more dangerous point, there are indications of a temporary let-up in the  
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#### "Everybody Must Sacrifice Something!"



#### Carey Beaten in UERMW Convention Dispute Fitzgerald Victory a Surprise—Organization Problems Overlooked

By DAVID COOLIDGE

The convention of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) which met in Camden, N. J., last week gave most of its attention to three items on the convention agenda. They were: adoption of a resolution backing in full the war policy of the Roosevelt government; defeating James B. Carey in his attempts to get a constitutional resolution passed which would give locals of the international the right to local leaders, including Carey, had long before taken an all-out position in favor of the war. The Stalinist rank and file delegates, being under the control of the party leadership, would, of course, raise no objection. They have been taught to change silently and passively whenever their leadership dictates.

The rest of the rank and file delegates, except those who followed Carey, were leaderless. There was no militant force of any consequence in the convention to rally them against the resolution on a working class anti-war platform. Hence the passing of such a resolution was

One interesting fact in connection with this resolution and the overwhelming vote in its favor was the

solid support given the resolution by the Stalinists. The former position of the international had been against aid to Great Britain, and for the United States to remain out of the war. With the change in line of the Stalinists, however, it was understood that they would be for the support of the war and Roosevelt's foreign policy. It is not surprising that there was no discussion on the resolution, since virtually all of the leaders, including Carey, had long before taken an all-out position in favor of the war. The Stalinist rank and file delegates, being under the control of the party leadership, would, of course, raise no objection. They have been taught to change silently and passively whenever their leadership dictates.

The rest of the rank and file delegates, except those who followed Carey, were leaderless. There was no militant force of any consequence in the convention to rally them against the resolution on a working class anti-war platform. Hence the passing of such a resolution was

mere routine, like a motion for a recess.

The Big Upset

Having got this resolution out of the way the first day of the convention, the Stalinists were ready to do a little fighting on the other issues before the convention. There was the matter of giving locals "autonomy" to exclude Stalinists from office if they so desired. This was Carey's position and he tried hard to get it included in the union's constitution. But he didn't have the votes; the Stalinists were too strong. And, too, Albert J. Fitzgerald, who took the union presidency from Carey, was opposed to the inclusion of such a section in the union constitution.

Fitzgerald was a leading figure in the convention and his leadership manifested itself even before the question of the elections arose. Fitzgerald told the convention that he was against communism, but that he did not want this question to become a national union issue because it  
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#### People Turn Deaf Ear To Jingo Propaganda

Let there be no mistake about it: the first American battles of the "shooting war" are now being fought in the North Atlantic.

Two "incidents" have followed each other in rapid succession in the space of a single week: first the Greer was fired upon; now an American-owned ship has been sunk.

And out of just such "incidents" will eventually come a formal declaration of total participation in the world-wide war.

Were it not for the almost universal opposition of the American people to war entry, these "incidents" might well have been the pretext for an immediate war declaration. Some such pretext will in the end be the occasion for an official war declaration, as in the last war. And if the pretext doesn't arrive of itself, it will be framed.

But whatever hopes the jingo statesmen in Washington may have had for exploiting the Greer and Stressa incidents in their propaganda, the reaction of the American people was such as to disappoint them.

The New York Post, for example, sent a reporter out on the streets to get public reaction to the Greer incident. (The Post is a rabidly jingo sheet which has repeatedly demanded that Roosevelt declare war.) One after another, the persons interviewed by the reporter felt that the incident was no cause for war.

So suspicious are the American people of the war plans of the Administration that many of them expressed doubt as to whether the submarine was German, which it was. BUT IT IS IMMEASURABLY SIGNIFICANT THAT IN THE FACE OF ALL THE PROPAGANDA, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD SO DIS-  
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—\$21-A-MONTH NOW, AND FACING A FUTURE OF POVERTY OR DEATH—

## "Soldiers of Democracy" - - at \$21 a Month

By SUSAN GREEN

Don't be downhearted, soldier! Fort Dix has a plan to help you if you are "financially embarrassed"—and it would be hard to find a \$21-a-month "free soldier of democracy" who isn't. The plan is a beauty. One marvels at the subtlety of the brain that conceived it.

A soldier can obtain a loan from the "chaplain's fund" of any amount up to his monthly pay. Such a loan will be made only for emergency use. Here is a full explanation: "If a soldier happens to need funds during the middle of a month and requires money for a serious matter, SUCH AS CARFARE HOME WHEN THERE IS SICKNESS OR DEATH IN THE FAMILY, OR RENT PAYMENT AT HOME, then we grant the loan. Under no condition, however, will we lend money for entertainment or trivial purposes."

One might ask: How come that a soldier whose family can't pay the rent, is not at home where he belongs? One might ask: How come that his rich Uncle Sam, who can hand out \$51,000,000,000 in war contracts to the big capitalists, doesn't pay the soldier's fare home in case of sickness or death?

However, I will only ask: How is the soldier expected to pay back that emergency loan?

The answer is: Out of the \$21 a month, out of the

\$4.66 a week, which is called the "pay" of the soldier. This brilliant Fort Dix plan firmly stipulates not only that the borrower must pay back the loan, but also that he must pay it back ON HIS NEXT PAY DAY.

The plan does not say what the soldier is to use for money the balance of the month after he pays off the debt. Is he perhaps expected to get it from his family that can't pay its rent or that has had sickness or death to drain its resources?

The only merit of this insulting plan is that it brings out in bold relief the near-coolie condition of the \$21-a-month "free soldiers of American democracy."

When the draft extension bill was being argued in Congress, there was a good deal of talk about raising the soldiers' pay. But that was just talk—to make the unfair draft extension more palatable. While there is plenty of money for everything else, including war profits for the big companies of the \$1-a-year boys and juicy commissions for "contact men," there is no money to raise the coolie pay of the soldier.

But don't lose heart, soldier. There is before the Senate Military Affairs Committee the Downey bill, which—PRESUMABLY—provides for an increase in pay for all enlisted men. If the bill is passed, every soldier

would get \$30 a month more pay—PRESUMABLY.

In the meantime, soldier, just put your hand back into your empty pocket. Even if the bill is passed, you WOULD NOT GET THE INCREASE NOW. That bill provides for a very funny kind of "pay increase." When you are discharged, you MIGHT get \$30 for every month you had been in service.

You might get it IF YOU AREN'T DEAD FIRST. You might enjoy the affluence of \$6.66 a week IF YOU WILL NOT HAVE BEEN SO BADLY MAIMED IN THE WAR THAT LIVING OR DYING WON'T REALLY MATTER TO YOU. And if you do come out alive and in fairly good health, THE LAW MAY NO LONGER BE IN EFFECT WHEN YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THAT \$6.66 A WEEK.

That sort of law is designed to fool the public. A "pay increase" that DOESN'T INCREASE THE PAY. Just like the draft law calling for one year of service that means two and a half years. And now Senator Pepper nonchalantly predicts that the government will probably find it necessary to keep selectees, National Guardsmen and reservists in service for "AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. AND IT MAY BE 10 YEARS, OR EVEN A GENERATION."

In the eyes of the Lord, they say, a hundred years is but as a day. In the eyes of the boss politicians who make the laws, NO PAY INCREASE is called a PAY INCREASE, and two and a half years, five or ten years, or a generation, ARE BUT AS ONE YEAR.

This fall some thousands of soldiers are hoping to get out of the blessed status of \$21-a-month "free soldiers of democracy." They will be released because they come within the 28-year age limit, and in exceptional cases for other reasons. These men were promised their old jobs back—as were all the other draftees. You would think that all they would have to do would be to walk up to the old boss, slap him on the back, and say: "Well, old soak, here I am, rarin' to go." BUT IT LOOKS AS IF THERE ARE MIGHTY FEW JOBS THAT THE RETURNING DRAFTEES WILL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO.

If the worker-soldier is to get his old job back, why the necessity for distributing forms to be filled out giving his "occupation and educational history"? If he is to get his old job back, why must he go to the state employment office? Why need there be such elaborate provisions for local board re-employment committees?  
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## With the Labor Unions On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

### THE SENATE GIVES THE RICH A GIFT

The bill to tax the starvation incomes of millions of workers went through the Senate with the same speed that these representatives of big business always use in passing out benefits to the rich. That's what this new income tax bill is: a gift of millions of dollars a year to the rich. Lowering the exemption has absolutely nothing to do with any kind of "defense."

Congress hasn't finished its plunder of the lowest paid workers yet. There is more to come. Next they will pass a sales tax and a tax on payrolls. Right now, under the present law, a single person with a \$1,500 income pays a tax of \$24.20. Under the new law this same person will pay \$69. A married man with an income of \$2,000 pays no tax now, but under the new act the family will have \$40 taken for "defense."

At the same time the Senate was voting a tax on the lowest incomes they took the tax off soft drinks. This will be a big benefit to the Coca-Cola Co. of Georgia. Senator George of Georgia is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The Coca-Cola Co. is very active in Georgia politics. Also, the rich families will be permitted to file separate tax returns. This will cost the federal treasury over \$300,000,000 a year, according to estimates of the Treasury Department.

In reporting on net profits for the first half of this year the Associated Press remarks that "all profit is not being taxed out of defense." This is

correct: all that is happening is the increasing pauperization of the poor, those least able to bear the terrific expenses of the imperialist war.

Labor doesn't seem much disturbed over this new tax grab from the poor. If the boss tried to cut wages the workers would strike. But when the government cuts their wages through a tax levy they take it and do nothing. If the boss threatened a wage cut they would throw a picket line around the plant. But when Congress passes a bill to tax them into starvation, they only raise mild objections.

This demonstrates that labor does not understand the role of the government and the relation of the government to the bosses. They don't seem able to get it into their heads that the government is the bosses' government and it there is represent the interests of the boss. Right now the main business of the government is to get money to fight the bosses' imperialist war. But the bosses don't want to pay for the war. Therefore the government attempts to get it from labor. Labor is forced to do both the fighting and the paying.

The working class could smash this tax bill. All that is necessary is the same kind of treatment for Congress that is given the boss. A mass demonstration in Washington and mass picket lines around the Capitol and the White House would teach Congress and Roosevelt a lesson just as surely as similar tactics teach lessons to the bosses.

### MUCH TO LEARN IN THE BRITISH LESSON

The British Trades Union Congress has rejected proposals for the stabilization of wages. The workers in England are facing the problem of rising cost of living just as in the United States, only in more acute form. Wage stabilization was a part of the government's plan for price stabilization. An attempt was made in a "White Paper" to advocate the necessity of pegging wages if there was to be a halt in the rise of prices.

The workers discovered, however, that the government really had no price stabilization policy until very recently. That is, for the first 18 months of the war there was no attempt to hold prices down. Despite this, an effort was to be made to get the Trades Union Congress to vote in favor of wage stabilization. The New York Times correspondent says that the government has succeeded in stabilizing the cost of living index at around 28 per cent above the level at the beginning of the year.

It was discovered, however, that control only covered the "rationed" goods. Much of the supplies that the workers must have comes from prod-

ucts that are not on the "rationed" list. This brings the actual increase in the cost of living to the workers nearer to 40 per cent above the pre-war level than 28 per cent. Wages have advanced to about 15 per cent above the pre-war level. AT THE SAME TIME, INDUSTRIAL PROFITS ROSE ABOUT 30 PER CENT IN THE SAME PERIOD.

Workers in the United States can learn a great deal about what is in store for them by watching what is happening in Great Britain. The bosses and the government are only just beginning here. The capitalist and imperialist nations will all follow the same course. They cannot do otherwise. Imperialist war demands and enforces the utmost in sacrifice from labor. The workers must pay and pay, while the bosses improve their financial condition by profits, graft, stealing and in any other way that guarantees the stabilization of the boss class, at least for a period. The stabilization that every boss class is really concerned with is its own stabilization.

### CONTRACTORS MAKE PLENTY ON "COST PLUS" BASIS

The Truman Committee of the Senate has been investigating the "national defense" program in its spending aspects. They find that all those receiving government contracts are not the sterling patriots they pretend to be when they are trying to get the government to beak a strike. The committee found that the army camps have cost more than one billion dollars instead of the estimated cost of \$500,000,000. Just a slight error of a half billion dollars in the calculations of the government experts? Not so. Of course, there was incompetency there, as there always is, but this was not the main reason.

The main reason is to be found rather in the fact that this war is being conducted by the government for the benefit of the boss class. There must be profits; profits to everybody in business. It isn't necessary for the War Department to do efficient planning in order to buy materials most advantageously. It isn't necessary to have contractors toe the mark, use the best materials and give rock bottom prices. It isn't correct to buy lumber when it is selling for \$30 a thousand board feet. The thing to do is to wait until it is \$40 a thousand feet and then buy. This procedure makes it possible for all the big business men who get in on the deal to make a larger profit. Furthermore, you put out contracts

on a "cost plus fixed fee." This is an incentive to contractors to run the costs up and thereby make more profit.

The Truman Committee, of course, does not give the facts they dug up into this interpretation. No one should expect that from the Senate "investigation." After all, the business of a senator is not to go too far in exposing his friends among the bosses.

The committee recommends, as a means of correcting the "faults and failures," that the War Department add civilian engineers to the army engineer corps "construction men—practical men—who know how to build and what it costs." The big construction and supply companies should certainly welcome this. Get their own men in the army engineer corps, just as they have them in OPM and the various other agencies of the "defense" set-up. Then the profits would fly into the pockets of contractors, cement manufacturers and lumber dealers.

What we would like to point out to Peger and the capitalist press in general is: that it really wasn't the "high" wages that the workers got that ran up the cost of camp construction, but the stupidity and collaboration of the War Department with the contractors that made the job cost twice as much as estimated.

## From a Negro Sharecropper to a White Sharecropper of Southeast Mo.

Dear white worker why dont you wake up? you have been sleep for years. Old Boss just pats you on the sholders and tells you that you are superior to them old Niggers, then you will turn over and sleep that much harder.

Old Boss has been shooting that stuff to you for 75 years or more, and today what have you got? let me answer for you, NOTHING! You have the same thing that I have, well what is that? A hard way to go.

If you was all that superior to me you would be riding in the same kind of automobile that old boss is riding in. You would have a decent house to live in with a track of land around you, and a good bank account. Old Boss have got you in the same boat that I am riding in with no paddle.

You meets his bell just like I do, you works them 14 and 16 hours per day as I do, you plows as many rows per day as I do, you works as hard as I do, you have to go around to old bosses back door as I do. Well where is all of that love he heaves for you? My dear white friend its no love there.

All the big bosses both white and black sticks together and have all of the working class to do as they say do both white and black.

Dear white laboring friend please wake up and join hands with me and lets demand our wrights.

Can't you see that old boss dont give a doggone for you no more than he do me? We can demand things if you stop letting old boss stuff you up with that old Nigger stuff.

So wake up white friends wake up, and stop old boss from making a fool out of you, and join hands with me and I will help you make a fool out of him or a doggone good plow hand.

A Colored Sharecropper of Southeast Missouri.

## WP Branch Addresses Labor:-- Make Los Angeles a Union Town!

The following is a copy of a leaflet distributed at the Los Angeles Labor Day parade:

The parade today is a tribute and demonstration of the might and power and the achievements of the organized labor movement in this area. It is a fitting reply to the boasts of the Chamber of Commerce that Los Angeles is the leading open shop city in America. It shows that hundreds and thousands of workers here have learned by their own experience that only unionism can get them better conditions, higher wages and lower hours.

Now is the time to finish the job of unionizing Los Angeles; to bring the benefits of unionism to the unorganized workers here. It is time for an all-out drive which can be accomplished only through unified, progressive and hard-hitting unions. The main enemy is the boss, not the other union. In organizing the unorganized we must never forget this truth. And let us work in organizing in such a manner that one year from now the CIO and the AFL will march together under the banner: "We Made Los Angeles a Union Town."

One threat to wages and conditions is eliminated when the open shop is replaced by the closed shop. But there is another danger, one which all of us feel, and which we must fight. It is the terrible rise in the cost of living which is wiping out all our union gains. A rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living becomes a life and death matter for the union movement. Take it from the war profits. Labor should not fight in a war for profits. It should fight against war profits and for decent wages.

Organized labor can do this job. The great successes of the past year testify to the fact that when the workers organize and fight militantly they are invincible. Even Henry Ford and Tom Girdler had to admit that. The local Fords and Girdlers must be taught the same lesson. You can't lick a fighting labor movement.

This year organized labor must undertake a special responsibility, one which only it, as the progressive and advanced class in society, can solve. The welfare, the lives and the future of America's youth in the army camps depends largely on the support they receive from organized labor. Don't let the army and navy brass hats turn the draftees into labor-haters. We must prove to them that our interests and theirs are the same, by taking the lead in the struggle for doubling the wages of the conscripts. And we should pledge that support in organizing and bargaining collectively against the miserable conditions in the camps. And help them get free speech and a free press, including good union papers, for which they are supposed to fight, but which are now denied them. Nor must we permit them and ourselves to be sold down the river in another phony war for "democracy" which brings fascism at home.

Los Angeles Branch of the Workers Party.

### SMALL CHANCE OF RAILWAY UNIONS STRIKING

It is a little difficult to get very expectant over the strike vote of the railway workers. The five operating brotherhoods are demanding a 30 per cent increase while the non-operating unions want 30 to 34 cents an hour increase. We think that they should have the raise.

The railroads are really piling up the profits. Dividends will be extremely good for the non-workers who own the stocks. But we just can't get it in our heads that the railway unions mean it. We really doubt that these workers would strike even if they didn't get a cent increase in wages. They haven't had much practice in recent years at militant action. And to have a railway strike now would require real determination and genuine militant action. And we just can't envisage engineers and conductors having a real honest to goodness strike. At any rate, the strike cannot take place according to "law" until after 60 days of the time that the President appoints a fact-finding committee. The committee must report to the president not later than 30 days after the appointment. The strike cannot begin until 30 days after the President receives the report.

Lots of things can happen in 60 days in the way of "mediation" and impressing the railroaders as to what is their "patriotic" duty in this period of "national emergency."

Also, it is certain that if there is a strike, Roosevelt will call out the army to run the trains. Or he will impress the railroad workers into the army and put them under military discipline.

Surely the leaders of the Railroad Brotherhoods know this. That's one reason no one is excited over their taking a strike vote. The capitalist press gets very excited when the miners, shipyard workers or steel workers talk strike. But on this railroad strike vote it is perfectly calm and serene. There is a reason for this attitude on the part of the capitalist press. Where there's no smoke there's not likely to be any fire.

Furthermore, there are 19 unions involved in this strike "threat"; five "operating" and 14 "non-operating." That's a lot of separate unions trying to conduct a unified strike. That means 19 presidents and general boards to come to agreement with each other and to stand out together against the government. We remember a strike some years ago on the railroads when a few of the "non-operating" unions were on strike. Did the engineers, firemen and conductors render aid and assistance? They did not. They kept right on running the trains, as though nothing was happening to the striking unions. If that can happen in a period of peace, what probability is there of a different course in this Roosevelt period of "national emergency."

## UERMW Meet--

(Continued from page 1)

would destroy the union's effectiveness. His formula was that the union should expel people not for political beliefs, but for being "anti-country and anti-union."

The big upset came when Fitzgerald defeated Carey for re-election. There have been various interpretations put on this action by the convention. It seems likely that it was caused in part by Carey's refusal to make a compromise with the Stalinists on the matter of Stalinist exclusion. There was a great deal of caucusing, and no doubt an attempt was made at a deal with Carey.

Added to this was the feeling of many delegates that because Carey was taking time out for his duties as secretary of the CIO, he was not giving sufficient time to the affairs of the UERMW. The Stalinists, of course, exploited this attitude to the limit, with the result that Carey was defeated.

### Not Like UAW

The UERMW convention was a different affair from the automobile workers meeting. One gets the impression that it is in many respects a different kind of organization. It is loose, not so well organized, and lacking in the militancy of the automobile workers. One gets the impression, for instance, that its membership report was padded. What is the membership of the UERMW and how does the international count its membership? It has collective agreements covering 316,000 workers, but this does not tell the paid-in membership.

Furthermore, one got the impression that this union has no distinctly union problems to deal with. Most of the five days were consumed with political problems of the nature that have been mentioned, with the greatest emphasis on the question of Stalinist exclusion. Organizing campaigns, trade union education, improving working conditions and wages did not receive the attention they deserve, especially in such a union as the UERMW.

Improvement will perhaps come in time. It must be remembered, of course, that the UERMW has had a sort of mushroom growth and the leadership has not had the time, inclination or ability to gather up all the loose ends. The Stalinists, of course, have their own plans and ideas and are never much concerned with the real problems that confront the unions and the mass of their membership.

Fitzgerald, the new president, comes direct from the shop. He may take hold, weld the organization together and pay attention to all the pressing problems the international faces. There are reasons to believe that this would be welcomed by the membership.

## Activities of LA Branch

LOS ANGELES—Over 6,000 pieces of Workers Party literature were distributed at a Labor Day parade of 128,000 organized workers.

Besides a special leaflet headlined: "Make Los Angeles a Union Town," LABOR ACTION, "Plain Talk on War (a pamphlet) and The Challenge were distributed. So friendly was the reaction that some of the workers helped pass out the papers and leaflets. It was the biggest and most successful distribution organized by the party in some time.

In the preceding week the Workers Party held its own Trotsky memorial meeting at Labor Action Institute and also took advantage of an invitation from the Socialist Workers Party to have a speaker at their meeting. It sent Jack Wilson, party organizer, whose speech on the lessons of Trotsky's life and teachings highlighted the meeting. The memorial meeting of the Workers Party drew especially favorable comment from those who attended.

**We Demand: Higher  
Wages and Workers'  
Rights for Conscripts!**

## "Changed World Conditions" Change Stalinist "Manners" At Detroit AFT Convention

The chief features of the American Federation of Teachers' annual convention held in Detroit, August 20-24, were the completion of the drive to oust the largest Stalinist locals from the federation, the reelection of practically the same executive council that had carried through the ousting and the perceptible swing of the convention to the right, especially in regard to the war. The most interesting sidelight was the emergence of the new Stalinist line in its full patriotic glory.

During the past year the AFT had voted by referendum to revoke the charters of Locals 5 and 537 of New York and Local 192 of Philadelphia. The ousted locals sent their full quota of Stalinist delegates to Detroit and no doubt had planned to split the convention and organize a rump convention and federation of their own. They had even set up the nucleus of such an organization, the Committee to Save the AFT. But Hitler beat them to the punch, and when August rolled around, Pal Joey had ordered them to seek unity at all costs. Their manners were much improved and the thoroughness with which they fawned on those who had just beaten them would have made the Kremlin happy. Thus no real fight to reinstate the locals was carried on; the Stalinist delegates from other locals merely made speeches for the record, pledged unity and good fellowship, and took their licking with a gentle smile.

These delegates first announced that they would not oppose the adoption of the report of the executive council that gave the grounds for the referendum. The only thing they asked for was that the delegates from the ousted locals be admitted to the convention as visitors. This proposal was overwhelmingly defeated; then the council's report was unanimously adopted.

### On Political Questions

Much of the convention's time was taken up with greetings and speeches from patriotic visitors who urged aid to everybody and who were applauded by most of the delegates, including all the Stalinists, who applauded any speaker (including George S. Counts, president of the Federation) so long as he was for aid to the USSR, no matter what unkind things the speaker had said or done to the CP.

As a result of overmuch speech-making of the standard liberal pro-war variety, the convention never got around to the discussion of two highly controversial resolutions, both introduced by CP locals, one calling for aid to everybody, most of all to Russia, and one denouncing the use of troops to break strikes. Thus the AFT still has not gone on record officially in favor of aid to the Allies, though there is no doubt that the executive council will act as if it had, and no doubt that such a resolution, shorn of its more obvious CP analysis and phrasing, would have passed overwhelmingly.

Two resolutions which did receive full debate were: first, an amendment to the constitution giving locals the right to exclude applicants for membership "whose political activities are under totalitarian control, such as Fascist, Communist or Nazi"; and second, an amendment to a resolution against the Rapp-Coudert investigation which would have put the AFT on record as opposing any use of the schools for indoctrination of Communist and Nazi ideologies. The first passed by a fairly heavy vote; amendment to the second was narrowly defeated. Much of the opposition to these resolutions came, not from the CP delegates, but from militant unionists from the Middle West. The driving force behind these resolutions came from Local 2 (the New York Teachers Guild, newly chartered to replace Local 5), and from the conservative Cleveland and Chicago locals.

### CP Still Strong

The elections for most of the offices were uncontested, but the CP put up two candidates to test their strength. Out of 532 votes, these two polled respectively 107 and 100; thus it can be seen that the CP, even after the destruction of two of their

strongholds, still controls about a hundred votes and about fifty delegates on the convention floor. That the Stalinists have not given up the fight is evidenced by their general desire to make contacts, to ingratiate themselves everywhere, and their plans to keep working on the executive council to reinstate the three locals.

It is even possible that with their new line they may stage a tremendous comeback next year; they have not lost all chance of recapturing the AFT. They indulged in no character assassination whatever, except for a brief outburst against one isolationist. And a speakers' outline, accidentally discovered, unsigned but obviously drawn up by the CP, reveals that the original plan of their delegates to split the convention had to be altered because of "changed world conditions" and that their job will be to make friends and forget old animosities.

## Massachusetts Tannery Workers Win Rising Scale of Wages

Special to Labor Action

PEABODY, Mass.—Eight thousand tannery workers in this district, organized into the Peabody, Lynn, Woburn and Norwood locals of the International Fur & Leather Workers Union, have won a sizable increase in wages and the insertion into the existing contract of a clause which provides for a rising scale of wages to compensate for further increases in the cost of living.

Three weeks ago the four locals elected a joint committee to meet with the Leather Manufacturers' Association to demand a 20 per cent wage increase for all workers. As usual, the bosses began to yelp and whine in their best fashion. To show that they were really big-hearted, they stated their willingness to have the question arbitrated. An emphatic NO from the workers caused the bosses to discover that business was good and that they could offer 5 per cent now and 5 per cent in November. At special meetings earlier this week the workers unanimously rejected these crumbs and notified the Manufacturers Association that August 21 was the deadline for a real increase. If not, contract or not, they would shut down all the plants and keep them shut, and the millions of dollars' worth of hides in the soaking vats would rot.

Threats of injunction and lawsuits did not intimidate the workers. Cops, lawyers, judges and even the bosses can't make leather. They found this out during the general strike in the tanneries in 1933 and any thought of a repetition of those weeks still causes them nightmares. Two hours before the workers were to meet to declare a general "holidy" in the industry, the Manufacturers Association hurriedly met and offered a 10 per cent increase for all workers, with a further increase of 5 per cent in November for all workers not on piece work. (This latter group makes up about 80 per cent of all tannery workers.)

It was also agreed that each time the Massachusetts cost of living index went up 5 per cent, there would be a corresponding 5 per cent increase in wages. After heated discussions of the propositions, they were finally accepted by all the locals.

Only two organized shops did not come under this agreement, as they are not members of the Leather Manufacturers' Association. Hardly any trouble is expected from them when the union committee visits them.

This victory for the union is expected to add new life into the campaign to organize the A. C. Lawrence Co., a Peabody tannery owned by Swift & Co. This shop is one of the largest in the country and has been a major objective of the union for the past six years. The phony "independent union" there will have a real task to keep the Lawrence workers out of Local 33 of the International Fur & Leather Workers Union.

**Readers of LABOR ACTION, friends and sympathizers of the Workers Party, every worker who wants to see an anti-war candidate on the ballot for Mayor—**

(1) Get a few petition sheets and circulate them among your friends, in your shop or on the street. You can get the petitions from the campaign headquarters at 114 West 14th Street, New York City, by mail or by dropping in.

(2) Contribute to the Shachtman Campaign Fund! Elections cost money under capitalism. We need your dollar bills!

M. L.

## The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor . . . .

### Draftees Don't Think Much of the USO

Dear Editor:

I've been traveling around the country a lot lately, and when you're traveling these days you can't help but run into draftees. Most of those I met were mighty mad about the failure of the USO to help them, despite the great publicity the organization has had. Why, even a high muck-a-muck recently admitted, in an interview printed in various papers, that the sports and social program organized for the men by the USO is pretty much of a wash-out. Some went so far as to suspect that a good

deal of the money collected was going to "administrative" costs.

As often as I get the chance I'll write you how some of the fellows I have met feel. One of them told me that the draftees were particularly bitter about the way they are looked upon as social outcasts. Far from home and from their friends, said this chap, they are deprived of any decent kind of relationships. As near as I remember his words, they were:

"It's about time somebody told the truth. I just got hold of that issue of Life magazine which to a small extent tells everybody not in the Army why we boys just haven't got any morale. But he doesn't get

around as much as I do, since, after all, he isn't in the Army. I am. I wish I was home.

"Last week I went to a dance run by the USO. Well, we danced all right. I met a pretty, black-haired, brown-eyed girl from a town nearby. I danced with her and I talked with her. I liked her so much that I even got her a cup of punch and a couple of biscuits. We drank the punch together . . . we danced again . . . we were getting along fine . . . until we tried to leave the hall where the dance was being held. We couldn't. They had chaperons guardings all the exits. Nobody could leave the building.

"I wanted to take my friend for a

short walk since the hall was pretty hot. We thought we might cool off. And, perhaps, kiss each other once in a while. But that doesn't seem to go when you have a uniform on. It seems you're not supposed to kiss a decent girl when you're in the army. When the dance was over she gave me her phone number and told me to call her the next day. I tried to leave with her after the dance, but once again I, with the rest of the soldiers at the dance, were kept inside the hall while our girl friends for the evening fled past us out the door into waiting buses. When the buses had pulled out, we were given our liberty once more.

"I called her the next morning but

her mother answered the phone. She said her daughter was out. I called her again, with the same result. Then I got wise and forgot about her.

"Maybe I wasn't born right, huh? This didn't happen only to me. It happened to a bunch of other guys . . . as a matter of fact it's been happening ever since I've been in the army.

"Sometimes I wish our folks back home would demand legislation for the right of us boys in the army to have our girl friends from back home come down to camp and live here under government expense. What the heck. It's easy enough to put up barracks for them to live at in the vicinity of the camp.

"Then again, the government supports officers' wives. The officers get extra money and food allowances and a home near or in the camp to live at. Some of them even get free gasoline for their cars. Then I and the rest of the boys wouldn't have to worry about meeting new girls, about being made to feel like a rape artist, about being forced through a third degree in so far as our family tree is concerned every time we do meet a new girl. Perhaps the USO could do something about it? But I don't think they will."

There was a lot more this fellow said, but it wouldn't bear publication. I'll write you again soon.



# \$21-a-Month Soldiers of "Democracy"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

take up the cases of men who can't get work through the state employment office? And why such heart-rending appeals for cooperation by Selective Board officials to the chambers of commerce, boards of trade, national organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars—and labor unions?

All these preparations FOR JUST A FEW THOUSAND MEN are very suspicious. Many of these men will be leaving the military forces TO JOIN THE ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED. That is the new word for the jobless. The returning soldiers will be falling in line with the unemployed workers thrown out of shutdown plants. And there will be plenty of shutdown plants and plenty of shutout workers. Autos, refrigerators, stoves, kitchen equipment, metal furniture, zippers, coin machines, electrical appliances, washing machines—these are only some of the commodities whose production will be curtailed or stopped by the imperialist war program.

There will be whole cities thrown into unemployment—cities and areas that have concentrated on a single industry. IT IS REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE UP A LIST OF FIFTY SUCH DOOMED CITIES. The list is being kept secret so as not to shock the public!

This is the industrial upheaval that these "lucky" soldiers who will be released, will find. WHAT JOBS WILL MOST OF THEM GO BACK TO?

The men who remain as \$21-a-month "free soldiers of American democracy," don't have to worry about industrial jobs—JUST YET. Their present bosses have other plans for them. Washington correspondents have been reporting to their papers that President Roosevelt shares the opinion of those who believe that AMERICAN BOYS WILL HAVE TO BE SENT "OVER THERE." On August 30, Kiplinger's Washington Letter—which is sent to business men who pay to receive private information on what goes on in the nation's capital—also stated: "AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES ABROAD ARE FORESEEN."

President Roosevelt has conveniently forgotten his promise not to send American boys to fight on foreign soil.

Before you are herded into troopships and sent "over there"—before you are thrown to the wolves of war—\$21-a-month "free soldier of American democracy," ponder these all-important facts:

This is a war between the Axis and so-called democratic powers so that the victors may exploit the people and wealth of the world without interference from the vanquished.

The working people of both sides have no reason to fight each other, BUT THEY HAVE A COMMON CAUSE AGAINST THEIR WAR-MAKING IMPERIALIST MASTERS.

## George Schuyler: A Negro Pegler AN EDITORIAL

George Schuyler, writer of the "Views and Reviews" column of the Pittsburgh Courier, recently wrote a column in praise of the advantages which Negroes have in New York City over other places in the country. A southern Negro, a Rev. Barbour, wrote in reply that he disagreed with Schuyler that Harlem was a better place for the Negro than the South: "New York City is not the answer to the southern Negro's problem."

In the Courier for Saturday, August 23, Schuyler makes a disgraceful and slanderous reply to the Rev. Barbour. He says: "I have never suggested mass Negro migration from Dixie to Harlem. We have suffered enough from these barbarians without inviting more. (Our emphasis.) Much of the Negro New Yorkers' energies have been spent civilizing migrant hordes from Dixie and the West Indies who evidently believe that New York IS the answer to their problem."

This is one of the scurrilous attacks we have ever read against Negroes who leave the South and come North to escape the mob and to get a little breath of fresh air. But suppose they leave the South just because they want to go elsewhere. So what? Do Schuyler and his little band of pseudo-intellectuals think they have the right to a monopoly on what little freedom for Negroes there is in such northern communities as New York City? And who are these Negroes from the South that Schuyler calls "barbarians"? They are black human beings born and reared in the midst of ignorance, poverty and misery, through no fault of their own. They are black workers who all their lives have been hated, hunted, segregated and mobbed. Take even the "criminals" among them. Does Schuyler, sitting in his fake ivory tower, know that poverty, ignorance, injustice and proscription are mighty aids in the production of "criminals"?

Who are these New Yorkers who have spent their time "civilizing migrant hordes from Dixie and the West Indies"? The least that one can say about Schuyler is that he is a pompous ass. We have noticed a certain thin sophistication and pseudo-learning in such people as Schuyler and his kind but we haven't been able to discover any civilization in them that will do the masses of Negroes any good.

Negroes leave the South for the same reason that Schuyler keeps his carcass safe on "Sugar Hill" in New York City: that is, to escape the mob. They leave in order to get a better house to live in, to get better food to eat, to find better schools to send their children to. These Negroes want their daughters to have a chance to study music and play at the World's Fair. Does George Schuyler believe that the "migrant hordes from Dixie" are lesser breeds whose children have no right to the environment in which his daughter is fortunate enough to live?

The man Pegler, who writes a dirty anti-labor, anti-Semitic, blatherskite column for the Scripps-Howard papers, says that no one should be permitted to hold office in this country who was not born here. Schuyler says that Negroes of the South should stay there and not be coming to New York to partake of improved opportunities for a better life in a more civilized community. George Schuyler is a black Pegler.

**No Government Contract Without a Union Contract!**

# Unrest Flares in Occupied France As Workers Defy Nazi Conquerors

The reports, coming through Vichy, of the unrest in occupied France and especially Paris, do not give a very clear picture of the situation. However, there appears to be no doubt that the workers are not quietly submitting to the Nazi occupation.

Last month, the Nazis arrested 6,000 so-called Jews in the 11th Arrondissement of Paris—a working class district with revolutionary traditions. On September 8, reports indicated that around the middle of August there were what the Germans call "manifestations" in the 15th and 20th Arrondissements—also working class districts.

## NAZIS HOLD HOSTAGES

Industrial sabotage, particularly on the railroads, continues in spite of the threatened death penalty. Thus, last week the line at Le Mans was sabotaged, blocking the main rail connections between Paris and the Brittany ports for 30 hours. The saboteurs had damaged turntables outside of a roundhouse so that locomotives could not be taken out.

Following this incident, three "bands of militants" were said to have been rounded up in a Paris suburb. The next step against sabotage will be to draft Frenchmen to guard the railroads 24 hours a day. They will actually be hostages for any sabotage committed.

The system of hostages is being employed by the Nazis in reprisal for all acts of violence by the population. Any arrested person can be a hostage. On September 5, three French hostages were shot in reprisal for an attack on a German officer.

## STALINISTS COME TO LIFE AGAIN

Another development definitely established by the reports is that Stalinists are again in action—of course, as local agents for Stalin's present foreign policy.

While Stalin and Hitler were on the same side in the war, the French Communist Party had no reason to oppose the Nazi, whose politics—according to Molotov—were only a matter of taste. Now, apparently, it is different.

Arrests of Stalinists are reported in both the occupied and unoccupied zones. They are taken in for distributing leaflets and writing slogans on walls. They are also accused of reconstructing party cells. Gabriel Peri, former CP deputy and former editor of L'Humanité, was tried before a Paris "terrorist" court for reforming such party cells, and is awaiting sentence—which will probably be death.

The Stalinists are said to be broadcasting from a secret station. Maurice Thorez, his reputation blackened by his many crimes against the French workers, has become vocal again, it is reported, and issues radio appeals to the workers to take advantage of "such a favorable opportunity."

On September 8, the Marseille "anti-Communist" court condemned 8 railroad workers for distributing Communist leaflets. However, there is no way of telling to what extent the Stalinists are gaining a following among the workers who have already had their fill of tagging onto the tail of Stalin, the murderer of world revolution.

The de Gaulist movement, which sides with British imperialism against Nazi imperialism, also fits into the picture, but to what extent is hard to say. From time to time comes word that a Frenchman has been shot for aiding the escape of prisoners from the occupied to the unoccupied zone, presumably to join the de Gaulist forces.

## ANTI-SEMITIC RETALIATION

The working class traitor, Jacques Doriot, and his sheet, Cri du Peuple, are making a stir with their anti-Communist blasts. They are loud in

demanding the guillotine for Peri, above-mentioned. They accuse the Stalinists of having assassinated Marcel Gitton, a former CP deputy who split from the Stalinists when the war broke out and who, after the defeat, joined Doriot's fascist outfit, the French Popular Party. Doriot also claims that scores of anti-Communists have received threats that the fate of Marcel Gitton awaits them also. The French authorities are investigating Gitton's murder.

Nazi-collaborator Petain tries to make it appear that there is no rebellion on the part of the population, but only "red incitation."

The Nazis, on the other hand, seek to give the mass discontent an outlet in anti-Semitism. The mass arrests in the working class districts are supposed to be of Jews only. Attacks on non-working class Jews are being intensified. On September 8 one hundred leading Parisian Jews of the liberal professions were arrested and are being held responsible for the maintenance of order—which means that they are hostages. Possibly there is a Jewish anti-Nazi movement afoot in France, though the reports do not indicate this.

## BUT MASS PROTEST CONTINUES

With all the arrests and executions, acts of violence against the Germans continue. On September 7 attempts were made upon the lives of two Nazis—one a civilian and the other a soldier.

The report of G. H. Archambault to the New York Times on September 5 contains the following significant paragraph:

"All these quarrels, intrigues and appeals to violence, joined with incessant harping of the impotence of Vichy, have not been without effect on simple minds. They seem to be bearing fruit now, different from what had been expected by some of the LEADERS AND FINANCIAL BACKERS."

# Undeclared "Shooting War" Is On--

(Continued from page 1)

## TRUST THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS.

Said one: "Go to war? With whom?"

Said another: "There is no proof whose sub it was."

And another: "If it's going to come, it's going to come. I don't think, though, that this should lead us into war."

And another: "I am a veteran and my opinion is that they will finally find some excuse to get us into this war."

Still another: "We should keep our ships out of the war zone."

These aren't selected quotations. They appeared on the front page of the Post in the same consecutive order. And in them you have a key as to the limitations which Roosevelt will have to put upon himself in his Thursday speech.

Roosevelt might like to "join the issue" (a Churchill phrase) immediately, but he dares not court the mass opposition of public opinion. Yes, he will go as near to a declaration of "shooting war" as he can, but he will not dare declare war now. Instead, he will probably announce measures to protect American shipping in the war zones, as well as modification of the neutrality laws.

In the meantime "shooting inci-

dents" will continue to occur. They are bound to repeat themselves and for perfectly plausible reasons. United States troops are in the European war zone now, in Iceland. Britain and the United States are partners in the war. Obviously, Roosevelt is going to keep the sea lanes open for shipping to Iceland or any port as required by British-American military interests. And equally obvious, Germany is going to try to stop these shipments. Naval engagements between German and United States vessels are therefore inevitable.

More than that, the war strategy of each side demands that it dominate the Atlantic. Roosevelt will not let a few niceties stand in the way of guaranteeing complete control of the Atlantic. Neither will Hitler. They are not playing for marbles. They are each of them in the war for high stakes: who will control the markets and the wealth of the world!

That's what the war is really about, despite all the catch-phrases used (unsuccessfully up to now) to psychologize the people for war. We, and the whole of the working class, would like to fight against the Hitler system. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO DIE IN SUCH A CAUSE. But to do so we would have to fight against the entire system of boss tyranny—the source from which Hitler's naked barbarism flows.

Roosevelt-Churchill aren't fighting such a war. They are incapable of doing that. Is there a person who doubts that, given the choice of a working class government, or a Hitler government, Roosevelt-Churchill would choose any differently than did the French ruling class? No. Roosevelt-Churchill are waging war, and waging war to the finish, to "join the REAL issue"—shall German imperialism oppress the world, or shall American-British imperialism? And whichever side is victorious, the world will continue to be racked by wars and poverty and crises.

And that's what we are really concerned with. Both of the rival groups of imperialism—Axis and Allies—are doing what they consider necessary to promote their imperialist war interests. From that point of view, Greer and Strella incidents are bound to occur (and if they don't they'll be manufactured for propaganda purposes). It is useless to argue that neither the Greer nor the Strella should have been where they were. That would be nonsense. If the United States is going to participate in the war (and even the English admit that the war is fundamentally a war between American capitalism and German capitalism), it must ship to the war zone, it must necessarily risk war acts of all kinds.

But should the United States participate in the war? That is a differ-

ent question, and there are two answers to it. One from the point of view of the boss class: YES! One from the point of view of labor: NO!

Labor and the American people as a whole are against participation in the war. But their wishes and desires have not been consulted. In view of their opposition, Roosevelt may temporize, go slowly on occasion—but he eventually disregards their will in the interests of banker and boss.

Whether to send ships to Iceland is, therefore, a matter of small moment. The important question is: "Shall we be forced to sacrifice our lives and our liberties in a war from which only the rich can benefit? And further: Shall the boss class be allowed to involve US in war without consulting us, without our approval?"

We are against both sides of the imperialist war. We stand with the oppressed masses of the whole world in their fight against exploitation and misery. Our camp in this war is the THIRD CAMP OF INDEPENDENT PROLETARIAN ACTION AGAINST THE WAR!

We therefore demand the right to vote on whether we should or should not go to war! And our answer to the jingo propaganda of the Administration, the press and the boss associations is:

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON WAR!

# This Happened in a Machine Shop

By ROBERT SHERMAN

It happened in a small machine shop. Never more than a dozen people worked there at one time, including the boss. It was a long and rather narrow shop. In the front was the office with the time-clock on the wall. In the rear was the washroom with the lockers inside. Along the wall on one side of the shop ran a long bench with vises and a grinder on it. On the other wall were long shelves which held tools, dies and catalogues. Toward the front were two large engine lathes. Then distributed around the shop came a drill press, a universal grinding machine, a shaper, a vertical boring mill, a hand screw machine, an automatic screw machine and three huge punch presses. The shop operated on the day shift only although overtime was generally put in.

Of course, the most popular part of the whole place was the washroom where, in the morning before eight o'clock, the fellows congregated, changed clothes, bummed cigarettes and tobacco, discussed practically every topic generally discussed and also topics not so generally discussed. Then one morning it happened. Some of the fellows were just finishing selecting their players for the daily baseball pool. Each man in the pool put up a quarter and picked two players from either league. Then when the day's games were over the fellow whose players had gotten the largest total of hits that day would win the pool. Just as one of the boys was complaining of always getting players with a batting average below .250, in came a machinist who

had been working there for three years.

"Hey, you guys, when you go out to punch the clock be sure to read the sign the boss just put up."

## Boss Posts a Sign

Usually the boys waited until about one minute to eight before punching in but this time they filed out ahead of time, anxious to read the mysterious sign referred to.

Now, here is what it was all about. For as long as anyone could remember, every afternoon at about three o'clock one of the boys would take to the corner candy store. He would pick up the empty pop bottles lying around the shop, ask each fellow what he wanted, get the money and would bring back "cokes," five cent pies and tobacco. The boys would knock off, finish what they had ordered and sometimes what someone else had ordered, have a smoke and get back on the job. The whole affair never took more than 15 minutes and never less than 10. No one quite knew how this thing had started, but it sure broke up the long hours between lunch time and quitting time, especially when a guy worked overtime.

The musical sound of the bell coming from the timeclock as the boys punched in was not in harmony with the muffled sounds that came from their throats as they read the sign above the clock.

EMPLOYEES MUST NOT STOP PRODUCTION FOR AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS. IN CRITICAL TIMES SUCH AS THESE, WE CANNOT AFFORD OURSELVES

## THE LUXURY OF TEA PARTIES.

(Signed) A. J. BOLTON.

The men started work and the usual familiar sounds and odors filled the place. The whirring of motors, the rapid lapping sound of the huge rotating leather belts, the pounding of the punch presses, the heavy smell of oil and hot metal, and a peculiar squeak that came from the hand screw machine. Everything went along smoothly and nothing out of the ordinary happened. That is, nothing happened until the boys returned from lunch. It was then that one of the punch presses broke down. It took the boss, one of the machinists and a tool and die maker half the afternoon to get it running again.

Then things went along all right until one of the cylindrical plug gages could not be found. Now, a job being put out by the screw machine was tested by this particular gage which happened to be the only one of its kind in the shop. Work could not continue until it was found. It was found a half-hour later in the most peculiar place for a cylindrical plug gage of which there was only one of its kind in the whole shop.

## Strange Things Happen

The next day strange things continued to happen. Strange not because they never happened before, but because they seemed to come one right after another. First the cross-feed on one of the lathes became jammed. It was fixed but not until the entire carriage was taken off. Then it was found that the half-inch threaded rings were mixed in with the three-quarter rings that were not threaded. These had to be sorted out, of course. Still later the beargear shifting lever on the shaper refused to shift and wouldn't shift until a good hour's work was put in on it. And so on throughout the day.

Now A. J. Bolton was a shrewd man. A. J. Bolton always admitted it. So the next day when the boys struggled in they were not too surprised to see that the sign above the clock had been taken down. That afternoon around three o'clock the fellows were talking. They were sipping "cokes," munching pies and talking. It wasn't exactly a victory dinner but, honestly, the boys were feeling good.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**For Independent Political Labor Action Against the Boss Class**

# Once More On Invasion Of Iran...

By Henry Judd

The invasion of Iran by joint British and Russian action is now all but completed. The British imperialists have safeguarded their oil fields, another obstacle has been placed in Hitler's road to India and another route for supplying Russia has been opened up.

All that remains is for the pitiful Iranian government to sign the terms imposed upon it by the British-Russian troops... and the 15,000,000 colonial workers and peasants of that nation—who once enjoyed a slight vestige of independence—will "enjoy" the combined blessings of British and Russian rule.

But this cynical victimization of a colonial people by one of the imperialist war camps has not passed unnoticed. Barrister Albert Goldman, leading spokesman for the Socialist Workers Party (Cannon group), devoted a lengthy column to Iran in The Militant of September 6. He waxes morally indignant—at those who condemn the invasion as imperialist and reactionary? Heaven forbid! No, Goldman is indignant at those who CONDEMN the invasion. They are "petty bourgeois moralists" who, as the Daily Worker tells us each day, cannot see that it is all for the good of "defending the Soviet Union!"

## WHAT IS GOLDMAN'S ARGUMENT?

Here runs Goldman's argument: Russia is a "degenerated workers' state"; it is fighting for its existence against German imperialism; it must take "every measure necessary for its defense provided it does not conflict with the interests of the world revolution." The fact that Iran is invaded "at the same time" by British imperialism (notice how Attorney Goldman makes it appear that the joint invasion is merely coincidental in time, whereas BOTH governments announced they undertook it as a JOINT, deliberately planned action) is not of "the slightest importance." Conclusion: All class-conscious workers and peasants (including those of Iran naturally) "will not permit anything to interfere with the defense of the Soviet Union." That is, the people of Iran should welcome their invaders and join with them (or is it only the Russian invaders who should be welcomed, Comrade Goldman?).

What does this position mean? It is nothing but a total whitewash for Stalinism and its action in the war! Is this a harsh judgment? Consider for a moment. Goldman is telling the people of Iran that they must subordinate themselves, their interests as colonial slaves, their interests as people who seek national freedom—to the military needs of Stalinist Russia AND, by indirection, to the military needs of the British Empire. For the British Empire is ALLIED WITH Stalinist Russia in the war; it conducts joint military action with Russia. Any step taken by the people of Iran (or any other colonial country, for that matter) cannot but have an effect upon both Russia and Britain.

If this is true for Iran, is it not also true for every other country that Germany threatens to drag into the war against Russia? Turkey, Iraq, India, etc.?

Does Goldman contend that the 3,000 Germans in Iran were "threatening the defense of the Soviet Union"? Obviously, he must, or else there is no justification for Russia's Iranian invasion. But this is precisely the cynical excuse given by British imperialism for its share in the invasion. An excuse to cover up its REAL motives—namely, to secure its oil fields, to protect the road to its Indian colony, to establish air and naval bases, etc. Goldman would like to ignore the unpleasant fact—but Russia is NOT fighting its war in a vacuum; it is already up to its ears in the mud and filth of British imperialism and its dirty doings.

Nor is Goldman untaunted by that Stalinist cynicism he now apologizes for. He refers to the treaty between the Soviet government and Iran in 1921. This treaty gives Russia the right to march troops into Iran if the Iranian government is unable to prevent an attack or a threatened attack upon the Soviet Union through Iran. Such is Article VI of the Constitution.

## BUT ARTICLE VI SAYS:

But our barrister forgets Article II which (1) unequivocally rejects as a "criminal policy" the policy of the Czarist government toward Iran which consisted of concluding treaties with European powers "whose objective was a gradual annexation." Furthermore, (2) "The Russian Soviet government declares its renunciation of participation in any measures which aim at a weakening or violation of the sovereignty of Persia (Iran) and declares that all conventions and agreements between the former government of Persia (Iran) are abolished and nullified. To what disgraceful depths has Goldman stooped! Stalin in 1941 JOINTLY CARVES UP Iran with Churchill; Lenin in 1921 would have marched into Iran to stand by the side of the Iranian people AGAINST a British invasion. Stalin marches to meet Churchill in comradesly embrace; Lenin would have marched to meet him in mortal revolutionary combat. And Goldman says these are one and the same thing!

## CONCLUSIONS:

(1) The Cannon group and its spokesmen here, as in other instances, act as shamefaced apologists for the crimes of Stalinism.

(2) This apologetics is being extended to include the momentary "allies" of Stalinist Russia—beginning with Great Britain.

(3) The enslaved colonial peoples—victimized by both warring camps—are looked upon by the SWP as abject pawns in the World War. The colonial movement for independence, an essential part of the world revolution, is subordinated to "defense of the Soviet Union."

(4) The logic of defensism in the present war appears to lead inescapably from "critical support of the Stalinist bureaucracy" to critical support (or should we say, CRITICAL support?) of the "democratic" imperialist war camp.

Goldman's paper appeared too early for him to answer the questions raised in the article on Iran in last week's issue of LABOR ACTION. We trust he will take them up in his next article... unless he is too busily occupied replying to the terrific anti-Soviet pressure of the "democratic bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie," which—as we all know so well—so harshly condemned the Stalinist invasion of Iran!

# Bevin Refuses to Revise Cost of Living Index

Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labor, has declined to revise the cost of living index figure.

He was asked in Parliament how many items of expenditure now taken into consideration are affected by rationing and shortage of supply.

Pethwick Lawrence also asked why the government continues to use an index based on the 1914 figure in view of the fact that an exhaustive inquiry has since brought the figures comparatively up to date?

Mr. Bevin replied that a new index might or might not bring out that the standard of living has changed, but the relative change in cost would remain the same.

Many workers will not be satisfied with this reply. Their wages are determined by a cost of living index which has no relation to what workers can now buy. (From The British New Leader, organ of the Independent Labor Party.)



# Editorials

## OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. **Against both imperialist war camps!** For the third camp of World Labor and the colonial peoples!
2. **For the right to strike!** For the defense of civil liberties and all workers' rights! Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day plans and war-time dictatorship.
3. **Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars minimum pay!** Time and a half wages for overtime above 30 hours. For increased wages to meet the rising cost of living.
4. **Let the people vote on war!** For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18—old enough to fight, old enough to vote!
5. **Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war!** A capital levy to cover the costs of imperialist war. No indirect taxes on the people.
6. **Conscript the war industries under workers' control!**
7. **Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three per cent of the people who own ninety per cent of the wealth!**
8. **No government contract without a union contract!**
9. **Abolish secret diplomacy!** Open the files of the State Department.
10. **Full workers' rights for conscripts—the right to organize and to bargain collectively with the officers, the right of free speech, press and assembly.**
11. **\$60 a month minimum for conscripts.** Former employers to pay the wage differential and guarantee return of the job.
12. **Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States.** Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
13. **Down with Jim-Crow and anti-Semitism!** For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and in the trade unions.
14. **For Workers' Defense Guards against fascist and vigilante attacks!**
15. **For an Independent Labor Party.**
16. **For a workers' government and a people's army!** No confidence in the Roosevelt government.
17. **For Peace through Socialism.** For the Socialist United States of America, for the Socialist United States of Europe, for the World Socialist Federation.

## What Price "Sacrifice"?

While the United States Chamber of Commerce warns American labor of dire consequences if it continues to struggle for higher wages and improved working conditions, big business continues to earn fabulous profits even after the payment of increased taxes.

The economic bulletin of the National City Bank of New York for the month of August records tremendous rises in profits for all business during the first half of 1941.

The bank's report discloses that for manufacturing groups there has been a 20.4 per cent increase in profits this year over last, after deduction of increased taxes! Coal mining shows an increase of well over 100 per cent (special circumstances are undoubtedly involved in this case). But metal mining and miscellaneous mining show increases of 9.8 and 2.8 per cent respectively. Wholesale and retail trade experienced a 72.9 per cent increase in profits in 1941 over 1940. The average profit increase of all business in 1941 over the preceding year is 20.3 per cent! What price sacrifice, eh?

**THE CIO ESTIMATE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT FOR JUNE IS 6,305,000!**

## "The Benefits Of Democracy"

We don't want to make this a long editorial. We simply want you to grasp a few vital statistics about American "democracy."

In the two month period between May 15 and July 15, 91,919 draftees were "excused" as illiterate—37,217 white, 54,702 Negro. These figures are reported by Pearson and Allen in their Washington Merry-Go-Round column for September 8.

Pearson and Allen further report that: "The Southern states made the worst showings. In Louisiana, 4.8 per cent of the white and 23.7 per cent of the Negroes were rejected. In Georgia and Florida, the percentage was slightly less. Other high illiteracy showed up in Virginia, Mississippi and North Carolina."

In other words, if these figures are to be taken as average for the entire population, about 25 per cent of the Negroes in the South are denied the privileges of an education... the "benefits of democracy." Actually, the illiteracy figure for the whole of the Negro population is probably higher. The "rejectees" are the younger men, brought up in a more "enlightened" era. Note, too, that about 5 per cent of the poor whites are similarly denied an education. Money talks loudest and "learns" most in this "democracy" of ours.

But note especially the figures on Negro illiteracy. Like lynch-law and every other phase of Jim-Crow, "cultivated" ignorance for the poorest and most oppressed is part of the boss scheme in the South.

Remember these figures the next time you hear a jingo orator spewing platitudes on... "The American Way of Life..."

## When "Patriotism" Pays

It wasn't very long ago that our good President Roosevelt promised the nation that in the present great struggle for freedom, war profits would be strictly curbed. We want no war millionaires whose wealth is covered with the blood of millions, he said. Not bad, coming from the President, but it ain't so.

Despite increased taxation (nowhere comparable to the relative increase of taxes on the workers and the poor), the big corporations, who run the whole shebang in Washington, are getting theirs and plenty. Take a look at a few of these pay-triotic firms whose pay-triotism is well paid for.

|   | (Profits (after taxes paid) 1940 1941 (est.) |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| <b>GENERAL MOTORS CORP.</b>   | \$216,000,000                                | \$250,000,000 |
| (During the first six months of 1941 it made \$286,500,000 before taxes. At this rate it will earn \$573,000,000 before taxes, or 50 cents on every dollar invested in the company.)  |  |               |
| <b>CURTIS-WRIGHT CORP.</b> (1st half 1941)  | \$20,000,000                                 | \$10,664,000  |
| (Prior to 1940 this corporation earned an average profit of \$3,914,350.)   |  |               |
| <b>UNITED AIRCRAFT CORP.</b>  | \$17,000,000                                 | \$19,000,000  |
| (Prior to 1939 this corporation never made more than \$6,423,108 profit, before taxes. It now earns profits four times greater than the four-year average prior to the present emergency and ten times its earnings in 1935.) |  |               |
| <b>ALCOA (Aluminum Corp. of America)</b>  | \$44,000,000                                 | \$39,000,000  |
| (Prior to the emergency Alcoa profits averaged \$30,000,000. This field is completely monopolized.)   |  |               |
| <b>CHRYSLER MOTOR CORP.</b>   | \$45,577,000                                 | \$46,000,000  |

## Negro March--

(Continued from page 1)

indignation of the Negroes to boiling point is the case of the Cobb brothers. These young Negroes were parking their automobile on the night of August 4 when Officer Donald Webber came along. According to Edward Cobb's deathbed statement, the officer asked for the registration card and when Jasper did not produce it quickly enough, became abusive and raised his club to strike him. Edward jumped between the officer and his brother in an attempt to ward off the blow, whereupon Webber took out his revolver and shot him.

According to an eye-witness account, Webber pumped three shots into Jasper, who was standing four or five feet away from him. Webber then struck Jasper over the head with the empty gun. Webber claimed afterward that the boys were intoxicated. A Mrs. Carpenter, who knew them for three years, has testified that she had never known them to drink whiskey, and said both were energetic, hard-working men. Persons close to the scene testified at the inquest that they heard no quarrel—only shots. From the condition of the officer's clothing and that of Edward and Jasper it was clear that there had been no serious struggle. Webber was kept under "technical arrest" until the coroner's jury brought in a verdict: "justifiable homicide."

Roosevelt was so busy defending British democracy in India, etc. (where similar lynch law prevails) that he and his government had nothing to say. But 2,000 citizens, white and Negro, of the District of Columbia attended the funeral of Edward and Jasper Cobb. This and over 60 similar murders and how to put an end to them was what the conference met to discuss.

### A Shameful Speech

John P. Davis of the National Negro Congress, a stooge organization of the Communist Party, addressed the conference, and his speech was a shame and a disgrace. Because Hitler and Stalin have fallen out the communists and all their followers are now concerned with only one thing, getting American workers to support Roosevelt and Churchill in their alliance with Russia. They want workers to work hard and work long, and they wish to prove to Roosevelt that they are good democrats, that is, good members of the very democracy which murders Washington Negroes.

Davis said that we must all work together for national unity. Police brutality will cause race riots as in 1918. He spoke of the inefficiency of the police, as if Webber was not

efficient enough in shooting the Cobb brothers and the coroner's jury was not efficient enough in acquitting Webber.

Major Kelly made an attempt to whitewash himself. He said he was away on vacation when the Cobb murders took place and that he took no part in the investigation which exonerated Webber. Other speakers spoke, but the audience was getting restless and began to leave, even after Jack Zuchor spoke on behalf of the trade unions and said that whites and Negroes should unite as workers.

### WP Member Speaks

The resolutions of protest were passed and the meeting was then thrown open to the floor. Al Warren of the Workers Party then spoke. He said that the struggle against police brutality was necessary and a fine effort and had all the support that the Workers Party could give. But more important was the struggle against discrimination in the Army, Navy and war industries. He pointed out how Senator Connally, Democrat, of Texas, opposed the anti-lynching bill. Connally is a Roosevelt man. Warren then showed the inconsistency between Roosevelt's war for democracy, while democracy is denied to the Negroes in the USA. The war, he said, was no different from the last war. It is an imperialist war, and only the end of imperialism and its replacement by a government of workers can put an end to race discrimination.

The speech awoke an audience that had got very tired of all that had gone before. It was punctuated by applause and at the end received a huge ovation. It is clear that the Washington workers only need strong and determined leadership to help them in the struggle against their main enemy, the American capitalist class, with its policy of imperialist war and Jim-Crow, at home and abroad.

### What To Do

Meanwhile we have to make the committee a center of struggle, not only against the police, but against those who help and protect the police and encourage it in its policy of terrorizing the Negroes. The Negro must have his rights as a citizen and as a worker in industry. For militant struggle against Jim-Crow!

Down with all those who come to the Negro movement in order to prevent the Negroes from fighting, and to force them into a false national unity for the benefit of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. The Negroes need unity, but unity with the workers, black, white and brown, in America and in every other country.

## Negroes Charge Discrimination In Briggs Hiring

DETROIT (NAACP Press Release)—Although the Briggs Mfg. Co. here wants all the riveters it can get, three affidavits sent to the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices in the last two weeks charge the company with refusing to employ Negro workers.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People received copies of two more affidavits, made August 27 and 28 by Kenneth Offet and Frank Smith of this city, who were referred to the plant for work by the Michigan State Employment Service.

Offet's statement claims that he reported to Briggs with four whites, also referred by the employment service. They were all qualified as aero-riveters. According to Offet, the first two whites were hired, but when his interview turn came the employment manager told them there was no more hiring that day.

On returning to the employment office, Briggs says, they were shown cards which stated that "Briggs was calling for all the riveters they can get." The next day the three went to the plant again. Offet claims the first white boy was taken, but Offet was asked if he had not been out the day before. He said that he had and filled out the necessary application.

According to the affidavit, the employment manager said: "The Michigan Employment Service knows there is nothing doing out here. You will have to wait until you are sent for."

The employment service official, a Mr. Hendrie, is quoted as saying that he could not understand why the boys were not accepted in view of the fact that Briggs was asking for all the riveters they could get.

The same difficulty was met by Frank Smith, also qualified as an aero-riveter and referred to Briggs by the WSES. His affidavit, made August 28, states that he was given two cards of introduction from the employment service to the company and reported, there in a group of 30 men.

About 20 of these men were hired, Smith says, some of them after he had been interviewed. He asserts that the employment manager asked him to fill out another application blank although he already had one on file. The affidavit states that Smith was told he would be sent for "if anything turns up," and that he should "come back once in a while."

He has been going back every morning since August 21, he claims, but there are still no openings.

The first complaint against Briggs was made by Albert J. Lucas, who said he was told that a card asking him to report for work was sent him "by mistake."

## Mass. Textile Workers Ask Wage Increase

Special to Labor Action

PEABODY, Mass.—Sick and tired of waiting for the Board of Arbitration to make up its mind whether the cost of living has risen or not, the 1,100 workers of the Danvers Bleachery walked out on "holiday."

The Danvers Bleachery, a section of the Naumkeag Mills of Salem, has a signed agreement with the Textile Workers Union of America (CIO). Three months ago the workers, faced with the rising cost of living, demanded that the wage section of the agreement be opened for wage increases. The Board of Arbitration, which has been "looking" into the matter, stalled week after week. The workers were taking it on the chin and the company was piling up thousands of dollars that should have been going out in the form of wage increases.

On Wednesday, September 3, there was a lot of unrest among the workers. Rents in town had jumped again and milk had gone up another cent and a half for a quart. "What's the use of working if you can't pay your bills?" Everyone asked each other the same question and at two in the afternoon the whole shop picked itself up and walked out.

Within 8 hours the company had offered to bring all women workers receiving less than \$16.03 a week up to that figure; all men receiving less than \$21.53 up to that minimum, and a 10 per cent increase for all workers, including those that had just been brought up to the above mentioned minimums.

Now that they are out, the workers are going to settle a few more grievances that have been sore spots for a long time. They are demanding the firing of the efficiency experts and a well known labor-hating superintendent. For a union shop instead of the present preferential shop set-up, and the complete elimination of existing differentials in the shop.

**Conscript the War Industries Under Workers' Control!**

## ON TAXATION:

### We Say: Let the Rich Pay for Their Own War

Are you making \$15 a week? Well, THAT'S TOO MUCH!

Who says so? The Senate.

That's why they voted to impose an income tax on every \$15 a week salary. They expect to collect over 300 million dollars that way, right out of our pockets.

While food and furniture and clothing are rising, cutting into our wages from one end, the government lowers the basis of taxation, thus cutting in from the other end. That's what they call making both ends meet.

While the Department of Labor still insists that the minimum budget that a family can live on in health and decency is around \$2,200 a year, the Gouging Department of the government tells us that if you're making \$1,500 a year you ought to have enough left over to relieve Morgan and the ruling "Sixty Families" of the necessity of paying for their war.

At the same time, the Senate voted to retain the \$40,000 exemption for inheritances and gifts. Just think about that for a moment: John Q. Playboy is being allowed to inherit \$40,000 from a rich uncle without paying a cent over to the government, even though he didn't lift a finger to earn it. But John Q. Worker can't keep a measly \$750 a year, earned by the sweat of his brow.

After weeks of testimony and passing the buck, the Senate finally decided to pass the buck straight out of your pocket into the war machine's.

### BANKERS MAKE THEIR PROPOSALS

Before it was passed by the Senate, it was up before the Senate Finance Committee, and this committee had a problem: **Who's going to pay for the war?** And they had a long procession of capitalist Charlie McCarthies and banker buckaroos who gave them expert advice. We'll let you in on where the senators' brainstorms have been coming from.

There was, for example, Dr. Atkins, New York University professor and American Bankers Assn. stooge. In his best lecture voice he announced that "the largest increases in income were as a whole in the working class." So he urged the committee to slap an income tax on those \$15 a week wages. The senators hastened to comply.

Watch out! The bankers have a lot more ideas! This same Atkins proposed a general sales tax to take a few more pennies from the people every time they buy a can opener or a hat. The argument for the sales tax is that it's DEMOCRATIC—J. P. Morgan has to pay a tax on a can opener, same as you. That's how they plan to lay the real burden of the war on those who can least afford to pay.

Some weeks ago the New York bankers convention sounded a few bugle calls for a 20 per cent payroll deduction tax. Under this pretty scheme a worker making that \$15 a week would have \$3.00 deducted every week from his pay check. In fact, he'd never even see it.

As you might expect, another professor (Harvard this time) made this proposal to the Senate committee too. This Professor Lutz is especially distressed by the bad social effects of high wages; his plank is: a simple life FOR THE WORKERS.

The senators rejected these proposals, but don't rejoice too soon. The war isn't over yet, and both the Senators and the professors will be coming back to the subject. Both of them have their eyes fixed on good old "democratic" England, where a worker making \$25 a week pays ten weeks' salary into the government's coffers, while profiteering scandals still spring up like weeds after a rain spell.

### BUT WE'VE GOT A BETTER ONE.

"We had a nice discussion," said Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau to the press after his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee.

It seems he told them that two billion dollars in more taxes was needed, and that the only new source of revenue he could think of was the federal sales tax. You see, their thoughts keep coming back to it.

And Morgenthau added sadly: "I don't know of any new sources and I don't know anybody else who knows any new sources."

What the Secretary needs is a subscription to LABOR ACTION. We have a simple proposition. It goes like this:

If you want a rat-trap, you go to people who have rat-traps. If you want a lot of money, you go to people who have lots of money.

Where's all the wealth of this country, anyway? Ninety per cent of it is in the hands of three per cent of the people! This three per cent is made up of the handful of financial dynasties known as "America's Sixty Families."

What do these Keepers of the Cash pay now? They pay taxes on their yearly INCOME from these fortunes—after their lawyers have gone through every known means of tax evasion.

Why not tax the FORTUNES themselves? That's known as a CAPITAL LEVY.

THERE'S the "new source": a tax on what the Sixty Families and the billion-dollar corporations HAVE, not only on what they admit making.

But instead Morgenthau takes out his microscope and scrutinizes the \$15 per check that's getting through tax-free.

A capital levy would be a step toward making the rich pay for their war. And that's against the rules of the game in a Holy War for Profits.

What can you expect of Morgenthau? He himself is part of the three per cent and tied up with the Sixty Families. In fact, he's the Secretary of THEIR Treasury.

Just as the Roosevelt government is THEIR government, and this slaughter is THEIR war.

Let the Morgans, Rockefeller, Harknesses, McCormicks and Whiteys put up the cash for the Wall Street Expeditionary Force to Europe!

Lay a capital levy on the great fortunes and big corporations!

Lay off the people's paychecks!

**For Labor Action-- Join the Workers Party**

## Price of Bread Up One Cent!

If you bought any one of several varieties of packaged bread, you will have noticed that around the old wrapper, marked 7 or 10 cents, a narrow band had been pasted listing the new price: 8 or 11 cents.

These were the companies that had considerable stocks of the old wrappers and didn't want them to go to waste. Other companies, less frugal or with old stock exhausted, merely had the new prices printed on the regular wrappers.

It doesn't sound like a lot, BUT IT REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF FROM 10 TO 14 PER CENT IN THE PRICE OF BREAD!

That one cent is typical of the rise in most food prices and in most necessities—clothes, rent, etc. In many instances prices have risen 25 per cent and more. This means that the working class family, whose income is mainly spent on necessities, is now spending 10 to 25 per cent more of its income in order to subsist and has, in effect, suffered a WAGE CUT!

There have been wage increases in some industries. Others have had no increases at all. But even where there have been increases, the new wage is nowhere in keeping with the rising cost of living...

**A penny more for a loaf of bread!** Add all those "pennies more" and they count up to a horrible slice torn from working class pockets—another product of boss war. Need we add that profits have gone up too—and much higher than prices!

**LABOR ACTION**  
Official Organ of the Workers Party  
Published weekly by the  
Labor Action Publishing Company  
Vol. 5, No. 37 September 15, 1941  
114 WEST 14TH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.  
(3rd Floor)  
Editor: JOSEPH CARTER  
Managing Editor: EMANUEL GARRETT  
Business Manager: JOHN BILLINGS  
Subscription Rate: \$1.50 per year  
\$1.00 for six months  
(\$2.00 per year or \$1.50 for six months  
for Canada and Foreign)  
Re-entered as second class matter May 24, 1940,  
at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the  
Act of March 3, 1879.

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**AN EDITORIAL ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD WAR.**

**AN EDITORIAL ON STALIN IN IRAN.**

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**THE UAW CONVENTION... By David Coolidge.**

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Address your orders to: The New International, 114 West 14th Street, New York City. The best way to ensure regular receipt of The New International is to subscribe: \$1.50 a year in the United States.

## World at War--

(Continued from page 1)

Battle of the Pacific. The first sign of this development were the conciliatory overtures made by Tokyo to Washington.

The Anglo-American economic measures are strangling Japan economically. In the north the Russian Far Eastern army still bars the way. In the south the Anglo-American-Dutch concentration stands fast. Battered down in China—to which only recently the United States sent a military commission to aid the Chinese with money, materials and advice—the Japanese imperialists must therefore pause and reconsider.

Thus, despite much indignation, the Japanese are nevertheless compelled to allow the passage through Japanese waters of American tankers carrying oil to Russia. Japan doesn't want to have any Greer incidents in the Pacific at this time. Stranger even than this is the appearance of an article in the Japan News Week, a publication close to the Foreign Office, in which for the first time doubt is cast on Germany's chances for winning the war. True, the article was subsequently suppressed for, after all, Japan is still part of the Axis.

Nevertheless, the writing of such an article is in itself an important straw in the wind.

It therefore seems that for the first time Japan is becoming doubtful of the profitable future that it expected in association with a victorious Germany. For that reason, she has begun to look around in order to see if there are not other roads to be followed. It doesn't at all mean that Japan is breaking from the Axis. Far from it. Outside of an Axis victory, it is difficult to see the blossoming of Japanese aspirations. All that she is doing is to loosen her ties a little—just in case.

For one thing, she doesn't want the Germans to push her too prematurely over the abyss. Besides, it may encourage America and England to take more kindly to her and maybe ease the economic stranglehold. Japan is wriggling her way through a temporarily difficult situation. The answer to what she will do in a more permanent sense depends upon what the Germans do in Russia. That is why, while conversations are taking place in Washington, Tokyo's eyes are riveted on the battlefields of Russia.