

# WORLD IN FLAMES!

The Ultimate Victor?



## STATEMENT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE, WORKERS PARTY

The United States is now at war with the Axis powers. Only twenty-two years after the signing of the Versailles Peace Treaty, which brought an end to the "war to end all wars," the United States finds itself a full-fledged participant in the Second World War, a war that is more destructive, more futile and hopeless than the war of 1914-1918.

All the peace treaties, all the disarmament agreements, all the non-aggression acts have been torn to shreds. All the solemn assurances that peace would be preserved, all the pledges that the

United States would not enter the war have been flouted and discarded by the very statesmen who made them. Like the people of the rest of the world, the people of the United States too have yearned only for peace and freedom, and security; now all their hopes have been shattered and their faith betrayed.

Every worker, every person who cherishes liberty and despises oppression, is a sworn enemy of the Axis powers. The infamous regime of Hitler is justly hated for its cruel destruction of the labor movement in Germany, its bloody persecution of freedom of thought and organization and action; for its hideous oppression of the people of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Norway, Holland, France and most of the other lands of Europe whom it has deprived of all national independence and over whom it rules with the iron heel and the lash. The regime of Mussolini is justly hated for its oppression of the people of Italy, for its cynical ravishment of Ethiopia. The regime of Japanese imperialism is justly hated for the bitter sufferings it has imposed upon the people of its own land, no less than for the bestial appetite which has led to even greater sufferings for the people of Korea, Manchuria and China.

This noble hatred of tyranny has been cunningly exploited by the imperialist statesmen of the so-called democracies for the purpose of whipping up a pro-war sentiment among the masses of the people. The people have been systematically stuffed with lying assurances and hypocritical pretensions that this will be,

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### THE WORLD AT WAR American-Japanese War Can't Be Separated From the War Now Raging In Europe

By MAX STERLING

Japanese bombs exploding in the Far East have put an end to the diplomatic farce in Washington. The "negotiations" between the Japanese emissary Kuruusu and Secretary of State Hull over who shall have access to the oil, rubber, tin, tungsten, manganese, chromium and the markets of the Far East have been supplanted by a test of arms.

No one believed that this conflict between Japanese imperialism and American imperialism could be settled in any other way. At the same time no one imagined that Japan

would strike so swiftly and so audaciously. In doing so, Tokyo has sacrificed a political for a military advantage. The bombs that were dropped on Hawaii have brought a solid national unity in the American ruling class, a unity which will be driven into the American public. Within the hour of the Japanese attack the America First Committee abandoned its isolationism for all-out support of the war against Japan.

Hanson Baldwin, writing in the New York Times, points out that such a "unity" would have been im-

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## Labor Must Continue Its Campaign For A Decent Living Standard

The opening of the shooting war against Japan will obscure for the time being the howling of the bosses, the capitalist press and Congress for anti-strike and anti-labor legislation. The shouting and the fury have temporarily subsided. For the present, the bosses, Congress and the press will content themselves with whipping up the war spirit and spurring the working class to a fever heat of patriotic fervor. This will be expected to make labor forget the union shop, freezing of wages, signed contracts, wage increases, payroll taxation, the maintenance of the 40 hour week and the organization of the unorganized, including aircraft, and the decision of the recent CIO convention to bring the millions of workers in the South into the CIO.

The chief demand of the bosses and the government will be the total abolition of strikes. Labor will be expected to grant this demand voluntarily. The workers and the unions will be asked, no matter how great the magnitude of their grievances, to forego the strike until the war is over. Everyone will grant that labor has "the right to organize," few will deny that labor has the "right to strike," but all the bosses, the government and "the people" will insist that this "right" be not exercised by the

workers of the nation during the period of the war.

Labor must submit to this demand voluntarily and immediately or anti-labor legislation will be passed. The Smith Bill or one even harsher will become law. That is the Smith Bill or a worse one will become law unless labor shows its bristles now; continues the active and practical opposition to the bills and demonstrates to the bosses and Congress that labor will have its rights, despite Congress and the bosses.

### TOO BUSY FOR USUAL RANTING AGAINST LABOR

The bosses and Congress are busy now with Japan. The boss press didn't even have the time and space for their usual ranting over the winning of the union shop by the miners in the "captive" mines. Nothing much is being said about the Smith Bill and the other labor-baiting bills introduced by the poll-tax congressmen from the back-woods districts of the South. But this breathing spell will not last for long. Aside from being busy with the war, the bosses, Congress and Roosevelt are hoping and ailing for labor to submit. If we do not submit they will hit and hit as hard as they dare.

The attitude that labor, especially the CIO, takes now will in large measure determine what Roosevelt, Congress and the

bosses will do. If labor is willing to forget everything, if we are willing to let the bosses ride roughshod over us and our organizations, if we supinely permit them to straddle us with the burden of their imperialist war, then we will be made to foot the whole bill. Should we permit ourselves to be lulled to sleep, or drugged into an orgy of flag-waving hysteria, or brow-beaten into abject and miserable submission, or even if we allow ourselves to be fooled by honeyed words from the boss, and his press, then our hard won gains will be whittled away, we will be stopped dead in our tracks and we will find ourselves confronted by a hostile boss class and with no weapon to fight with.

The bosses, Congress, the President and various "friends of labor" have just the issue now that they have longed for: a righteous cause, something to fight for. Japan hit the first blow, it was a "stab in the back," we must defend ourselves. The workers must forego and forego, sacrifice and sacrifice, for "labor has the most to lose in this war."

This is what labor is told. But we have to try and discover what all this means. We have to know the meaning of the

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## How New York Reacted To the Outbreak of the War

When the first news of the Japanese attack on Hawaii and the Philippine Islands was broadcast over the radio last Sunday, your correspondent took off to Times Square

to gauge the sentiments of the crowds that assembled to receive the latest teletype news.

The most significant thing about the continuously changing crowds was the grim, matter-of-fact manner in which the news was received. Everyone understood the meaning of this military outbreak: The United States was in the war!

There was little rejoicing. The only enthusiastic outbursts came from the mobilized Daily Worker salesmen, announcing that the Stalinist Party had pledged its utmost support to the war. Each salesman had a slogan to utter—all of the jingoistic, chauvinist variety.

### No Fits of Frenzy

The men in uniform, soldiers and sailors, were not taken with fits of frenzy. They knew this war was serious business. This was the real thing! No one could tell where this might end. When the news of ships sunk was reported, sailors were heard to remark sadly about their friends who may have been involved in these disasters.

There were no frenzied outbursts, no bravado. This may yet come when the war fever is properly worked up by the propaganda of the capitalist press. But one thing is certain: the people of this country lack the kind of spirit those leading the country in the war would like to see.

To Be Ousted?



NAVY SECRETARY KNOX

## 40 Hour Week Will Be the First War Victim!

It's Not Only Question of How Many Hours We're to Work, But Also of Time and a Half for Overtime

By JACK WILSON

"It will not only be a long war. It will be a hard war."

The seven-day work week ordered in all war industries by President Roosevelt in his first wartime address brought home to organized labor the stark reality of those words of the President.

"Industrialists . . . must forego extra profit," the president explained, in connection with the sacrifices of workers which have been ordered.

Big business will have to give up extra profit, the President declares. Extra profit! The six per cent as usual continues. The big homes, the expensive parties, the luxurious mode of life . . . all these continue for the rich, while the workers suffer in a hard war.

All of labor's gains in recent years are threatened by the abrogation of union contracts involved in the presidential order. Millions of lives will be lost, before this war is over. It will be a hard war . . . for labor.

But what's hard about only giving up extra profits? Profits you haven't got yet, anyhow?

"It is not a sacrifice for the industrialist to forego extra profits," the President said. Correct. But why should he make profit at all, when everyone else is sacrificing even lives in the war effort? This is going to become the question of the day, and for the duration.

Labor must demand, in self-preservation, not only that all the profit be taken out of war, but also that double time be paid for all overtime, above a 40-hour week.

Isn't this selfish? the newspapers will scream. No! For only by a steady increase in money wages will

### In Next Week's LABOR ACTION:

### INSIDE NAZI GERMANY

A first-hand account of what is happening in Hitlerland

DON'T MISS IT!!!

labor be able to keep up its already low standard of living, because prices are going to keep climbing.

The situation on the home front stresses the need, above all, of labor defense.

On the war front, the incompetence of the Navy brass hats has already become a national scandal, without full details being known. Roosevelt admits bad news from the Pacific. Arthur Krock, most conservative writer on the New York Times and chief of its Washington bureau, speaks about the "loss not being matched in our national history."

The war crisis is a crisis of a bankrupt society and a bankrupt leadership. In three days this has been hammered home by events. More events and lessons will follow!

### The High Cost Of Poverty

WASHINGTON—The Department of Agriculture reported on December 4 that a sample health survey indicates that only 5 per cent of low-income rural Americans are in first-rate physical condition.

The survey, covering 2,480 farm family borrowers from the Farm Security Administration living in 17 states, showed that 96 per cent of the 11,947 men, women and children examined had "significant" physical defects.

For the group as a whole, the number of defects averaged 3.5 per person.



# With the Labor Unions On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

## THE STALINISTS KNIFE THE LABOR MOVEMENT

We walked out into the street last Saturday and came across a man passing out a leaflet and asking people to sign a petition to the Senate against the passage of the Smith Bill. The leaflet was headed "America is in Danger" and said that "a serious blow has been struck at National Unity and the Defense of the Country through passage of the Smith Bill in the House. The Smith Bill would rob labor overnight of almost every gain which it has fought for and won through decades of bitter struggle. . . . This bill would 'give a free hand to every open-shopper in the country and thus promote industrial strife, hinder the Defense Program and help Hitler.'"

This leaflet was put out by the Communist Party, that is, by the Stalinist traitors. They are concerned with "national unity," the "defense of the country" and the "defense program." The real meaning of these phrases in the mouth of the Stalinists is: unity with Stalin and his murderous bunch of bureaucrats, and defense of the Stalinist gang in Moscow. That's what the Stalinists in the United States want "national unity" for, that's why they have switched over to the "defense" program.

How can the Stalinists get so heated up over the Smith Bill? They have the same aims for labor now as the proponents of such anti-labor devices as the Smith Bill. In the Daily Worker for November 14 one

can read the following in an editorial:

"The sober and responsible leadership of labor, it seems to us, requires avoidance of hasty actions and a determined effort to remedy the workers' just grievances by finding ways and means of adjusting them without tying up the production of defense industries."

These traitors even find something very praiseworthy in their fellow-traitor, Sidney Hillman. In another editorial, headed "Worthy of Applause," they had this to say about a speech made by Hillman: "When Hillman said 'You can't fight Hitler and at the same time fight defense,' he was stating an obvious truth."

In the same Daily Worker, Foster, in the Question and Answer column, had the following to say: "The workers should be acutely aware in this critical world situation, that their greatest class interest, identical with the national interest of the whole American people, lies in the defeat of Hitler. If Hitler wins, American national independence will be wiped out. Strikes must be avoided. . . . The strike should be used only in defense of the workers' most basic economic interests or to protect the life of the trade unions and then only as a last resort after all other means of settlement have failed. . . . The workers should taboo strikes. . . . for the collection of dues and for general organizing purposes."

## WHY DO THEY COMPLAIN AGAINST THE SMITH BILL?

Why do these treacherous scoundrels and bureaucrats complain about the Smith Bill and other anti-labor legislation? Because the bill is too harsh? They say that the workers should not strike except to protect their "basic economic interests." What in hell have all the strikes been for, except to protect the basic economic interests of the workers? What was the North American strike for? The Stalinists who helped to lead that strike said that it was to protect the workers' basic economic interests. And how about the Allis-Chalmers strike, which they also helped to lead? What was that for? Are they against these strikes today and do they think that the workers made a mistake? And how about the Ford strike and the mine strike, and the recent strike of the "captive" miners? Why didn't the Stalinists vote against the resolution in support of the "captive" mine strike at the recent CIO convention?

Suppose the decision goes against the miners in the present negotiations and Lewis calls them out again. Will the Stalinist unity hounds and fake patriots oppose this action and tell the miners to remain at work? Is the CIO demand for a "union shop" a demand to protect the "basic economic interests" of the workers or to the Stalinists is it only a trivial demand that should give way before the demand of the bosses for "national unity?"

Which side will the Stalinists be on next spring when the steel work-

ers demand the "union shop"? Should a strike result from the rejection of this demand will the Stalinists support the steel workers or the government, the bosses and the New York Times?

We know which side they will be on; they will be found on the side of the bosses, the government and the capitalist press. They will be found right where they are now. From now on (unless Stalin changes his line and flops back to Hitler) they will be the stool pigeons, the snitches, the traitors, the unity shouters, the flag wavers. In the factories and the unions the Stalinists will be the chief lieutenants of the bosses and employers. They will make a bloc with Hillman and help with his dirty work. They will lick Roosevelt's boots and put their GPU men at the services of the FBI. They will oppose every strike, no matter what the cause or justification. They will yell louder than any boss or congressman for "mediation."

Their opposition to the Smith Bill is a fake. They only want to hold their followers and members in order to have a force to rally around the butcher in the Kremlin. They can have no real quarrel with the anti-labor bills. They are as anti-labor as any labor-hating bill in Congress. They are more dangerous. They are a poison that permeates the labor movement by stealth. They appear as a part of the working class at the same time they are doing the dirty work of the boss class.

## THEY ARE TRAITORS TO OUR CLASS

They support the Second World Imperialist War now, not for the same reasons as the deluded and muddleheaded liberals but solely as protection to the Stalinist bureaucracy in Moscow. They are not "patriots" in the sense that misguided workers are patriots. These workers do not yet thoroughly understand the nature of capitalist society and the class struggle, but these Stalinist scoundrels do. They are traitors to the working class.

The anti-labor bills are introduced by congressmen who represent the boss class. Congress represents the ruling class. We can understand them. We expect these bills. When these boss class congressmen call for cooling off periods, mediation, re-

sponsible labor leaders, keeping production going, no interference with production, we know exactly what they are talking about. They are attempting to manacle labor in the interest of capitalism, American imperialism and the protection of the profits of the ruling class.

Of course they want to keep production going, of course they don't want strikes. They are fighting an imperialist war against another imperialist bandit. The Stalinists want to keep production going also; they don't want strikes. They are supporting the Anglo-American gang of imperialists, against the interests of the workers of the world, because they are the protectors of Stalin and his Kremlin bureaucrats.

## We Demand: A Capital Levy on Wealth To Pay for ALL War Appropriations!

# 1c Labor Action

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# Labor Must Protect Its Rights

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Smith Bill and the other anti-labor bills; what is the war about and what is the relation of these bills to the war; what is the relation of the bosses to the war and what sacrifices are they making? These are serious questions for labor which we had better try to find answers to before we become too-willing to follow Roosevelt, Congress and the bosses. We had better find out what's at stake and what the boss has up his sleeve before we accept his propaganda about his "defensive" war and the necessity for great sacrifices on labor's part.

In the first place, suppose that the majority of the workers in the United States are willing to or do support the "foreign policy of the President," that is the present war against Japan, Germany and Italy. Suppose that these workers believe everything they are told by Roosevelt, Congress and the capitalist press. What has this to do with the demand for the union shop, higher wages, the 40-hour week, collective bargaining with signed contracts and the opportunity to get adequate homes, food and clothing. What is there about this war or any other capitalist war that creates the demand from the bosses and the government that labor do most of the sacrificing? Do the workers who support this war (we think they are wrong but we pass that) believe that the very modest economic demands made by organized labor cannot be granted today by capitalist society in the United States? They know that this is not the case because the workers in the mines, mills and factories are creating fabulous wealth. The profits of the corporations are tremendous. Despite the steep increases in corporation taxes, virtually every company this year is making more profit than last. Some corporations are making the highest profits in their history. Corporation after corporation has raised its dividends over last year; many companies are declaring extra dividends.

The point we make is that the money is there and it is wealth created by the labor power of the working class. There is there-

fore no material need for the workers to make any of the sacrifices demanded by the boss class and the government. This despite the war of the United States against Japan, Germany and Italy.

The need of the working class for food, clothing, shelter and recreation is no less in wartime than in peacetime. The need for union organization, the struggle for higher wages and democratic rights does not decrease. In fact, right now, with the increase in corporation profits on one side and the increase in the cost of living to labor and the heavier burden of taxes on the workers, it is imperative that we have stronger unions and higher wages right now. These things cannot be held or won by cringing before the boss, Congress or Roosevelt.

## WHY DO THEY WANT TO CURTAIL OUR RIGHTS?

There is something wrong and dangerous in this demand for labor to sacrifice, give up its basic right to strike. We have stated that there is no basis for such a demand made by the bosses and the government. The wealth is here and is increasing from year to year. Furthermore, all labor and every worker should by now be aware that the bosses make no sacrifices. They make no proposals for the freezing of salaries or the elimination of dividends and interest payments. Not a single corporation has made an offer to turn any part of its war profits back to the government. Not a single corporation has made any offer to reduce the cost of tanks, planes, ships and guns to the government.

The millionaire boss class makes no sacrifice whatsoever. They have not abandoned a single automobile, yacht, country estate, pleasure or luxury. No member of Congress has made a single sacrifice. They draw their \$10,000 a year salaries and all the perquisites of office. The capitalist ruling class, its deputies, stooges and hangers-on profit from the war and sacrifice nothing.

Not only does the boss class hold on to what it has and grab for more, but the bosses get into the government, into strategic place in order to insure that their profits will be maintained through contracts which will yield fat salaries, graft, brokers' fees, big dividends and interest payments to the loafing coupon clippers among the ruling class.

This is the way the bosses serve their country, this is the way they sacrifice. This is the way they propose to win the war: they will grow fat while labor does the work and makes the sacrifices. When the bosses sit back and refuse to produce until they get their price they are rewarded by the granting of their demands, even if Roosevelt has to send the army with bayonets. But when the workers put in their demands they are rewarded with the Smith Bill and threats of the concentration camp and the electric chair.

It is these plain brute facts that stare labor in the face and the workers should know by now what course they must take. They should have some small measure of understanding of what this war is about. They should know by now that we must feed, house and clothe ourselves, war or no war. They should know that this can be done and that we have the numbers necessary to win all of our very modest demands. Labor must not be duped into the belief that the war makes it either necessary or good sense for the working class to yield one inch in its economic demands and the necessary organization and procedure to win them. This includes full speed ahead with organization, with the demand for collective bargaining and signed contracts, for higher wages, shorter hours and continuous improvement in working conditions. And of course no worker with the sense of a beetle will ever draw back from the picket line if this is necessary to win the union's demands.

Such a decision from the working class, such firmness and determination from organized labor with its millions, will defeat any Smith Bill proposed by a boss-ruled Congress. (D.C.)

# Defense Housing Crisis Grows Acute; Workers Forced to Live in Dingy Homes

By FRANK DEMBY

The defense housing crisis is coming to a head. Newspapers are running articles on the situation; Congress has appointed committees of investigation. Within a few months the lid threatens to blow off on the biggest scandal since Teapot Dome. As an example of how serious the situation has become, it has been reliably reported in the capitalist press this past week that in one town in Connecticut where a lot of war factories are located over 700 children were found locked in automobiles or miserable shacks while their parents were working at jobs in nearby defense plants.

The background of the housing crisis is quite clear. For more than a decade, as depression took its deadly toll, the housing shortage has grown worse and worse. Private construction of homes and apartments dwindled to virtually zero. Government efforts at low-cost housing projects and slum clearance were confined to a few large cities, were far from low-cost and represented a feeble drop in the bucket. The estimate made several years ago that one-third of the nation is ill-housed is extremely conservative.

## WORKERS DRIFT TO DEFENSE CENTERS

Then, as billions of dollars were spent for war orders, mostly concentrated in a handful of cities, workers began to drift in from all parts of the country to these few defense centers. The existing housing shortage in such towns was accentuated a thousandfold. Trailer camps, miserable shacks and hovels, sprang up like mushrooms after a rain on the outskirts of a score of cities. Rents boomed sky-high as the landlords and real estate interests took advantage of the tremendous demand for living quarters. Charles Abrams, of the New York Post, summarizes the effect of the housing crisis as follows:

"Today workers, unable to find quarters, are leaving their jobs in defense centers all over the country. Labor turnover exceeds 500 per cent in some vital areas. Skilled craftsmen in pivotal trades refuse to migrate because they might have to give half of their wages to landlords. Inefficiency, disaffection, work stoppages due to poor housing are already in evidence."

The government's handling of this situation is a monumental example of capitalist inefficiency, duplicity and downright skullduggery. It was admitted that there was a need for the construction of 525,000 homes this year in defense areas. Private industry obviously could not be relied upon to build homes for the vast majority of workers who earn less than \$2,000 a year; for private industry will naturally only build homes if there is a profit in it—and there cannot be any profit in building homes for workers who get \$30-\$40 a week. Consequently, the government undertook the responsibility for constructing 70 per cent of these needed homes, or about 360,000 homes. Of this number, only 10 per cent has so far been built!

## TOO MANY FINGERS IN THE PIE

At the beginning of the armament program, the only real housing machinery in existence was the United States Housing Authority, which possessed 600 local branches spread over 33 states. But the USHA was not used at all in 1940 and is only partially used now. There are a dozen different agencies of the government which have their collective fingers in the housing pie. The Public Building Administration, the Division of Defense Housing, the Defense Homes Corporation are some of the more prominent examples of bureaucratic duplication. In addition, the Army, the Navy and the Farm Security Administration also managed to horn in on the housing pie.

Having tied itself up in a maze of red tape, the government tried to ease matters a bit by appointing Charles Palmer as Defense Housing Coordinator. Palmer, however, hasn't done any coordinating at all. All he has done is to fight with the other two big-shots of the housing program, Nathan Straus, USHA Administrator, and John Carmody, Federal Works Administrator, who controls the Division of Defense Housing. Besides these eternal scraps, in which each accuses the other of incompetence and of sabotaging the defense program, Palmer's main activity is seeing to it that as few government homes as possible are built. Palmer is typical of most of the officials in the "defense" program. He is a firm believer in private enterprise and doesn't want to undermine it, even if this means that defense workers go without homes or lives in slums.

Palmer, it must be emphasized, is President Roosevelt's man, appointed directly by the President to the top position in the housing pyramid. His credo is "business as usual," which phrase,

given its proper translation, means "profits for the bosses." In spite of his support of the system of "free, private enterprise," Palmer is accused publicly by Carmody and others of being a dictator. Straus blames him for sponsoring "the most vicious piece of legislation that has been enacted in the field of housing under the spur and drive of selfish private interests." Needless to say, Palmer is aided and abetted in his work by the dollar-a-year OPM representatives of monopoly capital, who have needlessly placed priorities on building materials. This has forced up the price of building materials, with a consequent rise in rents and the price of homes. It has also resulted in some very fancy speculative activities in the construction field.

## A VICIOUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION

The legislation to which Straus referred is, indeed, one of the most vicious laws ever to come out of a servile Congress. It is known as the Lanham Act. The ostensible purpose, of course, was to encourage housing. It permits the Federal Housing Authority to guarantee 90 per cent of builders' mortgages on houses put up for defense workers. The effect of this provision has been to saddle workers with homes that they cannot possibly afford to keep. The workers are forced to buy them, even though they don't want to, by being given the choice of being without a roof over their heads or buying these homes. In all such transactions, the builders and the bankers, who finance these homes, are given 100 per cent protection against any possible loss. The workers, of course, get no protection at all. Moreover, these are hardly low-cost affairs. The worker usually has to put down a payment of \$100. His monthly payments, which take the place of rent, come to almost \$80, when interest and taxes are included. To be able to afford such payments, a family should have a yearly income of close to \$4,000 a year. Most of the workers who are forced to buy them, however, make half of this sum or less.

Another provision of the Lanham Act, which

is equally vicious in this application, is the appropriation of funds to the Federal Works Administrator for defense housing, provided that building costs are not over an average of \$3,500 per family. The maximum on any housing unit is set at \$3,950 under this provision. Since it is virtually impossible to figure "average" costs in advance of construction, specifications are cut down to levels below minimum health standards. The net result is that in many cases the government is actually building slum houses for many defense workers.

## AND A LOT OF PLAIN GRAFT

On top of these difficulties and abuses, there is obviously a considerable amount of plain, ordinary graft taking place. In some cases, sites for housing projects are located in swamps or places where sewage is disposed of. Local authorities are incensed in many cities over the fact that the federal agencies do not deem it necessary to consult local officials about the housing projects.

What the situation boils down to is that private industry cannot possibly build adequate homes for American workers. It is estimated that there is a real need for at least 12,000,000 housing units in this country today, for it should be obvious that it is not only the defense workers who need decent homes, but practically all workers. Unless the government immediately appropriates several billion dollars for real, low-cost housing projects (not the measly \$300,000,000 that is being recommended) the overwhelming majority of workers will find that the "defense of democracy" means living in sub-standard dwellings. Democracy, it should be obvious, cannot thrive on slums which are injurious to the health.

LABOR ACTION is anxious to expose the whole rotten mess of the housing scandal. Only the fresh air of truth and vigorous protests can get decent housing for the mass of Americans. We should appreciate it if any of our readers who have reliable information concerning the housing situation—any data on rents, etc.—would send it to us. We promise to give it prompt publicity.

# Here Is a Concrete Example of Rent Gouging on an Ohio Defense Project

By MARY BELL

Within the last year, a huge multi-million dollar arsenal plant was built at Ravenna, Ohio. A boom-town of thousands of arsenal workers mushroomed into being. After months of living in trailers or packing-box shacks, sleeping in cars—their quarters condemned by every agency of health and sanitation—the arsenal workers were graciously presented by the U.S. housing authority the imposingly named Westlawn Homes, a "defense" housing project.

On December 1, 80 of the 99 tenants, all arsenal workers residing in Westlawn Homes, petitioned Roosevelt and Congress against rent increases as high as 75 per cent, ordered by the U.S. Housing Authority!

However, the government was not only increasing the rent reasonably, but it was sloughing off shoddy goods. On homes the government proposed to raise from \$20 to \$35 a month rent, the workers bitterly protested such conditions as:

- 1—No basements in the homes.
- 2—Poor drainage, with pools of water forming after rains and lasting for days, often seeping through the floors, causing damage and rot.

3—Concrete floors, many of them constantly damp and wet, causing considerable illness and damage to furnishings.

4—No plaster on walls.

5—No concrete walk from door to sidewalk.

6—Coal furnaces, many of which have been condemned by the fire department.

7—Children must walk more than a mile to the nearest grade school and cross an unguarded railroad crossing.

8—No facilities for laundry; necessary to dry clothes in living room in inclement weather.

9—No facilities for summoning the fire department in case of fire.

Forty employees recently withdrew applications for dwellings at Westlawn and several families moved out because of "unfavorable conditions." When a local reporter visited the project the renters threatened to strike against "unlivable conditions." "How would you like to pay \$35 a month and find a pool of water in your parlor every time it rains?" they asked.

The project manager explained that the crux of the problem was that the FWA had experimented with a "Utopian" plan of basing the rents charged on all "defense" housing projects on the income of the renter. "The trouble was," he explained, "one family would be paying \$20 for a three bedroom unit and another would be paying \$30 for a one bedroom unit."

"Not only would the one paying the higher rent feel aggravated, but the plant left the government open to charges of socialism," says the Akron Beacon Journal reporter. This reporter has only to turn to LABOR ACTION to find out what the socialists would advocate. Instead of billions for imperialist war, we'd spend billions for a program of housing that would make the cheap makeshifts the government constructed look like the shacks they replaced.

Oh, yes, the militant inhabitants of the project have raised such a stink, it looks as though the government, its face red, may repair those floors and walks.

# UAW Shifts Anti-Negro Organizer

COLUMBUS, O. — Carl Copeland, UAW organizer at the Curtiss-Wright Airplane Corp. here, has been transferred to a small and rather insignificant plant. From there Copeland will probably be sent back to St. Louis, his home town, and off the UAW payroll.

Copeland is the organizer who was mainly responsible for the recent disgraceful walkout of UAW members at the Curtiss-Wright plant when the company placed a Negro in the tool and die department on the second shift. About 300 workers in this department walked out, but very few of the production workers. Some men in the jig and fixture department and a few in the machine shop joined the walkout.

The Negro worker who was the victim of this race prejudice and discrimination from white workers had attended the company's school and was placed on the bench as an apprentice. The second shift in the tool and die department went to the foreman and told him that the Negro must be removed or they would walk out. They were told that the company was carrying out the President's proclamation against discrimination in the war industries and that the Negro would remain on the job.

## Was Half Drunk

When the men walked out they went to the union hall to meet with Copeland. He arranged for a full meeting of the men and came to this meeting half drunk. He told the men that the UAW-CIO would back them in their protest against having to work with a Negro. The men decided to tell the company that the Negro worker must be fired or taken out of the tool and die department. Also that if the company refused they would demand that the company hire Negroes throughout the plant, including the office. The company refused their demands and eventually, after the UAW had sent in a higher union official, the men returned to work.

The company had deliberately placed the Negro worker in the department where most of the workers were members of the CIO. Not only this, but among the skilled workers in the plant who had a background of opposition toward working with Negroes. A company union stooge was active in the affair and had been working for some time to stir up trouble. The CIO workers fell for this, aided and abetted by Copeland. The company wanted to get something on the CIO and Copeland was performing the same job for the company as the company union stooge.

This man, who worked on the first shift, remained over on the day that the walkout occurred and agitated the second shift men to walk out. The week before this same company stooge had written a letter to Roosevelt, which was published in the Columbus Dispatch, saying that the following week a key department at the Curtiss-Wright plant would walk out. He said that there would be strife at the plant and asked that the President send an investigator to look into the CIO. The Negro worker was put to work the following Monday.

The whole course of Copeland in connection with his work as an organizing had been one of Negro-baiting. He had spoken of them as "niggers" and told the skilled men that after the plant was organized the Negro workers would be separated and placed in a department by themselves.

Copeland is from Missouri and probably had an AFL background. He attempted to bring the AFL's anti-Negro policies into the CIO. He is now on his way out.

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# Japanese People Enslaved and Robbed by A Ruling Clique of Imperialists and Militarists

By HENRY JUDD

On the island kingdom of Dai Nippon (Japan) live 90,000,000 people of the Japanese race. Most of them are farmers, living in small country-side villages and eking out a meager living from tiny units of land. Many are workers, working in the shops and factories of the large cities and industrial centers of Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Nagasaki, Moji, etc.

For years, millions of the Japanese people have been forced by their government to spend their lives in the armies. These armies since 1935 have been conducting vast campaigns in the distant lands of Manchuria, North China, South China, Hainan Island, French Indo-China, etc. There are at least 2,000,000 men at present in the Japanese military forces.

Many of them haven't been home in 5 or 6 years; many never came home except as ashes wrapped up in a small, neat urn. In addition, there are hundreds of thousands more involved in the air and naval work conducted by the Japanese military machine.

Japanese man-power has been so badly drained by the endless years of war sacrifice demanded by Japan's war-mad militarists that today a majority of the Japanese working class consists of women and children. In the thousands of small, handicraft factories scattered all over the country, in the huge cotton and textile factories of Osaka, in the shipyards of Yokohama and Kobe, in the steel and munitions' factories of Tokyo women and children by the hundreds of thousands toil endless hours. They are not permitted to organize unions. The despotic and totalitarian government of Japan long ago outlawed workers' organizations of all types and forms. Employers are permitted—by government sanction—to fix any hours, wages, sanitary conditions, etc. that suits their interests.

## Living Standards Decline

For 5 years the living standards of the Japanese people have steadily gone downward. There are shortages of everything needed to keep alive: food (all food is rationed—even the main staples of the Japanese diet, rice and fish); clothing and textiles; shoes, furniture, sake and other drinks etc. Commodity prices have approximately doubled since the 1935 period. As a result of all the hardships which the Japanese have had to bear because of the military adventures forced upon them by the ruling class of the country, the people today live a miserable and colorless life. The average Japanese working man and woman is bound to the factory from sun-up to sun-down, after which he returns to his one-story, wooden home, eats his small plate of fish, boiled rice and vegetables and then retires to prepare himself for the next day's sacrifice for the Japanese boss.

Just as in the United States only a small handful of bankers and Wall Street imperialists stands to gain by the war, so in Japan a similar clique of bankers, financiers and capitalists will be the only gainers.

For the 90,000,000 Japanese people the war will mean only further sacrifices induced by the blockade which the Allied imperialist powers will attempt to install around the island Kingdom; longer working hours; the horrors of bombing raids over their flimsy wooden fire-trap cities; more shiploads of urns containing the ashes of sons killed in far-off lands.

But the few members of Japan's "Two Families"—the Mitsui and Minseito families which control the overwhelming bulk of Japan's heavy industry, shipping and banking—stand to benefit in the same sense that America's "Sixty Families"—the Du Ponts, Fords, Morgans, Rockefeller's etc.—stand to benefit by this imperialist war. Out of the sacrifices of the people these Japanese super-industrialists and bankers will coin greater profits and greater wealth.

Have Subjugated People For these Nipponese imperialists already have subjugated the people of Korea, the Chinese of Manchuria and the northern provinces of China, the Indo-Chinese, the people of Formosa.

In every territory they occupy, these militarists and imperialists turn the area into a hell of colonial exploitation. They set out to outstrip the cruel and barbarous means employed, for example, by the British in their conquests of India. There is no imperialist crime which has not been utilized by the Japanese bandits. Then, after they have destroyed all organized resistance, they systematically rob the territory of its raw materials (coal and iron in Manchuria, tea and rice in Formosa, rubber and tin in Indo-China, silk and cotton and rice in China etc.); organize a monopoly control over the territory's trade and commerce; try to "Japanize" the local population; organize slave-labor gangs of women and men alike; rob the peasantry of its produce etc. Every criminal act carried out by the Nazis in occupied Europe has been emulated a thousand-fold by the Japanese in occupied China.

Now these same imperialists, making use of their military bureaucrats and officials, have plunged an unwilling Japan into the greatest adventure and the most disastrous war of its history. This time they seek even greater stakes; control and maintenance of their already-conquered territories; control of the Pacific Ocean shipping lanes; new lands and territories to exploit and colonize. To carry out this task they have installed in Japan a military dicta-

## Big Profits From Bombers

Reports from Britain indicate that the British bosses are doing well by themselves, despite all the talk about "equal sacrifice for bosses and workers."

The Bristol Aeroplane Co. announced profits for 1940 at 766,384 pounds after paying excess profits tax.

These profits are 80,000 pounds greater than in 1938 and 230,000 greater than those of 1937.

It is not possible to compare this year's profits with those of last year because they were then announced before the deduction of excess profits tax.

The dividend this year is 10 per cent.

## Du Pont's Big Stake in the Far East War

The du Pont dynasty, munitions makers extraordinary in America, breathed a genuine sigh of relief this week when war began between the United States and the Axis powers.

The du Ponts created an industrial empire worth \$1,000,000,000 in the first imperialist World War. Business is going to be even better in the second world imperialist war.

There was a particular relief for the du Ponts in the stories of the American fleet fighting in the Far East. For the du Ponts have a choice plant in the Dutch East Indies.

The biggest rubber plantations in the world, 132,000 acres of the finest and most profitable, are owned in the Dutch Indies by the du Ponts through the United States Rubber Co. Over \$40,000,000 clear profit was extracted from this source of exploitation by the du Ponts since the first World War.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. also sighed with relief. For its huge plantations in the East Indies also are now being safeguarded by the American Navy. Not only from the Japanese. But even more dangerous, from the natives of the Dutch Indies who are tired of working for a few cents a day under slave conditions in the rubber plantations.

Goodyear and Firestone, Too

Goodyear owns a tire and rubber factory in Java, too. It is a source of profit which Goodyear wants the people to protect.

And the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. has thousands of acres of rubber plantation land in the Javas.

Standard Oil holds concessions on the oil lands of the East Indies, lands which have just begun to give up part of the fabulous wealth in "black gold" they possess. Making the Far East safe for capitalist investment is the basic aim of the present military struggle in that region. Standard Oil officials could tell you that.

The Dutch Indies natives fought a war from 1860 to 1905 to free the country from all foreign control, be it Dutch, English, American or Japanese.

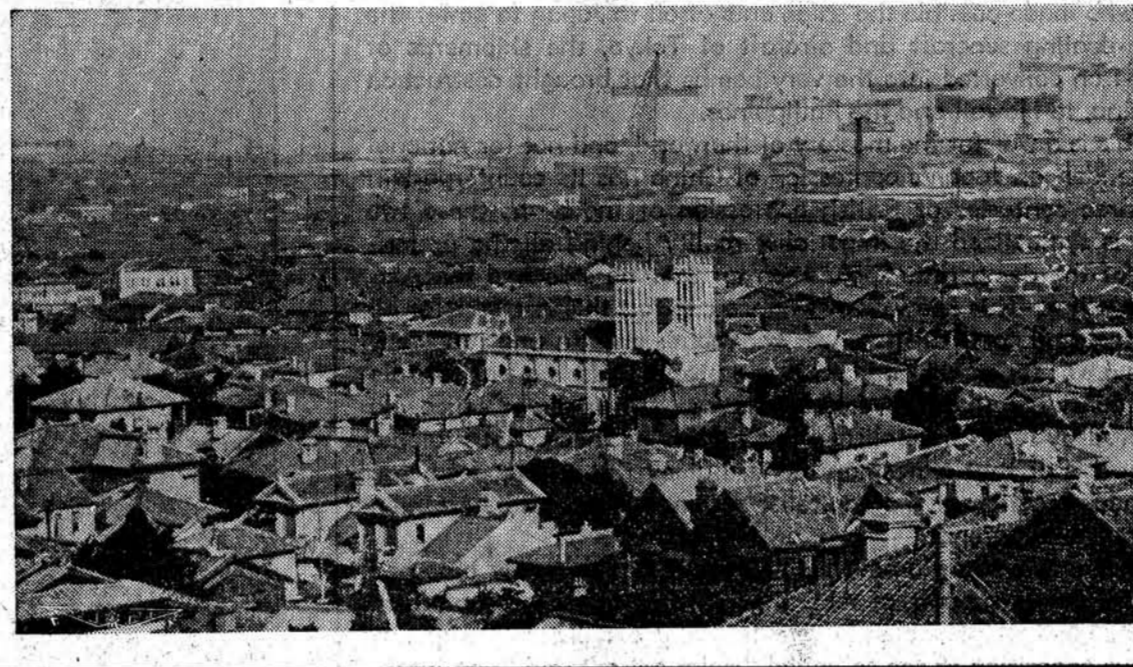
The natives lost 250,000 men killed in this one-sided struggle, for they didn't stand a chance against the modern weapons of the Dutch imperialists.

And America's stake is frankly and openly the imperialist exploitation obtained from the rubber and oil resources. The du Ponts and the Rockefeller's, through Standard Oil, are ones who alone will profit from the present war.

torship of the most rigid kind—the same sort of military dictatorship that Roosevelt will install in America if the American working class does not insist upon the maintenance of democratic liberties during the war.

But these Japanese imperialists have, at the same moment, set into motion those forces that will bring their own destruction. The Japanese workers, sailors and soldiers! The impoverished farmers and peasantry of the country! Lied to and deceived for many years by their rulers, they will insist upon a day of reckoning when the meaning of the present war has become clearer, when they see that—like the American workers and farmers—this is war for imperialist plunder and boss profits.

## A Typical Japanese City



# Colonial People in Pacific Unwilling Victims of War

In the Pacific Ocean—on its islands, over its vast waters, on the peninsulas and points that jut out into the waters of the China Seas—two great war camps have come to grips. With all the naval, air and military strength at their disposal the Axis powers and the Allied powers strive to tear one another to shreds and gain imperial mastery.

What is the LINE-UP of the two great imperialist camps?

(1) The United States and its possessions (Hawaii, Philippine Islands, Alaska, Guam, Wake Island and other island bases that dot the Pacific).

(2) The British Empire with its Dominions (Australia, Canada and New Zealand) and its colonies (Malaya, India, Burma, Hong Kong, etc.).

(3) Chungking China—the non-Japanese occupied section of China ruled over by Chiang Kai-shek, the puppet of the "democratic" powers.

(4) The Dutch East Indies—the island colonies of the South Pacific which are dominated by England and the United States.

(5) Stalin's Russia with its Siberian-Far Eastern armies will participate in the war as an ally doing the bidding of Roosevelt-Churchill war strategy.

In the camp of the Axis imperialist powers we find:

(1) The Japanese Empire (Dai Nippon) with its possessions (Formosa, Korea, Manchukuo).

(2) The imperialist armies of Italy and Germany, fighting from a distance to aid their friend and partner, Japan.

(3) Nanking China—the Japanese occupied section of China ruled by Wang Chin-wei, the puppet appointee of the Japanese imperialists.

Many and numerous are the unwilling people now dragged into one or another of the imperialist line-ups.

They constitute the great colonial peoples of Asia, people who are dominated and ruled over by either one or the other imperialist war camps.

In the Japanese war camps are: The colonial slaves of Formosa and the Japanese mandated islands.

The Chinese-Manchurians of Manchukuo; the Korean population of Japan-ruled Korea.

The Chinese people of Shanghai and the other sections of enslaved China.

The Indo-Chinese of the former French, now Japanese, colony.

The Siamese people of recently occupied Thailand. In the "democratic" war camp are:

The people of Hawaii, the Philippines of the American-ruled Philippine Islands.

The hundreds of millions of colonial peoples of the British Empire who live in Malaya, Burma, Hong Kong and British India.

The Chinese people of Chiang Kai-shek China who will be asked to die and sacrifice for the American and British governments.

The Japanese people, the Balinese, the Sumatrans—colonial people who live on the Dutch East Indian islands, the wealth of which constitute one of the greatest prizes in the war.

The people of the South American countries dominated by Yankee imperialism. The pro-American and pro-British governments of South America have already dragged these people into the war against the Axis.

In summary, it is the colonial people of South America and Asia who are the first and foremost victims of this clash between the imperialists. For the war has as one of its major aims the following question: Who shall rule over and decide the fate of the colonial peoples of the earth?

## What Are the Great Powers Fighting For?

Military and naval warfare has broken forth in the vast Pacific Ocean areas. American naval authorities tell the people that this will be a tremendous and far-flung clash. Countless millions of people from many countries are involved and will participate in this clash, for the great imperialist powers on both sides have big stakes in this part of the world.

### THE STAKES: Economic:

For the United States and its allies: The oil deposits, the quinine and tea of the Dutch East Indies. The rice, rubber, manganese and tungsten of French Indo-China. The tin mines, rubber and cocoon products of Malaya. The tungsten, silk, tea, wolframite and minerals of China. The sugar, coffee, tobacco, cocoa, copra, fibers, woods, hemp, wax, beautiful mines, rare minerals, etc. of the South Sea Islands.

For Japan: The coal, iron ore and mineral deposits of North China, Manchuria, Korea and Siberia. The tea and rice of Formosa. In addition, all the things listed above as stakes for the United States and its allies.

### Commercial:

For the United States and its allies: Shipping and trade rights with all the Far Eastern areas (Philippines, China, East Indies, Malaya, etc.); control of harbors; custom and tariff collections; the right to export surplus American capital and invest it in the various economic enterprises of these lands and colonies; to obtain various raw materials supplied by this part of the world for use in the war machine in the United States proper; the right to exploit and make use of the great masses of colonial people (coolie labor) who live in these highly populated territories. In summary: FOR POWER, FOR RAW MATERIALS, FOR MARKETS, FOR PROFITS TO WALL STREET AND AMERICAN CAPITALISM.

For Japan: The same commercial aims and objectives as those listed above which are sought by the United States. The sole difference is that Japan, being a smaller, poorer and weaker country than the United States, wants all these things even more desperately than does the United States.

### Strategic:

For the United States and its allies: To eliminate the threat of further Japanese expansion by destroying the Japanese Navy and driving it from the seas, to surround and cut off the supply lines of Japan proper through naval action, to keep open the Burma road supplying China with war materials and also, if possible, keep open the sea route to Russia by way of Vladivostok, to gain control over all the sea routes of the Pacific, to weaken the world Axis-alliance by eliminating its Far Eastern partner, the Japanese Empire.

For Japan: To seize Thailand, Malaya and Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, sections of Siberia, etc., to prevent the United States from accomplishing its strategic aims as listed above, to aid the other Axis partners by diverting large sections of American strength for war in the Pacific.

### Political:

For the United States and its allies: To open the colonial areas to exploitation to the growing American Empire that is being organized by Roosevelt and the Wall Street imperialists, to aid the British Empire and its Far Eastern sections in its struggle for survival against the Axis, to gain military and naval control over the Pacific Ocean, the China Seas and the South Sea territories.

For Japan: To add to the territories of the Japanese Empire, to gain mastery over the waters of the South Pacific, to defeat its imperialist rivals in the Far East.

the fact that this currency was furnished by Britain to Hitler at the reduced price, and that Britain must have known that such a sale to Hitler would benefit him.

Democracy is all right for Churchill to talk about, but business is still business, even if it helps Hitler.

## How Churchill Helped Hitler Filch His Partner, Mussolini

An item by the Washington columnist, Paul Mallon, illustrates once again the nature of the "democratic" war being fought by Great Britain.

When British troops took Ethiopia from the Italians, they also seized 100,000,000 lire. The British, desiring to profit from this seizure, proceeded to sell the currency piecemeal on the Black Bourse in Switzerland. The currency was purchased by secret agents of the Hitler government at a reduced rate and was then used by Hitler to buy up everything loose and edible in Italy.

Thus, Germany proceeded to literally steal tremendous quantities of foodstuffs from its partner, Italy. This fills Mallon's Mallon with great moral indignation: Imagine, he says, Hitler stealing from his own partner with secretly bought currency.

What seems to escape Mallon's attention, however, is

## High Food Prices Bring Misery to Occupied France

According to a letter from a resident of Paris, dated October 20, the following is the food situation in occupied France:

The usual daily ration of an adult consists of: Fifteen grams of sugar, 4 grams of oil, 8 grams of cheese, 8 grams of butter and 60 grams of meat (including bones). The meat is allowed only four times a week.

It should be remembered that there are 450 grams in a pound. Thus, the average person in occupied France gets about one-half pound of food per day.

Besides these official rations, which are totally inadequate to keep anyone in passably decent health, people try to buy food on the "black bourse." Prices there are extraordinarily high.

We give below the prices of food in francs, with their approximate equivalents in American currency:

1 kilogram sugar—50 frs.—\$1.	1 egg—7 frs.—\$0.14.
1 liter oil—180 frs.—\$2.60.	1 pound meat—100 frs.—\$2.
1 chicken—350 frs.—\$7.00.	1 pound poor sausage—100 frs.—\$2.
1 pound butter—100 frs.—\$2.	
1 pound rabbit—100 frs.—\$2.	

When it is remembered that the average wage of a fairly skilled French worker is between 1,500 and 2,000 francs per month and that white collar workers often get only between 1,200 to 1,300 per month, it can be seen in what miserable conditions the French workers today find themselves. When a worker earns the equivalent of \$30 to \$40 per month and has to pay the equivalent of \$7.00 for a chicken and 14 cents for an egg, it can readily be seen why the people of France are rapidly developing mass symptoms of undernourishment and starvation.

## World at War --

(Continued from page 1)

possible if Japan had chosen to strike elsewhere. "For it is possible," he writes, "that the Japanese could have moved into Thailand without actual United States intervention; few Americans wanted to die for Thailand." The same could be said about an attack on the Burma Road.

Nevertheless the Japanese militarists deemed it more to their advantage to take the ultimate plunge—to attack and try to render ineffective in one swift surprise as much as possible of America's military force. In that situation lies the difference between the United States and Japan. It is the difference between an imperialism that is limited in its force whose economy is being strangled to the point of complete collapse, whose reserves are being rapidly used up, whose chances of success are closely bound up with the fortunes of its ally Germany, and an imperialism whose forces are constantly being augmented, whose economy, manpower and geographical position can achieve in time an indisputable superiority in all fields.

ferred Japan more advantages than the rupture of that alliance.

However that may be, Tokyo was persuaded that Russia would be a pushover, that very little time would be lost for the grand assault by the Japanese-German combination upon the reeling "democracies." It turned out that Hitler miscalculated, seriously underestimating the extent of Russian resistance.

### Divide and Triumph?

Though Hitler and the Japanese have lost much and the Allies gained much by this mistake, the former are attempting to apply a plan which they believe still holds the possibility of success. Furthermore, Japan's war in the Far East undoubtedly helps Germany in Europe while the coming German drive on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic is calculated to help Japan. Together they aim to divide the enemy and by doing so win.

The war in the Pacific therefore is an extension of the world war. Even the South and Central American countries have come forward with declarations of war against Japan.

The war in the Pacific is so intertwined with the war in Europe that sooner or later the United States will have to declare war against all the members of the Axis or vice versa.

Those countries that are as yet non-belligerent, like Turkey and Spain, cannot remain neutral when the German drive against the Mediterranean unfolds. Foreseeing this, Roosevelt has applied the benefits of Lend-Lease to Turkey. Hitler has not been blind to this American method of winning and sustaining allies. America's involvement in the Pacific War will draw so heavily on her resources that one of the results will be a curtailment of Lend-Lease to her allies and the allies she seeks.

### Russia Remains Silent

Tremendous as the repercussions of the war in the Pacific have been, Russia to this day remains ominously silent. Will Russia join her allies in the war against Japan? This is the question that everyone asks. That Stalin has not yet joined immediately like the other allies of Britain and America testifies first of all to the urgency of his own needs. Russia requires everything she has to stave off Germany. Her forces in Siberia are not as strong as they once were. The Russians themselves have admitted that they drew on these forces to help stem the Nazi tide. Hitler's decision not to attempt the conquest of Moscow until the Spring does not at all mean that he will dig in on the entire Russian front.

On the contrary it can be expected that the German attempts in the south of Russia will be greatly intensified. Russia may still have serious need of much of her Siberian forces to meet this new offensive. Japan's all-out fight with the United States, Great Britain and China will give Russia an opportunity to draw still further upon these forces if that becomes necessary.

Russia's role is dictated primarily by her own military necessities. This does not mean that she is going to remain neutral in the Far Eastern conflict. Russia's fight is also part of the Allied world strategic pattern. If Siberian bases or a Russian land advance against the Japanese army in the north becomes absolutely essential for victory in the Far East, it is very likely that Stalin will supply them as his contribution in the world death struggle. One thing is certain. Stalin's fate rests with the Allies.

The Japanese precipitation of the war in the Pacific has thrown the United States only partially prepared into the world conflict. Hence the complete militarization of America proceeds under fire. The relatively leisurely militarization of the American youth aiming at a certain selectivity has come to an end. The United States navy is taking volunteers from between 17 and 50 years of age. The average draftees are being recalled and the youth of America will get their share of bursting shells sooner than they realized.

## Jap Brass Hat



PREMIER TOJO

Only a country like the United States could afford the luxury of a political over a military adventure. America could be patient while Japan waxed desperate. However this desperation has its special significance for Japan's attack upon the United States was a part of the Axis world strategic pattern. The announcement by Hitler that the Germans will abandon further attempts on Moscow for the winter is of the utmost significance. It reveals how urgent Japan's military task was for the Axis. Tokyo, it seems, could not wait for the promised German victories in Russia. The Spring season was evidently too far away for Japan's rapidly diminishing reserves in the materials, like oil, with which a modern war is waged. For Germany to be bogged in Russia for an entire winter does little good to Japan in the way of a useful ally.

Hitler's announcement reveals that Germany does not intend to remain stalled in Russia while Japan takes on the powerful Allied concentration in the Far East. Germany intends to become a real ally of Japan. The German plan will be to strike hard toward Africa, the Middle East, Suez, Gibraltar, the Caucasus, in the Mediterranean and the Battle of the Atlantic.

Germany's winter strategy is in essence the strategy that was in the cards before Hitler decided to take on Russia. Had not the Germans decided on a war with Russia it is probable that the war in the Far East would have resulted months ago and would have been timed with the German plan for attack in the Mediterranean region. No wonder the Japanese were confused by the attack on Russia. There is no doubt that Stalin's alliance with Hitler of-

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# WORKERS PARTY STAND ON THE WAR

(Continued from page 1)

that this is, a war against fascism and for democracy and national freedom.

## The Second World War

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, and long before it broke out, the Workers Party warned the working class and the people as a whole against the monstrous deception being practiced upon them. We declared, from the very beginning, that the Second World War, like the First, was a war between two great imperialist camps to decide, with the blood and misery of the peoples, which of the imperialist groups shall dominate the world, which of them shall oppress and exploit the hundreds of millions of colonial slaves, which of them shall bestride the commercial lanes of the earth, which of them shall control the sources of raw materials and cheap labor that guarantee a continuous flow of profits to the capitalist monopolists, which of them shall be master of the fields of capital investment. We declared, from the very beginning, that Hitler is fighting to replace the British Empire with the World Empire of Germany; that England is fighting to preserve the World Empire which she has sucked of its wealth for centuries; that Japan is fighting to drive its rivals out of the Orient in order to become undisputed master of an Empire of Asia and the Pacific; that the United States will inevitably enter the war in order to challenge ALL competitors and to assert its imperialist rights to mastery of the world and its wealth. We warned, from the very beginning, of the lies and deceptions of all the governments—against the falsehood of the Axis that it is fighting for "national socialism" and against "plutocracy" in its drive for imperialist power; against the falsehood of the Allies that they are fighting for "democracy" and "national sovereignty" and against fascism in their drive for imperialist power.

## Our Existence and Principles

The Workers Party, whose very existence and principles and life are bound up with a great tradition of struggle throughout the world against all despotism and oppression, against exploitation in any form which has an unbroken and proud record of opposition to fascism everywhere, now feels called upon to reiterate its fundamental position.

We know that the government of the United States, for its own imperialist reasons, is determined to carry through the war to a victorious conclusion against its rivals. We know also that the majority of the working class and the people of the United States are at present supporting the government in the successful prosecution of the war. We cannot but acknowledge this reality. Yet, our loyalty to the principles and interests of the working class, of the exploited and oppressed in this country and in every other country, our attachment to the principles of socialism and of international solidarity of the people, compels us to restate our position now, especially when the war has finally broken out in this country and when we shun more than ever before any concealment of our program.

This is not a war for democracy and against fascism. It is the very same statesmen who thus designate the war and bear that

## Over the Top With the Party Building Fund!

By ALBERT GATES  
Director of Party Building Fund

The fund drive of the party continues. By comparing this week's figures with those of last week, you can readily see the splendid response that our branches have given us in the last week.

Our party needs this \$5,000 building fund now more than ever.

Our party has complete faith in its ranks—we know that they will respond to its call immediately and fully and that the fund drive will be completed in time.

Follow the example of our Rochester and Akron comrades. Oversubscribe your quotas!

We know, we are certain, that it will no longer be necessary to issue appeals for completion of these quotas.

We expect to announce next week that the fund drive is in its last lap, that we have achieved our aim of raising this fund.

Branch	Quota	Raised	Percentage
<b>YPSL</b>	<b>000.00</b>	<b>357.20</b>	
Nevada	000.00	15.00	
Rochester	25.00	40.00	160
Akron	100.00	120.00	120
Youngstown	30.00	30.00	100
Philadelphia	200.00	140.00	70
Boston	50.00	33.00	66
Los Angeles	300.00	192.00	64
Chicago	275.00	136.00	49.4
Washington	200.00	90.00	45
National Office	500.00	202.25	40.0
Worcester	50.00	20.00	40
Cleveland	50.00	20.00	40
Buffalo	300.00	117.25	39.08
New York	3,000.00	1,102.71	36.7
San Francisco	150.00	40.00	26.6
St. Louis	150.00	41.25	25.5
Lynn	75.00	7.50	10
Columbus	100.00	00.00	0
Detroit	20.00	00.00	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,575.00</b>	<b>2,714.16</b>	<b>48.6</b>

bear their full share of responsibility for the rise to power of Hitler and Mussolini. It is the very same statesmen who are responsible for the systematic undermining of all democratic rights and democratic institutions in their own countries. It is the very same statesmen who made possible the shipments of oil to Japan to power the death-dealing seacraft and aircraft of Tokyo, the shipments of scrap-iron converted into the very bombs that brought destruction to China, to Hawaii and the Philippines.

This is a war for the mastery of the world, and not for national independence. Japan's oppression of China has its counterpart in the three centuries of British oppression of India. In these two cases is symbolized the imperialist reality behind all the pretensions of the democratic spokesmen on the one side and the Axis on the other. This is a war of finance capital; this is a war for oil and steel and coal; this is a war for rubber and tin and tungsten; this is a war for stocks and bonds and profits; this is a war for rule over countless millions of colonial slaves. This is a war conceived and bred by world capitalism—not by this or that country alone, not by this or that statesman alone, but by the rotten, decaying, poisonous reaction of the capitalist system which these statesmen represent and defend.

That is why the Roosevelt government has so easily obtained the unanimous support of ALL the representatives of capitalism now that the war is actually and formally on. That is why the spurious opposition of the so-called "isolationists" and "non-interventionists" collapsed overnight. That is why the Lindberghs and Wheelers and Nyses and Hoovers, why even the rabid Chicago Tribune and New York Daily News, rushed to take a position behind the government and for full support to the prosecution of the war. And that is also why the whole labor bureaucracy, from Green through Murray to Lewis, the representatives of capitalism inside the labor movement, also rushed to assure the government of servile support.

## Are for Socialism

The Workers Party, however, as the uncompromising foe of capitalism and capitalist war, cannot and does not give any political support to the government and the war. The Workers Party declares openly that it does not place a single iota of confidence in the Roosevelt government, in its war, or in its conduct of the war. As a minority in the country, the Workers Party is naturally obliged to adapt and adjust its actions to the views of the majority of the people. Yet we are convinced that the views we hold as a minority today will be the views of the majority of the people tomorrow.

The Workers Party is not indifferent to the struggle for national independence. It is, on the contrary, an intense partisan of national freedom, as it is a partisan of people's freedom in general. But this is not a war for national defense; it is a war of imperialist rivalry. The interests of national defense, like the interests of internationalism of the peoples, therefore demand, now more than ever, the unremitting struggle to defend the interests and rights and standards of the masses of the American nation—the workers and poor farmers of this country—from the attacks of the capitalist ruling class. It is to this struggle that our party rededicates itself today.

We call the attention of every worker to the dangers that threaten him in the war.

Under the cry of "national unity," of "sacrifice for the war," the ruling class, which has again begun to amass fabulous war profits, is seeking to place the terrible and mounting war burden upon the shoulders of the workers and poor farmers. At the same time, the drive is on to deprive the working class and the labor movement of the fundamental rights they acquired in the course of long years of bitter struggle. Congress is filled with bills aimed at depriving labor of its basic defensive weapons, the right to strike—a right without which the right to organize becomes an empty formality. The right of free speech and free press has already been given the first blow by the indictment and conviction, in Minneapolis, of the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party. The blows directed at the most militant sections of the labor movement are meant for the labor movement as a whole in the days to follow.

## Labor On Guard

Labor must be on its guard. Precisely during the war, it must be doubly vigilant, doubly jealous in the protection of its interests.

The Workers Party therefore calls upon the working class to rally around a fighting program of self-defense. Unitedly and resolutely, let us demand:

- Hands off the right to organize, and the right to strike!
- Hands off the right of free speech, free press, free assembly!
- Hands off the standards of living of the working class!
- No sweating of labor to the point of exhaustion, says the Workers Party. Double pay for all overtime work.

The people are being conscripted into the army—conscript the war industries! Let the government take over all the big industries, nationalize them, and put them under workers' control.

A capital levy on all the corporations, and confiscate the great private fortunes of the "Sixty Families." Let the profiteers and capitalists carry the war burden; it is on their shoulders that it belongs.

Wipe out, root and branch, all social, economic and political discrimination against the Negro people in the United States—in industry and in the armed forces.

Grant full political rights to the men in the Army who must do the fighting and dying in the war.

## A Labor Party

Workers, let us organize OUR OWN National Labor Party, of, for and by labor, founded on its powerful organizations, the unions, and authorized to speak and act for labor in the political field. Labor must have its own ticket in the 1942 elections!

Workers, let us work with all our strength for our own government, of, for and by labor—the rule of the workers through a workers' government in the United States.

This is the program to which the Workers Party is pledged in the war. It is a program representing the interests of the working class. It is the program that leads to a world of durable peace, freedom for all peoples, security in abundance.

## For the Duration



This war, with all its devastation and horror, is a true child of capitalism. The people will not forever, or for long, endure the unspeakable sufferings of the war, or of the system which gave it birth. The people will not forever, or for long, endure the unspeakable sufferings of the war, or of the system which gave it birth. The people will not forever, or for long, endure the unspeakable sufferings of the war, or of the system which gave it birth. The people will not forever, or for long, endure the unspeakable sufferings of the war, or of the system which gave it birth. The people will not forever, or for long, endure the unspeakable sufferings of the war, or of the system which gave it birth.

Long live the international solidarity of all the peoples!  
Long live the socialist struggle for peace and freedom and security!

Long live the triumph of the socialist world!

## What Happens To This Bill?

### Amendment I: Freedom of Religion, Speech and Press, Right of Assembly and Petition

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment II: Right to Bear Arms

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment III: Security of the Home Against the Military

No soldier shall, in time of peace, be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### Amendment IV: Security of the Home Against Search and Seizure

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### Amendment V: Liberty, Property, and Due Process of Law

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### Amendment VI: The Rights of Accused Persons

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

### Amendment VII: Jury Trial in Common Law Suits

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of common law.

### Amendment VIII: Bail and Punishments

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### Amendment IX: Fundamental Rights of the Individual

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### Amendment X: Reserved Rights of the States

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

## HARLEM NEWS

While the metropolitan press continued to stir up race hatred by daily releases on crimes and rumors of crime supposedly being committed in Harlem, the new District Attorney, Hogan, has moved to bring the three boys accused of killing James O'Connell to speedy trial.

After the Grand Jury last week had indicted the Allen and Davis boys for first degree murder and William Dore, the 12-year-old prisoner, for second degree murder, attorneys were assigned by the state to defend the Allen boy. The lawyers for the other boys have indicated their willingness to accept the aid of the Harlem Branch of the Workers Defense League.

The criminal records of New York County must be traced back some generations to find another instance where a 12-year-old child has been tried for murder. This move of the local authorities illustrates their basically vicious reaction to the rising unrest among the poverty-stricken Negro population. They refuse to place the blame for the tragedy on the demoralizing milieu in which these boys must survive, but hide their own guilt by brutally resorting to intimidation and mob hysteria, by the third degree and mass arrests. The "People's Mayor" LaGuardia angrily orders hundreds of new cops to Harlem. That is the only recognition he accords to the depressed social status and unemployment he well knows exists in that area.

Friday night a public meeting of the West Side Council of Social Agencies at the Harlem Y. W. C. A. gave vent to the growing awareness on the part of the Negro masses of the real basis of crimes. Lester Granger of the Urban League called on Negroes to fight for their rights in militant action and through power politics. (This gentleman's brave words hardly presage courageous action if we are to judge him by his sabotage of the projected March on Washington only last summer.) Stanley Isaacs, former Borough President and friend of the C. P., jumped to his feet after Granger's remarks and heatedly warned the Negroes not to try that stuff. He urged their continued reliance on sweet charity.

## PRESS ACTION

LABOR ACTION IS GOING STRONG!

And we suspect that it isn't because of the weather reports or the comic strips—but

Because LABOR ACTION has consistently and correctly analyzed this world imperialist slaughter.

Because LABOR ACTION has always reported strike situations and conditions of the working class from a WORKER'S POINT OF VIEW.

Because LABOR ACTION has thrown the lie into the teeth of the "City Fathers" on the question of the so-called "crime wave" in Harlem and brought to the surface the real cause of the situation.

Is it a wonder that a second friend followed the first with a generous weekly contribution for the distribution of LABOR ACTION in Harlem?

Now as for our branches: Chicago seems to be running a bit of competition.

Central came first with a sizable increase in its bundle order. Then we heard from So. Side in a similar tone. And now Central writes "We will do our share for subs."

Let's Go! Full speed ahead with Now how about some of the other



## What Stake Do Negroes Have in This World War?

During the past five years there has been an organized propaganda wave among Negroes of the Western Hemisphere for the benefit of the Japanese Empire.

The Orient and Africa received its share of this propaganda blitzkrieg. In the Americas it was known as The Pacific Movement; it gained momentum and the most adherents in the far and mid-west, also in key cities of the east.

Its program was based to some extent upon the theory of the "Rising Tide of Color" by Lothrop Stoddard (1920) which was widely read and discussed in America. The basis of the theory is that the long rule of the "white race" has reached an impasse, and degeneration and decadence are inevitable. Therefore the darker races should avail themselves of the opportunity to take the play and go to town.

### Self-Appointed Leader

Japan was the self-appointed spearhead to lead this movement but did not take any concrete action until the middle 1930's during the midst of the world capitalist crisis.

The time was most opportune and the agents and the doctrine of the Negro stooges of Japan reached sympathetic ears.

Many Negroes have long ago lost all respect for and faith in the American ruling class—and why should they feel otherwise after 300 years of chattel slavery and 75 years of the most miserable wage-slavery?

The Japanese poured oil upon the troubled waters in Africa, the Orient, Pacific and Latin America, while the Nazis were laying their larceny in Europe.

Last summer street meetings in Harlem, Chicago's South Side and St. Louis mustered from two to three hundred workers. These Japanese stooges always had very capable Negro speakers. The Japanese themselves remained behind the scene. With the exception of the marriage of Haille Selassie's niece to a member of Japanese royalty in the middle 1930's, what interest have the Japanese as a nation ever shown in the oppressed Negroes? They could not love him more than they do the Koreans (who show no physical difference from that of the Japanese) whom they conquered in 1907 and have exploited as a colony since.

The love of one dark nation for another was further demonstrated in the invasion of China in 1931 when Mukden came under the domination of Nippon; again in 1932 when Manchukuo was snatched from China.

The only real liberation for Negroes along with other colored and white oppressed workers is in the third camp of socialism.

# American Bosses Plan Vicious Anti-Labor Drive

By SUSAN GREEN

The 46th annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers—which came to a close on the very eve of America's becoming a full-fledged participant in this war for world domination—underlined in red the irreconcilable character of that other war, the war between capital and labor.

The undisputed hero of this convention of America's bosses was Representative Howard W. Smith, whose vile bill aiming to cripple working class power was recently passed in the House of Representatives. When this arch-enemy of labor entered the convention hall in the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, the 2,000 boss delegates sprang to their feet and applauded. The applause continued while Smith proceeded to the platform and for some minutes before he was permitted to speak.

This poll-tax, lynch-law Democrat hastened to assert that his anti-labor bill was not a move on behalf of the manufacturers but on behalf of "all Americans who believe in good and fair government." However, the actions of the bosses spoke louder than Smith's words, judging not only by the enthusiastic reception he received but also by the anti-strike resolution passed by the convention. It endorsed in every detail the oppressive measures of the Smith Bill.

At the same time that the convention urged the regimentation of labor in true Hitlerian style, it protested against the seizure of plants by the government as "state socialism" and a form of totalitarian government—the very kind of government this nation is arming to oppose." From which the conclusion is inevitable that as the bosses see it, this nation is not arming to oppose the kind of government that uses totalitarian methods against the workers.

### KNUDSEN CHIMES IN AGAINST THE WORKERS

King-boss William S. Knudsen, director general of the OPM—very much at home among the fellow-members of his class—falsely minimized the whole labor problem by characterizing the workers' necessary struggle for organization and the closed shop as "foolishness." Said Mr. Knudsen: "I can't for the life of me understand how in a period of national emergency such foolishness like this can go on."

No matter what the subject before the convention and no matter who the speaker, the basic enmity of the bosses for the workers stood out in bold relief. Specifically this translated itself into the desire of the assem-

bled profit-makers to pass the burdens of the war onto the shoulders of labor.

Thus, speaking on the subject of rising costs, Alfred P. Sloan, chairman of General Motors, declared: "Economically prices must eventually increase if cost factors like wages increase, or profits must ultimately be eliminated." Since statistics prove that wages form only an infinitesimal factor in cost increases, the Sloans apparently want to swell their profits both by the high prices and by freezing wages.

On the question of taxation to pay for the more than \$150,000,000,000 war program undertaken by the government, the boss convention came out for "widely spread taxation," for "borrowing the remainder out of the savings of the country, not from the banks," and for "a general federal sales tax." This is a warning to labor that the full propaganda and lobbying power of the NAM will be turned on to get Congress to lower still further the income tax brackets subject to taxation, to authorize compulsory loans to be taken out of the pay envelope as in England, and to put a tax on everything the worker buys—but not to increase taxes on profits.

### WANT TO AMEND WAGE-HOUR ACTS

A resolution passed by the convention calls for the amendment of the Wagner and Wage-Hour Acts against the interests of the workers. Another resolution opposes the extension of social security. A third urges "government economies in non-defense expenditures to the extent of \$2,000,000,000 and the return of relief to states and municipalities"—meaning still further cutting of WPA and everything else that may benefit people in need.

A feature of the convention was an after-dinner speech by Thurman W. Arnold, assistant attorney general. This noted trust-and-monopoly-buster, whose anti-labor bias must make him a bit cross-eyed, sees trusts and monopolies mainly in the ranks of organized labor. After dining and dining on the best of everything—surrounded by the favored of the nation, who always wine and dine on the best of everything—he chimed in with the general purpose of the convention—TO MAKE LABOR THE GOAT. Said Arnold: "Labor conspiracies in many large cities are preventing consumers from having cheaper houses, cheaper transportation and cheaper distribution of the necessities of life."

The real monopolists of the nation listening to him, must have been laughing up their sleeves.

## Isolationist Creampuff Folds Up

Like a creampuff collapsing at the first good squeeze, the America First Committee, representing the isolationist section of American capitalism, has gone out of business. After the announcement of a state of war between America and Japan, the isolationist leaders announced that they would drop their "anti-war" stand and would jump onto the jingo bandwagon.

Senator Wheeler came out with a statement which ignored his previous declarations in relation to the Far Eastern crisis. He stated that the entire situation was changed by virtue of the fact that Japan fired first.

Vandenberg, John Flynn and Lindbergh came out with similar statements. In its official statement, the America First Committee declared: "The time for discussing that (involvement in war) is past." It ended by urging full support to the war and piously hoping that America would not be committed to "any imperialistic aims."

It is impossible to gauge the reaction of the rank and file members of America First. But it cannot be doubted that a considerable section of its membership was profoundly shocked at the manner in which their leaders like Wheeler and Lindbergh had dropped their opposition to the war, at precisely the very moment when the America First members must have felt it counted

most. Many of the isolationist leaders had themselves pointed out that if the Roosevelt government continued its aggressive, expansive policy in the Far East, it would inevitably come into conflict with the aggressive, expansive Japanese imperialists.

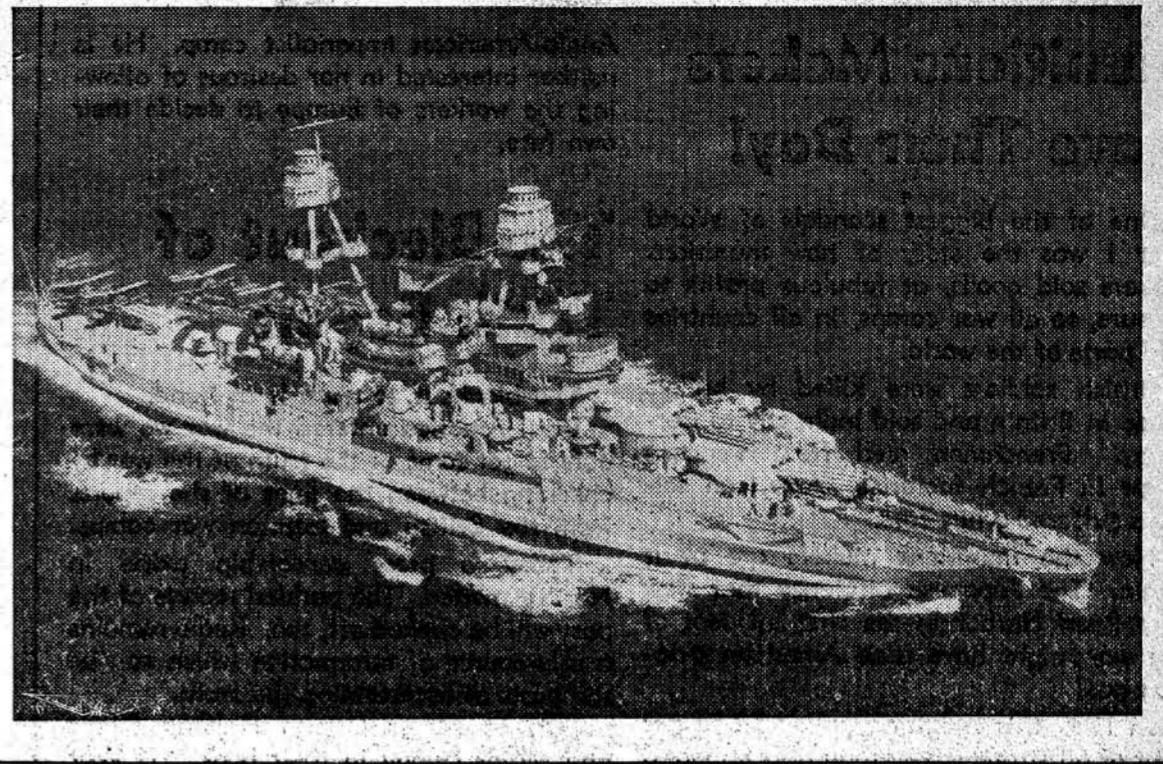
Once the heat was turned on, however, the America First Committee folded up. Its hopelessness, its lack of consistent program, and its inability to really express what is in the interests of the American people is shown by one decisive thing—the section of its statement which hopes that America is not committed to "imperialistic aims" in the war.

We should like to hear from the America First leaders: what is American really committed to in the Far East? Does it battle with Japan over control of the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines because of "democracy"? True, Japan fired the first shot. But what was America doing there to begin with?

The isolationist leaders are now helpless and hopeless. They have no program. They have no answer to the needs of the people who cry out for a solution to their problems. They have abdicated their leadership of a tremendous movement.

What is now important is: What will the rank and file of this movement say?

## Is Now in Action



## War Heightens Problem of Wages of Feminine Workers

By MARY BELL

A little-noticed, two-day strike occurred a few weeks ago at the plant of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Co. in Detroit. It was inspired by the hiring of women machinists at a lower rate than was paid to the men.

Kelsey-Hayes employs 1,500 men at \$1.00 per hour. These employees, members of UAW-CIO, struck when the company hired women at 85c. per hour, this rate being recognized as the prevailing one for female machine labor in the region. The union charged that the company hired the women in order to cut down the payroll, and sanctioned the walkout officially. The company countered that it hired the women because a male labor supply was not available.

After a two-day strike, the union men returned to the job, with the issue left in the lap of the National Defense Mediation Board. But it demanded the women be removed from all machine jobs.

### Why the Women Worked

Now, whether the company was telling the truth about the availability of male labor, or whether it was using the women to save in labor costs, I believe the union engaged in a reactionary strike in asking that the women be fired. Those women got their jobs because they had to make a living and had families to support. The union should have demanded "equal pay for equal work" and put the onus on the company where it belonged.

As the country moves to war, expanding industry will not only take the able-bodied men off the unemployed list—there is almost no unemployment in war-time England—

but will also grab those unaccustomed to factory work, the youth, Negroes, and women. The unions (and the Workers Party) must have an active program of equality for women, as they do in part for youth and Negroes. It is generally true that women are harder to organize into a union than men, are less active when they do join, and less in the forefront of progressive union struggles. It is also generally true that they are discriminated against, even under union contracts, by differential wage schedules—and this is a contributing factor to their social sluggishness.

To meet the threat to their wages caused by underpayment of women workers, the Amalgamated Engineering Union of England, whose members work in the metals and munitions plants, signed an agreement in May, 1940, with employers and the government which gave to women employees "equal pay for equal work". The Vultee contract has the same provision. The CIO unions elsewhere where women are employed should do no less!

Working-class women, from time immemorial, have been accustomed to household drudgery at no wages at all, or, if they work outside the home, to dirty jobs, long hours, low pay. They have been doubly exploited by capitalism, as a part of the working-class, and as a sex. They, like all oppressed groups, are often willing to work for scab wages. And the employers will always be on the look-out for a source of cheap labor in order to squeeze more profits out of low pay envelopes and to threaten the higher standards of organized workers. Therefore, let the unions

learn the lesson of the Kelsey-Hayes strike.

Women will be a social drag on the progressive gains of the labor movement until they are brought into the unions, treated as equals, and taught to fight shoulder to shoulder with their class brothers for EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK!

## Akron CIO Fights Against Smith Bill

AKRON, Dec. 8.—Meeting 30 hours after news of the bombing of Honolulu, the Akron Industrial Union Council tonight stood firm behind the CIO's demands that labor would oppose all anti-strike legislation, even during the war crisis.

The Council adopted a resolution passed unanimously the day before by the Goodrich local of the United Rubber Workers, opposing anti-strike legislation "proposed from any source whatsoever." It condemned the Smith Bill and senators who are trying to pose as "friends of labor" by "modifying" slightly the thoroughly vicious anti-strike proposals.

By an overwhelming majority the resolution carried, embodying the calling of a city-wide mass meeting within a week. A committee was set up to arrange plans.

The delegates of all CIO unions in Akron showed their determination in such fashion to see that Roosevelt's and Wall Street's war shall not be made the occasion for anti-labor actions.

# Labor Can't Be Content With Sitting On Status Quo

By SUSAN GREEN

Congress, representing "the will of the people," is now mad at labor. Labor, you see—being only the great majority—is not the people and should have no will.

Anyway the President and Congress have discovered that "the people" want anti-labor, anti-strike legislation. The discovery came about in this manner: The capitalist and war-mongering press, radio and movies filled the eyes and ears of the people with malicious misrepresentations and lies about strikes—white-washing capital and slinging mud at labor. Then the boss politicians conveniently interpret these misrepresentations and lies as "the will of the people."

So Congress is on the mat. In this corner, ladies and gentlemen, are the "champions of democracy." Some of them come from the "free South" where democracy is handed out in exchange for a poll tax receipt—and where the rights of the Negro are protected by lynch law.

### In the Other Corner

In the other corner, ladies and gentlemen, are those super-colossal "fifth columnists"—the workers of the country. They "unpatriotically" believe that democracy begins at home—that it must manifest itself in an unshackled working class, unhampered in its struggle for its right. LABOR ACTION is also in this corner. And the fight is on.

As the debate in Congress proceeds, LABOR ACTION will publish articles analyzing the different labor-suppressing provisions of the anti-strike legislation proposed by the boss politicians. The present article deals with the important issue of the closed shop, which was brought into the limelight by the captive mine strike.

Workers on strike have never been smeared by their enemies with such filthy falsifications as were these striking miners. And never was a strike more justified.

The powerful "steal" companies owning the captive mines had no leg

to stand on. Being only a small minority of bituminous coal operators, they still blatantly refused to accept the agreement signed by the whole industry. They insisted on maintaining their advantage of an open shop—as a sword over labor's head, to be let fall at the proper time.

### No Choice But to Strike

The United Mine Workers had no choice but to call the strike. Its agreement with the majority of the bituminous operators provides that the Union cannot give other operators advantages not contained in the agreement. Not to have fought the captive mine operators on the open shop issue, would have constituted a repudiation of the hard-earned closed shop clause in the agreement—and would have given all the bituminous bosses an opening for future attacks on the union.

But no "representative of the people" lifted his voice against the kingdom of "steal." No war-monger shouted that the captive mine oper-

ators were holding up war production. Nobody discovered that the people want anti-capitalist legislation. Instead, THE HIGH-HANDED CONDUCT OF THE BOSSES HAS RESULTED IN A CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE LEGISLATIVE LACKEYS TO PUNISH THE WORKERS.

It is Representative Smith—of Southern vintage—who includes in his vicious anti-labor bill a provision to "FREEZE EXISTING OPEN AND CLOSED SHOP CONDITIONS IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES."

### HE WANTS LABOR TO SIT ON ITS STATUS QUO.

But labor has no "status quo." Its status is never "quo." Labor's status is always shifting. Either labor is making progress or it is being pushed back—LOSING GROUND.

Therefore, when the rabid anti-labor contingent in Congress proposes the seemingly fair and innocent solution to "freeze existing conditions for the duration," it is really

delivering a punch loaded with lead right to labor's jaw. And this is especially true on the issue of the closed shop.

Now the closed shop is no luxury for labor. It is something labor must have. The difference between the closed and open shop is the difference between a double-fisted blow and a pat on the back of the boss. Only by the double-fisted blow has labor won its gains.

The closed shop transforms itself into a better standard of living—higher wages, shorter hours, human working conditions, the health, education and happiness of the worker's family.

Contrariwise, the open shop is very desirable to the bosses. It divides and emasculates labor. It forms the basis for company unions. It is capital's weapon against labor. The open shop, therefore, transforms itself into more power and profit for the boss—AND LESS OF EVERYTHING FOR THE WORKERS.

Labor has learned from long struggle that for extending the closed shop—which is synonymous with extending labor's organized might—certain conditions are favorable and others definitely are NOT.

Today—especially in the war industries—the workers have a chance. Orders are at the peak, labor is in great demand, and profits are in the stratosphere. This opportunity to push ahead, to organize the unorganized, TO EXTEND THE CLOSED SHOP, to win better conditions, MUST NOT BE SACRIFICED. If it is, labor will regret its folly—WHEN IT IS TOO LATE.

For in the post-war period conditions will militate against the workers. The war boom will burst with a bang. There will be masses of unemployed. Jobs will be as scarce as snowballs in hell. The terrain will so decisively favor capital that labor will be bound to lose crucial battles. But only if it foolishly sits on its fictitious "status quo" in this period—when it should be forging onward.

If labor does use the opportunities presented today, it will be able to hold its own in the ominous tomorrow. If the unorganized are organized, if the open shop is dealt its death blow, if company unionism is exploded, if wages and working conditions are put where they belong, the workers will have strongly fortified positions from which to repulse and defeat the bosses' post-war blitzkrieg.

LABOR MUST NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE FROZEN TODAY—or rigor mortis will follow in the dangerous period ahead.

## Brewster Men Reject Company's Proposed Terms

The entire membership of Local 365 UAW-CIO voted unanimously to reject the offer of the Brewster Corp.

The Union had demanded 75 cents an hour as a minimum starting rate and a 15 cents general increase. The company proposed a 60 cent starting rate, 68 cents after three months and 75 cents after six months; also a six cent general increase. The company also turned down the demand for two weeks' vacation with pay after one year's employment, 10 paid holidays and 10 days' sick leave.

The company also said that the men didn't have the courage to go out on strike. The unanimous rejection of their offer and its implications should disprove this statement.

The negotiating committee has the solid support of the membership and must prove to the men that they deserve this confidence by getting them a good contract.

"ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL"

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

### Close to War, Says Draftee

Editor's Note: The following letter was received before the outbreak of the war:

Dear Editor:

I recently got a letter from a draftee and this is what he wrote me:

My handwriting is definitely not clear—but neither is yours. I try to make it legible—you don't. God knows things are tough enough without people making any effort to make conditions a little pleasanter.

I'll try to answer some of your questions but I won't argue any points with you. My reason is that I'm sick and have no patience left for anything. This week I haven't

felt well. We've had a very difficult week of drilling. Besides, I've contracted a severe cold and a bad case of diarrhea. I haven't been able to eat well the whole week and I feel like a wreck. Under ordinary circumstances I'd go to the hospital, but we're firing for record all week. I didn't feel like missing it, because then I'd have to make it up at some other time less convenient. Tomorrow is Sunday and I expect to devote the entire day to complete rest. That's all I really need.

### CHICAGO READERS:

You can now get Labor Action and The New International at CESHINSKY'S BOOK STORE 2720 W. Division Street, Chicago

They seem to be rushing us through our training period. Possibly we're a good deal closer to actual warfare than we think. Men are constantly transferred to all other kinds of places. These are no rumors but facts.

The food is not good. We are fed what is known as garrison rations. This amounts to 49c. per day per man. However, we did have an excellent Thanksgiving Day Dinner. In a N. Y. restaurant it would probably cost about 2.00. However we've long since forgotten that dinner.

We've already been officially notified that there will be absolutely no Christmas leaves. We will get one day off for Christmas and one day for New Years. That's all.

### Wants Shachtman To Write More

Dear Editor,

The new one cent LABOR ACTION is swell, and the boys in the shops really take an interest in its articles. However, there is one important part lacking in the paper. And that is the failure of a weekly column by Max Shachtman. In the old APPEAL Shachtman's column, "In This Corner" was one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dull long winded paper. Here's hoping that we begin to see a regular weekly column by Max Shachtman in LABOR ACTION.

Sincerely yours,  
Theodore Lyons.

### Where to Get L.A. In Central N.Y.C.

The following news stands in the Times Square area carry LABOR ACTION. Readers are urged to patronize them.  
42nd Street and 6th Avenue—South-west corner.  
42nd Street and 6th Avenue—South-east corner.  
42nd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues—Opposite Stern's.  
42nd Street and 5th Avenue—South-west corner, 2 stands.

FOR NEWS OF THE THIRD CAMP—READ LABOR ACTION

### In San Francisco You Can Buy Labor Action at:

- Alameda News Agency,
- 9 Market Street.
- Fitzgerald News Agency,
- 21 24th Street
- Joe's Cigar Store,
- 1352 Polk Street
- Bob Dancan's Smoke Shop
- 1986 Sutter Street.



## Editorials

### Munitions Makers Have Their Day!

One of the biggest scandals of World War I was the story of how munitions makers sold goods, at fabulous profits to be sure, to all war camps, in all countries and parts of the world.

British soldiers were killed by bullets made in Britain and sold indirectly to Germany. Frenchmen died from weapons made in French factories. American soldiers suffered a like fate.

Now the munitions makers are at it again. The Japanese airplanes that flew over Pearl Harbor in the first incident of the war might have used American aviation gas!

In 1937 this country supplied 54.54 per cent of all strategic war materials imported by Japan. In 1938 it supplied 56 per cent, according to a United Press dispatch.

The cold and ugly truth of the role of the munitions makers is contained in the first line of that same press dispatch. "The bombs that fell on Honolulu were made of metals sent from the U.S.A."

The munitions makers won the First World War. They must not win the Second.

### Stalin States His War Aims

Soviet Russia and Poland have announced the conclusion of a pact between them which not only provides for joint military action against Germany but which also provides for common post-war action. This latter provision illustrates once more the character of the war which Stalin conducts.

The pact between Stalin and General Sikorski, Polish premier, says:

"Once the war has been brought to a victorious conclusion . . . the task of the Allied governments will be to establish a just peace. This can be achieved only by new organization of international relations based on the association of democratic states in union."

The post-war "rehabilitation" will be made in conjunction with the reactionary government of Sikorski. The Polish government, its hands filthy with the blood of murdered workers and Jews, has now become a "democratic" government.

That the Polish workers might have something else to say about this, that they might want to toss the Sikorski government onto the ashcan and establish a government of their own after the war—this does not bother Stalin.

Stalin fights as an integral part of the

### Two Million Workers to Lose Jobs Because of "Priorities Unemployment"

By BILL HAINES

Unemployment under the present economic system is nothing unusual to a worker. He has come to expect seasonal lay-offs at certain months of the year as well as periodic unemployment due to depressions every several years. But lay-offs due to materials shortages—called priorities unemployment—is new. It is caused by the necessity of using the greatest part of available raw materials for war production, thus leaving relatively a small amount of materials for civilian industries. Radios, autos, jewelry, toys, washing machines, refrigerators and household appliances are a few of the civilian industries which have already begun to lay off workers due to shortages.

That priorities unemployment is already a serious menace is proven by a report of the Federal Security Agency dated December 2, which shows that throughout the country claims for unemployment insurance benefits during the month of October increased 28 per cent over September, an increase attributed chiefly to layoffs due to materials shortages.

This is only a sample of what is to come. The recent decision to halt all non-essential building in the United States is expected to force at least a MILLION men out of jobs. Leon Henderson, federal price administrator, has estimated that more than two million workers will be laid off during the next year due to priorities unemployment.

The two cities which will be hit hardest by this coming situation are Detroit and New York. Detroit will suffer from the 50 per cent curtailment in auto production which is likely to cause 150,000 men to be thrown out of work by Janu-

Anglo-American imperialist camp. He is neither interested in nor desirous of allowing the workers of Europe to decide their own fate.

### The Blackout of Truth Begins

The blackout of truth is at hand. Until America entered the war we were able to get some of the truth of the war by checking between the lines of the reports from the British and German war camps.

Today a press censorship exists in North America. The garbled reports of the past will be choked off, too. Radio remains a sole source of information which can be the basis of ascertaining the truth.

But, as Major George Fielding Elliott and Major Dupuy in their book, "If War Comes," pointed out, war brings total censorship, including that of radio listening.

For the next period of history we can expect only a blackout of truth. The capitalist press lied before. Now its lies will be the official "truth."

Insofar as possible, LABOR ACTION intends to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

More than ever before, we have a great responsibility to the labor movement, which we shall try to fulfill. It is simply to tell the truth about the war.

Support LABOR ACTION to learn the truth about the war!

### The First Victim-- Civil Liberties

It is not accidental that the first blows of the war brought also the first blow at civil liberties in America this week.

While President Roosevelt made his war address in Congress on Monday, Federal Judge Joyce in Minneapolis was sentencing the 18 SWP and 544-CIO defendants to serve prison terms for exercising the inalienable right of free speech and press.

Twelve of the Minneapolis defendants were given sentences of 16 months and the other six were ordered imprisoned for one year.

Liberty is the first victim of war. The "four freedoms" which Roosevelt proclaimed as his war aims have already been reduced to three . . . and the war is less than a week old in America.

Total war means total dictatorship. The Minneapolis trials bear testimony to this fatal truth. We salute the defendants for their courageous efforts to stem to the of reaction.

ary 1, 1942. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, has predicted that the city of Flint, a suburb of Detroit, would become a "ghost town" due to curtailment of automobile production. New York City especially will be affected because only 7 per cent of the city's factories are engaged in defense work. On the basis of a sample survey, the Commerce and Industry Association of New York recently estimated that 20 per cent of New York's half-million wage earners are threatened with loss of their jobs due to priorities unemployment.

Thus, priorities unemployment, although a new phenomenon, produces the same old hardships for the workers. It means ruthless layoffs, enforced idleness while slender resources are eaten up, and finally, dependence upon public relief.

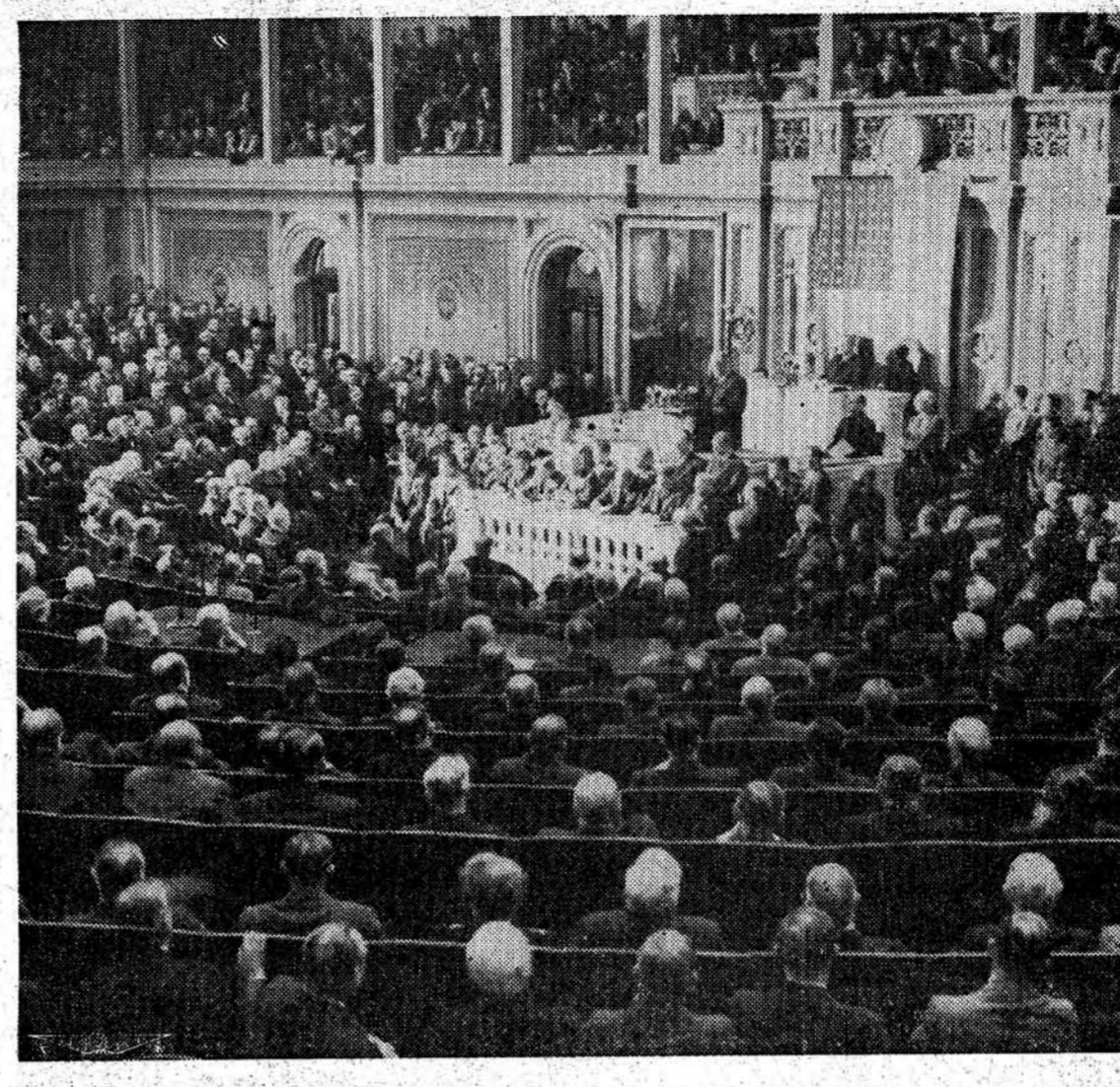
To prevent this, all workers and unions must demand that the federal government pay to every worker who is unemployed due to shortages, an amount equal to his regular salary until such time as he can be placed in a defense industry. There is no reason why the workers should suffer the consequences of materials shortages which are caused directly by failure of the federal government to plan and of business men to expand their factories a year or two ago.

At that time, shortages foreseen by the CIO could have been prevented if the bosses had been willing to abandon "business as usual" methods and give up some of their bloated profits in order to expand production. However, since they were unwilling to do so, we now say:

**"PUT A 100 PER CENT TAX ON THEIR PROFITS AND USE THE MONEY TO PAY REGULAR SALARIES TO WORKERS UNEMPLOYED DUE TO SHORTAGES."**

### SHACHTMAN MEETING IN N. Y. CANCELLED BY CONFUSION IN BOOKING HALL

### Declaration of War



### Price Rises Threaten the Living Standards of Workers

In a speech on December 3, Leon Henderson, federal price administrator, said that the cost of living has gone up 11 per cent since the war started, is still going up at the rate of 1½ per cent a month and will be up 20 per cent by spring. He emphasized that the 20 per cent increase in the cost of living will mean a 20 per cent reduction in the standard of living of most people.

Already real wages, the actual purchasing power of the workers' pay envelope, as contrasted to nominal wages, the amount of money a worker receives, have begun to decline due to rising prices. Proof of this statement is furnished by the fact that real wages, which had risen steadily during the first half of this year (chiefly because of heavy overtime work), stopped rising in July and took a sharp tumble in September. Real wages have undoubtedly shown further losses since September, since living costs rose an additional 1.2 per cent in October, according to figures just released by the Department of Labor.

#### Worst Yet to Come

But if prices are going up now, the worst is yet to come. Remember that retail prices, which determine the cost of living, always lag behind wholesale prices, which have already risen 54 per cent since the outbreak of the war. And, remember further that the cost of living DOUBLED during the First World War.

What is the cause of rising prices? The answer in two words is war profiteering. The bosses and their politicians would have us believe that its all because of rising wages leading to increased costs of production. But if higher wages really cause higher prices, then why have prices gone up most sharply in commodities, in which wages are the least of the factors making up costs—that is, in agricultural commodities and raw materials instead of in finished or semi-finished manufactured and durable goods? And even in manufacturing industries, how could higher wages be the cause of higher prices, when cost wages make up only 16 per cent of the total value of manufactured products, according

to a federal census of manufactures in 1939?

The truth of the matter is that the bosses are mainly using wage increases as a smokescreen to hide their real motive in boosting prices, namely profiteering. We say that the only real way to retard inflation is through a 100 per cent excess profits tax which will remove the boss

incentive for raising prices, namely his extra profits.

Meanwhile, as long as prices continue to go up without corresponding wage increases, the workers are suffering the equivalent of a wage cut. Workers must therefore demand in their union contracts a sliding scale of wages, adjusting wages to rising living costs.

### Listen, Brother White Worker, Old Boss Don't Mean You No Good

By A SHARECROPPER

Listen, Mr. White Worker.

You had better wake up before its too late. Old Boss don't mean you no good. And he don't mean me no good, and I no it. Old Boss have got you fooled to death. You thinks because you are white, Old Boss loves you. But listen, kind friend, Old Boss don't give a dam for you, only your labor. If he loved you as you think or as he pretend you would have a nice Automobile, you would have a nice house to live in, you would have a nice Bank account.

You wouldn't have to meet the relief trucks as I do. You wouldn't have to beg for a share crop as I do. You wouldn't have to go around to old Bosses back door as I do. Now do that look like love to you? I can't go in his house and sit down and eat with him and his wife. And neither can you. I am afraid to ask him for his car to go for a doctor for my wife or baby, and so is you. Well, he will tell me to move if I don't help bale and have hay Sunday. And he will tell you the same dam thing. Now that don't look so much like love to me. Some of you working white men is OK and some of you would rather go naked and starve to death than to help a Negro do anything.

Well, Mr., I am here to tell, as long as you have that in your mind, your nose will be on the grinding rock. Now here is your trouble, you wants to have lots, but you don't want to see me with nothing.

#### OLD BOSS GOT YOU BETWEEN ME AND HIM

Old Boss got you between me and him, he got you fighting me with lies—ropes—trace chains—gasoline torches and tree limbs to keep me down. And he is frailing the hell out of you with his pencil and friends to keep you down.

As long as he can keep you fighting me, he don't have to worry. But as soon as we stop fighting each other and begin to fight for each other the job will soon be done. And Old Boss can't be still. His easy chair will be too hot. Now I am talking to the working class, both white and black. Let's get together and demand our own. Just think for a minute—labor can rule the world. And we are the labor. Old Boss have got lots of money, but it don't worth a dam to him if he don't or can't get some labor.

I am ready and willing, are you? Talk to your other white friends about this matter. And we colored will talk the matter over.

Negro Sharecropper.

### MASS MEETING

To Protest Against the Minneapolis Labor Convictions

#### SPEAKERS:

ROGER BALDWIN DOROTHY SCHULTZ  
MAX SHACHTMAN CARL RAUSHENBUSH  
JAMES T. FARRELL

AT THE HOTEL DIPLOMAT

108 West 43rd Street, New York City

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15—8:00 P.M.

Auspices: Civil Rights Defense Comm. Admission 25¢

### Food Rationing A Possibility

During the last few weeks two high officials of the Roosevelt Administration have warned that rationing of foods is a possibility in America. On October 7, Dr. Thomas M. Parran, surgeon general of the U.S., said that, because of large lend-lease shipments of food to England, "We may have to choose between letting the British people from more hungry or ration our own use of some critically important foods," especially milk, cheese, eggs, meat and fish. Last week he amplified his warning in a speech predicting the end of surplus foods and the discontinuance of the food stamp plan and free school lunches in a few months. Meanwhile on November 7, similar warning was altered by Mrs. Bartlett F. Johnston, chairman of the women's division of the office for Civilian Defense.

### COMMENTATORS:

#### Can't Decide Why We Are at War

By PAUL TEMPLE

They can't make up their minds what we're warring about.

We're warned that were in for two or three years of bloody slaughter. But they haven't gotten together to decide what to tell us we'll be fighting for.

That's plain from the first reaction of the newspaper "commentators" and editorial writers to the declaration of war.

Take President Roosevelt, for example. Wasn't he the fellow that was yelling about defending democracy, and wasn't that the official pretext for getting us into the war so deep that shooting one way or the other was the inevitable next step?

Well, Franklin D. had nothing to say about democracy when he came before the perspiring, cheering Congress and called for a declaration of war against Japan. Nothing! For him it was: "Defend of people, our territories, and our INTERESTS."

Our INTERESTS? Remember the first "incident" with Japan: the sinking of the American gunboat Panay while it was conveying a group of ships up a Chinese river. The ships that were being guarded by the Panay were Standard Oil tankers. THAT'S a little slice of our INTERESTS in the Pacific.

After all, Roosevelt didn't have to put the needle on the old democracy record this time. Weren't we attacked? Didn't Japan fire the first gun?

#### DOROTHY KNOWS IT ISN'T SO

But we socialists aren't the only ones who take seriously this "He hit me first" stuff. Take Dorothy Thompson for another example.

The trouble with the United States, says Dorothy, is that we didn't get the jump on Japan and do exactly what they have done. She complains: "Like all the other nice democratic boobs who 'won't make war unless attacked,' we have been taken off guard. . . ."

Roosevelt gets indignant about Japan's "treachery" and rests his case for the war; but War Whooper Thompson is indignant only that the scurry Jap trick was played by THEM on US.

Hooray for Dottie!

She isn't the only one. There's War Whooper Samuel Grafton, columnist for the New York Post, who opines that this bloody world would have been happier "if we had followed a determined and ruthless policy of provoking war with Japan. . . ."

#### TIMES HAS SIGNALS CROSSED

The editorial page of the New York Times threw both angles into the pot. "Let every patriot take his stand on the bastions of DEMOCRACY," proclaimed column 2. But column 1 is a little less idealistic. "We now go into battle in response to crystal-clear aggression and in defense of no far-away ideal but of our own United States."

Of course that's quite an ideal even if it isn't far away.

The Thompson-Grafton group make one thing clear. That is: the question of who-forced-whom-to-shoot-first was a matter of maneuvering and strategy. What they don't let out is that for Roosevelt and the American war whoopers, a DEFENSIVE-LOOKING WAR was pretty close to a necessity. They know well enough that if Capitol Hill declared war for the purpose of barging into Thailand, Africa or Europe, the masses of people would not have limited themselves to the feeling of passive acceptance with which they greeted the war announcement.

But the Japanese military lords did not have to be as sensitive to the moods of their people. Roosevelt will get to that point a little later. And he'll still have sensible people with him! Up to now, the democratic forms of this government have been cramping his style; but he doesn't believe that he can wage an imperialist war for the interests of Wall Street and still hold on to democracy at home.

### LOS ANGELES MEETING

Support the Minneapolis Defendants

#### SPEAKERS:

CAREY McWILLIAMS  
EUGENE JUDD  
L. B. THOMAS  
A. L. WIRIN

December 21, 8 P.M.  
HOTEL EMBASSY

Auspices: Civil Rights Defense Committee

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