

British Violence Against India's People Continues

By Henry Judd

The terror and violence against an unarmed people who are insistent upon their right to national independence is continuing without a let-up in India. Although clashes in the big industrial cities of the country have stopped for the time being, many cases of shooting and rioting have been reported from the peasant and small town areas outside the big cities. These reports have come through the tight British censorship and we list some of them below:

(1) In the district of Ashti, near the home of Gandhi, four constables and an inspector were stoned to death and two other constables were burned alive by angry peasants upon whom they had fired.

(2) At the town of Chimur four policemen were beaten to death with their own clubs which they had tried to use against demonstrators.

(3) Authorities in Patna threatened to use forced labor on the roads and fined two communities \$1,500 each for political demonstrations.

(4) Nationalist newspapers in Calcutta, Bombay, Lucknow, Delhi, Nagpur and Ahmadabad (numbering well over twenty-five papers) quit in protest against British censorship provisions.

(5) In the United Provinces, seventeen Indian peasants were killed in a clash between demonstrators and a police patrol.

(6) In the peasant districts of Bombay Province, a total of five were killed and forty-seven wounded in various clashes with the police and soldiers. Curfew was established in virtually every city of the province.

(7) Near the city of Lucknow, many were injured at a demonstration outside a police station; at Benares a crowd that attacked the railroad station and police booths was fired upon, with seventeen wounded.

(8) In Bihar Province the authorities admitted that serious demonstrations had taken place last week, with at least ten killed by the soldiers.

Struggle Is Still On

And with all this going on (not to mention the innumerable events that are suppressed by British censorship), the foreign rulers of India speak as if the struggle was over and "law and order" had been established! Obviously, they lie, for the movement is spreading from one end of the country to the other, affecting the great masses of poor peasants. According to a secret statement of the Congress Party issued last week, the climax of the anti-British, pro-freedom movement can be expected within the next four weeks.

By their actions in the past three weeks the British imperialists have lost forever any possibility of winning support from India's masses. Hundreds (approaching 400 to 500) have already been killed in cold blood; thousands have been wounded in bloody clashes and tens of thousands have been arrested in the three weeks of fascist-like British terror. The only result of their terror is that the 400,000,000 people of that country are more determined than ever that the fight for their freedom must go on.

Lynn Shoe Workers Win Increase

Special to LABOR ACTION

LYNN, Mass.—The 1,300 members of Local 2, United Shoe Workers of America, CIO, stayed away from their benches for six days in twelve different shops to enforce their demands for a wage increase.

At the end of the "holiday" the bosses had granted a 7½ per cent wage increase and guaranteed raising wages again if the shoe workers in other sections of the country get a wage increase, or if the ceiling price on shoes is lifted.

Local 2 members demanded a wage increase when they discovered that their wages were inadequate to meet the rising cost of living. The manufacturers refused because they have an unexpired union agreement with Local 2 that contains a no-strike clause. But the workers began talking of taking a holiday and staying home.

The manufacturers, sensing the unrest among the workers, immediately formed an association to fight the workers. The association claimed that wage increases were impossible because retail prices of shoes have been frozen by the federal government.

On August 20 all the shoe workers of Lynn, instead of going to work, held a mass meeting to draft

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LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 7, 1942

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

"TOO-POOR-TO-PAY" HIT BY NEW TAX PROPOSALS

Labor Day, 1942

Let Us Fight For Our Needs!

AN EDITORIAL

This is the first Labor Day since America entered the war. As is the custom, the leaders of the CIO and AFL have spoken out on the significance of this year's Labor Day. What they told us sums up exactly what is the matter with labor's attitude toward the war.

They have told us to remain at our machines instead of parading labor's might through the streets of our cities. Labor Day, 1942, we are told, should be an occasion for demonstrating labor's contribution to the war effort. Instead of demonstrating our solidarity as workers, we are told to demonstrate our unity with the employers.

"The first job is to lick Hitler or there will be no Labor Days to celebrate," we are told.

At first glance the logic of this advice seems the very ABC of common sense. But is it?

We are told that the war is being fought to defeat fascism. We know why fascism is our most deadly enemy. It seeks to destroy labor organizations and beat down the standard of living of the workers.

"But," says one of you, "my boss wants to do the same thing." Why has he not succeeded? Because we have been too strongly organized to let him get away with it!

But how long will we remain strong enough? Are we getting stronger or weaker? What makes a labor organization stronger and what makes it weaker?

- Does giving up the right to strike make us stronger?
- Does giving up double time for Sundays and holidays make us stronger?
- Does giving in to wartime speed-up make us stronger?
- Does tying ourselves up with labor-management production

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"Blues in the Night!"



Senate Sure To Vote Payroll Tax Deductions

By SUSAN GREEN

In a recent issue, LABOR ACTION warned its readers to watch Congress on taxes. If you have been watching, you have an idea of what is in store for the worker—who will be paying for the war.

You remember, no doubt, that the bill sent by the House of Representatives to the Senate, lowered the taxable income groups. Poverty is no longer a protection from the tax collector. Single people earning the pittance of \$500 annually, or less than \$10 a week, and married people earning \$1,200 annually, or less than \$24 a week, are to be taxed.

The precedent set by the House for making the too-poor-to-pay cough up taxes which—through the machinations of the dollar-a-year technique—find their way into the bursting treasuries of big business, has been followed by the Senate. Without batting an eye, the hard-as-nails Senate Finance Committee took another dive into the pockets of the poor by reducing the exemption for dependents. Heretofore a dependent merited an exemption of \$400—but with the cost of living mounting high, the Senate declares that \$300 is plenty.

Naturally, to the millionaire and billionaire, this reduction of exemption allowance for dependents will not mean a tinker's damn. To the worker with a family it is going to make a big difference. He will have to pay at least \$19 more taxes for each of his children—and that is something he will feel where it hurts most.

If the Senate increases the normal and surtax rates—which in the House bill now stand at \$19 on \$100 of taxable income—the reduction of dependent exemptions will hit the worker even harder. Increases in normal and surtax rates above those in the House bill are by no means out of the question.

Through the welter of proceedings before the Senate Committee, it seems almost certain that the new taxes will be collected by the withholding method. Whether monthly or quarterly collections will be made or perhaps even weekly—the boss will take it right out of the worker's pay envelope.

This means, mark you, that there will be strict supervision of workers' tax reports. All possible loopholes, however tiny, will be plugged up. But how about the evasions practiced by corporations and their

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Now It Can Be Told

Navy Suppresses Facts On General Cable Profiteering Until Bayonne Strike Is Broken

By GERTRUDE SHAW

Now it can be told—the full story of the General Cable Co. strike. And it is a hair-raiser.

Every worker by this time knows how the Navy moved into the Bayonne plant to break the strike of the General Cable Co. workers who refused to abide by the decision of the War Labor Board denying a pay increase.

It is also common knowledge that as soon as the strike was broken, the government walked out again, turning the plant back to the company—the workers having been "put in their place" and "shown where they get off" asking for a wage increase to meet the scandalously high cost of living.

It was not only fixed bayonets that did the trick. There was also the occult threat that workers who refused to toe the line would forfeit their draft exemption status, or at least would be fired and blackballed from a job in any other war production plant—which would result in the same thing.

This was indeed "noble" service that the Navy performed for the General Cable Co. But that is not all. Now the rest can be told.

All the time that the Navy was so busy breaking the strike, a sealed indictment was outstanding against the General Cable Co. for defrauding the Navy on war contracts. GET IT?

Criminal charges had been brought against the General Cable Co. and its president, Dwight R. G. Palmer, for conspiring to fix prices—along with other companies—at an artificially high level on more than \$55,000,000 worth of cable the Navy has bought since 1940.

The indictment was returned by a grand jury in Newark A WEEK BEFORE IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL BIDDLE. However, fearing that if the indictment were made public during the strike, the workers would be roaring mad and refuse to return to work, the Navy requested that the indictment be sealed and its announcement delayed. THE GRAND

JURY AND MR. BIDDLE OBLIGED, COOPERATING WITH THE NAVY AND THE GENERAL CABLE CO. TO BREAK THE STRIKE.

On the \$55,000,000 Navy contracts involved, the indicted companies made profits ranging from 35 per cent to 70 per cent. But the WLB did not see fit to grant to the General Cable Co. workers a moderate pay increase.

Besides the General Cable Co., the companies indicted are: General Electric, Rockbestos Products, Okonite Co., Collyer Insulated Wire, National Electric Products, American Steel & Wire, Anaconda Wire & Ca-

ble and Phelps Dodge Copper Products.

Over a period of YEARS this conspirative combine of cable manufacturers submitted identical bids on the cable bought by the Navy. On twenty sets of bids opened between 1939 and 1942, the nine companies made bids which conformed to each other to a penny. In this way prices were up—and profits likewise.

The Navy certainly found a queer way of "retaliating." It helped the General Cable Co. force the workers back to the grind at the same wage—presumably so that the company can keep for itself all the fraudulent profits it made.

An Open Letter to UERMW Members Repudiate the Program of Capitulation

Brothers and Sisters of the UE:

LABOR ACTION proposes to discuss with you a problem which concerns your union. Although we do not propose to interfere in your internal affairs, we feel that we have some observations to make regarding your forthcoming Cleveland convention which will be of interest and benefit to your union.

Those of you who know us, know that we have always been the first to support the efforts of unionists in their organizing drives. We have championed labor's causes even when some unions failed to see their duty. Therefore we hope that you will hear our opinion on a matter which we think is important.

It relates to some of labor's false advisers and misleaders, men who would chain their unions to the po-

litical aims and anti-labor objectives of the Communist Party.

We appeal to you in particular because we feel that in the UE, the followers of Stalinist politics have demonstrated their worst characteristics most clearly; in the UE they have acted like protectors of the big corporation, like guarantors of war profiteering.

As proof, let us begin by taking the wage scales of UE members and comparing them with those of other CIO unions. No painstaking research is needed to convince you that UE members are among the lowest paid in industries organized by the CIO.

Starting rates for men and women in the aircraft and auto shops organized by the auto workers range

from 70 cents an hour on the East Coast to as high as 95 cents and \$1.00 an hour in the union citadel of Detroit.

The steel workers, very recently organized into the United Steel Workers, CIO, have won starting rates of 75 cents and 80 cents an hour for UNSKILLED production workers.

The Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers has struggled for 80 cent and 90 cent minimums in the shipyards and won even higher rates in some cases.

What is the record of the UE on minimum wages? With few and OUTSTANDING EXCEPTIONS, starting rates for learners in SKILLED TRADES are 50 cents to 70 cents in UE shops.

Several examples will show what we mean. Local

475, which has contracts with companies like E. W. Bliss and International Projector, has a 60 cent starting rate for learners on engine lathes, milling machines and other machine tools.

The Lynn plant of General Electric pays a starting rate of 50 cents to learners in skilled machine shop trades.

The Westinghouse plant of Philadelphia, organized by Local 107 of the UE, has a minimum starting rate of 50 cents an hour with increases for skilled men, given at the discretion of the foreman, the only automatic increase coming after six months.

These are only a few examples in the larger companies; wages in smaller shops, in such amalgamated locals as 1225, are even more disgraceful.

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Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

THE PATTERSON-McCORMACK NEWSPAPER AXIS

They Are an Advance-Guard of Native Fascism

POLISH WORKERS CONTINUE TO FIGHT

Polish workers live under what are by far the worst conditions anywhere in the Nazi occupied countries. Their fate is that of virtual slaves. They are at the complete mercy of their Nazi slave drivers. The terrible conditions of workers in Western Europe would still be enviable to them.

Poland is the country in which the death rate rose from 5.7 to 14.9 between 1939 and 1941, and the birth rate fell in the same period from 8.4 to 5.5. Poland is the country where unending terror has become quite "normal."

Poland is all that, and still it is the country in which the working class is the most active in all Europe. Among the Polish masses those who are most oppressed are the Jewish people. Confined like cattle in a few overcrowded ghettos, they live in fear of being sent to some unknown destination either to work till they die or to be killed in one of those frequent mass murders. And still, the Jewish workers are still better organized politically and are more active than the rest.

All this is possible because there exists a generation-old tradition of illegal work and socialist activity in Poland. The periods when the Polish socialist movement was free and le-

gal are short compared to the periods of underground struggle. Struggle against the czarist police, against Pilsudski's armed guards and now against the Gestapo—all this is like a sequence. That is why, in spite of the most terrible repression, the Polish working class is still so very active, fighting so heroically.

And this fight is not only a "national fight." Its backbone are the Polish workers with their socialist spirit and belief. They fight for the independence of Poland, but more than that; they fight for a socialist Poland.

Here is a leaflet which was distributed in the streets and factories of Warsaw May 1, 1942:

"May Day, 1942. Constant struggle against the invader is the only way to an independent socialist Poland. Workers of Warsaw, the day of Hitler's defeat is approaching. Be prepared for the revolutionary struggle for freedom, independence, socialism. Long live the international brotherhood of all the people of the world."

This leaflet shows how in a country in which the workers and their organizations constitute the backbone of the movement of resistance, revolutionary socialist demands and national liberation are merged in one.

POLISH UNDERGROUND BUND ISSUES STATEMENT

In 1940 the Jewish Underground Movement (Bund) published a statement which says, among other things: "Together with the Polish working masses, the Jewish people of Poland see no other means of survival but the defeat of Hitlerism and the reconstruction of a free, independent and socialist Poland." The statement expresses the conviction that after the defeat of the Axis powers a new world must be established. That world will terminate all types of war and reaction and will abolish the rule of class over class and nation over nation. A socialist Poland will then become a part of a socialist Europe. It is stressed that this socialism should be free and democratic.

Jewish working masses of Poland are opposed to the present government in exile in London. The reason for this opposition is that the present Polish government includes elements who prior to the outbreak of the war, pursued reactionary policies and who will, after independence is restored, become a barrier in the struggle for true democracy.

We do not hold the same position as these comrades with regard to the war, we are opposed to, many of their slogans, but still this manifesto, so unlike the pitiable declarations of capitulation of the other parties which once constituted the Second International is refreshing. They show that the socialist spirit among the Polish workers is alive.

THE UNDERGROUND STRUGGLE IS STILL ALIVE

According to information recently received here, the Jewish masses of Poland have established a net of sixty underground cells in sixty cities of Poland. These cells are in contact with their own districts and receive their instructions from one center. By special means this net of cells is linked with the Polish underground movement. Though the Jews know that their penalty would be nothing less than death should their activities be discovered, the activity of the entire organization is continuing.

closest cooperation with all the other workers of Europe. It states: "The problem of Europe must be solved jointly by the people of Europe. The overthrow of the powers of occupation cannot be accomplished unless it is the outcome of a general movement of revolt from the Atlantic Ocean to the Carpathian Mountains."

Another manifesto signed by two thousand secret groups and signed by the "leadership of the organized working masses of Poland" calls for the creation of a Union of the Free People of Europe.

Poland is the only country where there already exists the nucleus for a real independent front of the workers against all kinds of imperialism. Polish workers today stand in the vanguard of the European movement. And that is why Stalin keeps two of their foremost leaders, Alter and Ehrlich, imprisoned in some Siberian concentration camp of the "Fatherland of all workers."

By PETER DANIELS

The American newspaper "Axis"—Captain Joseph Medill Patterson's New York Daily News, his sister Elizabeth's Washington Times-Herald and cousin Robert McCormack's Chicago Tribune—has been under constant attack by Administration spokesmen during the last few weeks. Representative Holland of Pennsylvania devoted his maiden speech in Congress to an attack against the Pattersons. Ralph Ingersoll and his editorial successors have often utilized almost half of PM to expose them and McCormack. The Anti-Nazi Non-Sectarian League has organized a boycott of the News.

They all call the line of these papers "defeatist" and "pro-Hitler." That is a gross error. When a News editorial declares that it is for "America first" it is undoubtedly

speaking the truth—in its own way. But these newspapers are the journalistic advance-guard of America fascism—home-grown, native, 100 per cent U.S. fascism.

Capitalist Spokesmen

They are the respectable representatives of that section of American capitalism which seeks a "coordinated" totalitarian America in control of the Western Hemisphere and the Far East and living side by side with a "coordinated" Europe. They support the war—though Holland and Ingersoll would rather have the fact forgotten. They formerly hoped for a Hitler victory; now he is the enemy of the United States and they are working for his defeat. But they still favor a system such as his on the European continent while they work for a similar set-up here.

Unlike some of their big business colleagues, they have no illusions about a new Wilsonianism opening up tremendous markets for peaceful penetration by American capital under the Atlantic Charter. They prefer to continue the twentieth century development of a few tightly-knit totalitarian, militarily dominant powers.

The Patterson-McCormack newspaper axis chieftains are capitalist representatives in a complete, organic sense. They are not mere voices, but full-fledged members of one of America's Sixty Families. "Bertie" McCormack has been correctly described as an "American Col. Blimp." He is just an old-fashioned Hoover Republican grown more reactionary. His editorials reflect little independence of ideas or imagination and haven't much appeal.

Elizabeth ("Cissy") Patterson, although opposed to her brother's politics until recently, now regularly syndicates his paper's editorials. It is the wily captain and his tabloid that are the dynamic elements of the clan right now. From these the others get their cue.

The editorials, avidly read by some 2,000,000 daily purchasers of "New York's picture newspaper" (a circulation approached only by Cousin McCormack's Tribune), are actually written by one Reuben Maury, a Pulitzer Prize winning pen prostitute, who is alleged to be writing contrary articles for other publishers. There is little doubt that whatever he says is by direct instruction of Patterson.

The history of the captain is most interesting. As a youth he wrote dramas and socialist pamphlets un-

til the other members of the tribe talked him out of it. His desire to be a "tribune of the people" must have remained with him because he strove for two decades to keep his paper a supporter of all things "liberal" and "progressive." Very dramatically the News became the first New York newspaper to sign a contract with the Newspaper Guild and openly supported the workers in the discomfiting elevator strike of 1936. For Roosevelt's first two terms it was practically the Administration organ and supported his candidacy again in 1940. Even when already opposed to the Administration's foreign policy, it still approved its domestic program. Now it has abruptly and demagogically turned to all-out antagonism to anything connected with Roosevelt. The explanation lies in Captain Patterson's desire for a more rapidly totalitarianized state. His class interests and background, which once made him renounce his vague socialism, have convinced the captain that any form of "democratic" capitalism is out of date.

Indirect Propaganda

A cursory examination of the New York Daily News' editorials over several weeks completely reveals a definite, however subtle, attempt to create a set of attitudes that will make its readers sympathetic and receptive to a fascistized America.

Others may advocate measures of coercion and control in order to win the imperialist war. The News is not just trying to create support for any specific anti-democratic proposals; it is striving to develop a thorough-going totalitarian, militaristic, chauvinistic ideology. It has been going on too long to be a mere brain-storm; it must be a complete program. Here are some of the ideas:

Number one is the cult of the hero—the coming man on horseback. The News has temporarily lit on General MacArthur. It initiated the selling of MacArthur buttons. It has, in turn, demanded that he be made supreme commander of Pacific operations, sent to England to take charge of second front preparations, and brought to Washington as chief of an American high command. The reader is always cautioned that MacArthur may not be the "Grant of this war," but he'll do until the News finds another figure. Naturally, if anybody later cops all the glory, the News can switch its money to him very easily.

Number two is the strange combination of ideas that something must be done to oppose the loss of our traditional liberties at the hands of the Roosevelt bureaucracy, while, on the other hand, there is probably little chance that it can be stopped. Thus, for example, the July 10 editorial said in one spot: "It seems unlikely that the people will ever get back all the powers and rights this Administration has taken from them." And later in the same article, in a fit of optimism calculated to have a different appeal, it decides that things would become quite rosy: "If Thomas E. Dewey should get the Republican nomination for

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In the Bronx Buy Labor Action And N.I. at--

Readers of LABOR ACTION may purchase this paper, as well as The New Internationalist, at the following Bronx newsstands:

- Boston Road and Southern Boulevard (candy store).
- Freeman Street and Southern Boulevard (candy store).
- Simpson Street and Westchester Avenue (SW).
- Prospect Avenue and 160th Street (NW).
- 149th Street and Third Avenue (SE and SW).
- 161st Street and Jerome Avenue (NE).
- 167th Street and Jerome Avenue (SE).
- 170th Street and Jerome Avenue (SE).
- Mount Eden and Jerome Avenues (NE).
- Burnside and Jerome Avenues (SE and SW).
- Fordham Road and Jerome Avenue (NE and NW).
- Moshulu Parkway and Jerome Avenue (NE and NW).

wants a revolution. ONLY in Germany, and nowhere else, they are likely not to take his words seriously. They may think that after they have made their revolution, the Allies would intervene to crush it, as they did in Russia in 1917.

His Lordship should therefore begin agitating for the German revolution by persuading Parliament to declare that it will not interfere against a German revolution, nor support any intervention against revolutionary Germany.

His Lordship may be very grateful for such advice and I therefore ask you to publish this in your column in order to help him out.

X.

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Sends in Sub For a Friend

Dear Editor: Enclosed twenty-five cents in silver for six months' subscription to your paper for a friend in Ohio.

I am receiving the paper and hope you will get many subscribers, as it is the only paper I get that tells the truth.

California, August 27.

Sees Horse Trade On "Stabilization"

Dear Editor: Much is said in the capitalist press about "wage stabilization" and "union maintenance." Amid the lumber of verbal junk the long range views and real aims of the government, labor "statesmen" and the more enlightened big bosses are beginning to stand out and become clear.

Your paper rightly condemns "wage stabilization" and explains just how it operates to undercut the living standards of the workers, but unless the workers are armed with a clear understanding of just how wage stabilization is being foisted upon them they are not able to effectively combat it. You describe the disease and its dead effect, but you do not describe just how the disease is contracted.

It seems to me that a big horse trade is being worked out between the bosses and the labor fakery who

are the official bureaucracy of the unions. The government in this deal is acting as the bargaining agent for the bosses. The government says: "Living standards of the workers must fall even below the depression levels because of the war. Obviously if wages are allowed to rise in proportion to the rising cost of living, standards will not fall. Therefore, Murray, Green et al., you must agree to wage freezing in order that the inflated cost of living will drive the real wages down."

"But," answer Murray and Green, "when the workers see us give away their hard-won rights; when they see their union conditions melt away and their real earnings drop down and down, no worker will join a union at all and old members will tear up their union books!"

"True," returns the government; "no new members will join, but you must accept that and in return we will shower praise and flattery on you and create all kinds of boards on which you can be members. As to losing your present membership: we will fix that by giving you union maintenance. Heretofore you have had to gain some conditions and wage adjustments or face a recalcitrant rank and file. But under union maintenance, a union worker will have to pay dues whether he wants to belong to your union or not. Your bureaucratic machines can wax fat. And you, completely divorced from rank and file pressure, can devote your entire energies to winning the war."

Needless to say, the only fly in the ointment is that the workers are continuing to strike in spite of the no-strike policy of the labor bureaucrats. But with a union maintenance agreement in their pockets, there is no reason why they should oppose a no-strike law. A closed shop or union maintenance clause backed closely by the unions' own strength is the heart's desire of every union man, but the same agreement backed solely by government decree is an entirely different thing. The latter type of agreement exists in Russia and Germany.

Do you agree with me that the danger signal should be hung out and the workers warned of the dangerous effects of the deal that is now being worked out under the guise of "wage stabilization" and "union maintenance"?

Says Stalin Doesn't Stand for Communism

Dear Editor: There are a lot of people who think that Russia represents communism. The press, for example, always refers to Stalin's Russia as communist—even if the correspondents do so with tongue obviously in cheek.

The fact is that there is no communism in Russia, and to say otherwise is to discredit communism. Communism means freedom and equality for workers and farmers. In Russia there is no freedom. Sta-

lin is, and has been for years, a bloody dictator and a hangman. Stalin's GPU has killed and arrested innocent people—especially those who were really communists—in the same way as Hitler's Gestapo.

There is no equality either. Just as in America there is no equality between worker and boss, so is there none in Russia between the bureaucrats and the mass of workers and peasants. Some of these bureaucrats make as much as 500,000 rubles a year, while the average wage is about 1,300 rubles a year. If a pair of shoes costs about 200 rubles you can just imagine what the worker has. But the bureaucrat with his 500,000 rubles may get out of his income or the special privileges accorded him, an automobile, the best apartments, even servants. Yes sir, even servants. Only they don't call them servants. They call them domestic workers. It has been estimated that about 20 per cent earn as much as the other 80 per cent.

Stalin put these bureaucrats into power, and vice versa. He and the lesser bureaucrats are afraid of what the workers might do to them. That is why the state machine is spread all over, watching, suppressing any sign of discontent, etc. The worker can't change his job or strike. He has no freedom whatsoever. He has to carry a "passport."

Some people think that Stalin built up the country. That is not true. When Trotsky (who with Lenin represented the workers and poor farmers, and sought to build democ-

racy and equality in the country) introduced a five-year plan to industrialize the country, Stalin attacked him as a "super industrialist." Trotsky's plan to build a big power plant for the farmers was opposed by Stalin as being ridiculous and giving a farmer a gramophone instead of a cow. Trotsky was in favor of taxing the rich farmer to help the poor farmer. Trotsky wanted to collectivize agriculture on the basis of providing machinery for the operation of the large scale farms. But Stalin opposed him. Years later, when he did begin to collectivize, he did so brutally and by force instead of by education and demonstration.

Trotsky and Lenin represented communist freedom for the worker and farmer. That was the direction of the country until Stalin usurped the power by bloody dictatorial means. His regime has nothing in common with communism.

Asks Europacus To Advise a Lord

Dear Comrade Europacus: Some weeks ago there was an item in the papers which you may have overlooked. The commander-in-chief of the RAF told the German people by radio that they should revolt—if not, they will be bombed by the RAF.

It is a rather sensational event when an England lord urges revolution upon a people. I do not believe

it ever happened before. We don't know the actual reasons for his speech. Did he lose faith in the success of the Allied armies or is he so humanitarian that he would rather have them revolt than have the lives of thousands of innocent people on his conscience?

However, if a man wants a revolution in Germany, there is something to be said in his favor. But his Honorable Lordship needs some assistance because he obviously knows very little about revolutions. He doesn't know, for example, that a revolution is no simple matter—even where hatred of the regime is as strong as it is in Germany. There is a powerful police apparatus which penetrates everywhere and prevents people from coming together or talking together. People are shot for the slightest opposition.

Nevertheless, His Lordship could help in many ways. But I am afraid that his lack of experience will hamper him. He ought to get some practice in revolutionary work. For example, fighting for India's freedom would give him some excellent experience. More than that, the victory of the Indian people would do a lot toward helping a German revolution. The German people are encouraged by their defeats and by the defeats of workers in Spain and France. A victory elsewhere would give them renewed courage and faith.

The Honorable Lord ought also to be advised that if he gets the German people to thinking that he

And There Are Those Who Still Call 'Em 'Reds'!

"...The necessary form of war economy are not socialism at all, and only fools can propose a socialist transition in the United States at this moment of crisis as a means of winning the war. A war economy, fully centralized, would be the highest form of capitalism, not socialism." — Earl Browder, leader of the American Communist Party, to the New York State Stalinist convention.

But, Mr. Browder, would it be too unkind to cite the fact that "the highest form of capitalism" is nothing less than FASCISM!

Taxes--

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high-paid officials behind the smoke-screen of legality created by corporation lawyers? Will workers be allowed to check up on their bosses? As far as this writer knows, none of the many schemes presented covers this angle.

"Pay-As-You-Go"

The pay-as-you-go scheme of Beardsley Ruml, treasurer of the R. H. Macy Co. department store—by the way, one of the most die-hard anti-union outfits in the country—is very acceptable to big business. This is evidenced by the favorable comment on the financial pages of the capitalist press. The Ruml plan means no taxes at all for the year 1942, the pay-as-you-go collections to begin in 1943 on 1943 income. For big business 1942 is a tremendous year. Why should it not be jubilant over the prospect of keeping for its very own the war profits for this boom year!

As far as the working class is concerned, not to pay taxes for one year is no particular favor. For any taxes upon the workers for prosecuting the war is shifting upon its shoulders a burden that justice requires should be carried entirely by the capitalist class—through capital levies and through the confiscation of all war profits.

For the time being, the much-discussed Ruml plan has put the sales tax in the shade. Also, fear of the electorate in November has made legislators less vocal on this subject for the present. However, Arthur Krook, Washington correspondent for the New York Times, has the following to say about the sales tax:

"While Chairman George has said he would favor a sales tax only as a last resort, it appears to a very great many that this last resort was reached some time ago."

To conclude: The prospect for the worker—the poorest and the best-paid alike—is not at all rosy. His "stabilized" wages will be reduced by unprecedented taxes, collected at the factory and at the store counter.

Mr. Henderson, price administrator, predicts the cost of living will be up 30 per cent in the coming year. The workers' purchasing power will have the same relation to the cost of living as a pimple has to a pimple.

Why doesn't Congress confiscate all war profits and dip into the vast accumulated wealth of the "haves," instead of mulcting the "have-nots"? Because Congress is pledged to preserve the profit system and the ill-gotten wealth of the profit-collectors.

In 1927 the Truth Could Be Told

"Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Home Secretary in the cabinet of Stanley Baldwin, told how and why India was conquered: 'We did not conquer India for the benefit of the Indians,' he declared in 1927. 'I know it is said at missionary meetings that we conquered India to raise the level of the Indians. That is cant. We conquered India as an outlet for the goods of Great Britain. We conquered India by the sword, and by the sword we should hold it... We hold it as the finest outlet for British goods in general, and for Lancashire cotton goods in particular.' —From the Weekly People.

Lynn Shoe--

(Continued from page 1)
their demands and elect a negotiating committee. The manufacturers, seeing that the workers meant what they said, offered to begin negotiations on September 15 and prepare a new wage scale which would go into effect on October 30 if the workers returned to work immediately. The workers refused.

For the next five days the Manufacturers' Association kept throwing out suggestions to the workers of taking the case to an arbitration board, then they offered 2 1/2 per cent. All these moves the workers kept refusing until the negotiating committee came out with the 7 1/2 per cent increase. This was accepted and the workers returned to work.

The negotiating committee was composed of Mary Steward, Charles Samarco, John Donovan, Dick Tobin and Joseph Hanley.

Bosses-Government-Union Leaders Combine Against Labor

Make Your Union Leaders Serve Labor, Not the Bosses!

By H. ALLEN

When 10,000 Pittsburgh building trades workers struck over the wage scale Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, threatened "drastic action" against workers undertaking an "unpatriotic strike" unless the strike was ended immediately. AFL international union officials denounced the strike as "unauthorized." Local union officials stated ominously that unless the men returned to work at once, "their cards could be lifted."

When Colorado coal miners, temporarily unemployed, marked time pending a pick-up in their trade, the Colorado Industrial Commission, through its unemployment compensation division, cut off unemployment compensation in order to force coal miners into the METAL mines.

When workers at the propeller plant of the Curtiss-Wright Corp., Beaver, Pa., struck over the issues of a wage increase, the union shop and dues check-off, the Beaver draft board threatened to reclassify deferred workers and actually suspended some deferments already granted.

When 1,000 American Magnesium Corp. workers, Buffalo, N. Y., struck over a wage issue, Army officials summoned the men to return to work; William H. Davis, chairman of

the War Labor Board, denounced the strike as a "contribution" to enemies of the United States; union officials labeled the strike "unauthorized" and urged the men to return to work.

Combined Opposition

In each of their efforts to maintain their living and working conditions by militant action, workers are more and more confronted with a triumvirate of opponents: (1) direct pressure and attacks from the bosses; (2) threats and denunciations from the government—local, state and national; and (3) criticism and opposition, instead of cooperation, from a supine, yielding union leadership. Yet, obviously, workers don't just walk off their jobs or strike or slow down just for the fun of it. They need their jobs to live, and if they strike, it is for very good reasons.

But the three-headed combination against them—the bosses, government and weak-kneed, kow-towing union officials—is a tough one to beat. Of course, the workers don't fancy attacks upon them by employers as they observe the huge war profits and watch Congress protect the interests of the money bags. However, they expect the bosses to oppose them and to gouge them for every possible nickel of profit.

But the government—isn't it "neutral"? Isn't it a friend of labor? This is the notion that is fast being dispipated as more and more workers find one government institution or another—in the name of "national defense," "patriotism" and "national unity"—chiding, attacking, striking or petitioning workers. When these efforts fail to deter workers from fighting for their rights, then the government steps in with threats of forced labor, "draft reclassification," etc.

For example, on the Pacific Coast, in the Bay Area shipyards, "loafers" are being "weeded out" and their names are being "sent to their draft boards for reclassification" (New York Times, August 13). Shipyard employers and Navy officials, presumably with the aid of "conscientious workers" and some union stewards, are collaborating in this big game hunt against the "loafers," who are all too often workers standing up for their rights and objecting to the ruthless speed-up and exploitation.

And then there's the case in Denver, Colo. (at Lowry Field Airport) where truck drivers demanded pay for a period when a loading machine broke down, the delay obviously being the responsibility of the employer. Resuming work, the men slowed

down the speed of their trucks to enforce the demand for lost-time payment. A Denver city official demanded that the Denver Rationing Board immediately recall all tires issued to the truck drivers, at the same time advising the contractors to cut these men from lists of future "defense" jobs (New York World-Telegram, August 7). The report laconically closes with the statement that "the slowdown stopped at once."

Government as Strikebreaker

To clinch the argument, there is the case of the Bayonne, N. J., workers of the General Cable Corp., whose demand for a ten cents an hour increase was denied by the War Labor Board. They then struck over the heads of the union officials. "Unauthorized strike," said the officials. The government (Roosevelt) stepped in then and broke the strike by turning the plant over to the direction of the Navy, in the interests of "war production"—and, naturally the preservation of the company's interests.

Yet the cause of the Bayonne workers' strike was simple enough. The men weren't earning enough to live decently. One strike leader said: "The Army will get us pretty soon, anyway. I'm going in the Navy

soon, myself. Well, we want all that's coming to us while we're still here."

"Sure," growled some of the husky young fellows standing near him.

Such characterization enables the bosses and the government agencies to jeer at the militant workers, to gloat over the weakness of the union, to appeal to the less resolute workers to return to work, to authorize scabs—and in all too short a time to break the strike.

And then there's the direct strike-breaking action in San Francisco of Dewey Mead, business agent of Painters Local 1158, who ordered thirty union painters to scab against fellow painters of San Rafael Local No. 83 who were out on strike on a federal housing project in a dispute "over violation of safety rules."

"When the United States government," said Mead in "justification," "asks me for men, I'm going to send them."

It is clear that a general extension of Mead's theory—"You can't strike against the government"—can only result in destroying any possibility for labor to maintain its rights and gains and its union organizations as fighting organs against exploitation.

For more and more the government is not only intervening against labor in employer-worker disputes, but is actually itself entering the field of production as a boss. Serve Labor—Or the Bosses? Indeed, the labor bureaucrats always do their utmost to show how safe and indispensable they are to the ruling class and the government of bourgeois democracy. In wartime, they outdo themselves in groveling before the government and betraying the workers. Yet the unions today, more than ever, must assert their class independence from the bosses and the government; and insist on their democratic rights to carry through strikes for their protection.

In this period of capitalist decline, the unions (1) either become subordinate to the interests of the capitalist class and scuttle their own future or (2) they raise themselves to a class conscious understanding of their role and endeavor to develop themselves into bodies working to

ward a revolutionary transformation of society, together with other working class organizations—political, cooperative, etc. There is no middle ground.

The workers have already made too many concessions—official abandonment of the right to strike, wage concessions, overtime pay, etc. But when, in order to maintain a half-

Discrimination "Embarrassing"

"WASHINGTON, D. C. (ANP)—Hearings by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, scheduled to have been held in El Paso, Texas, have been indefinitely postponed, it was learned here this week.

"Various reasons have been given for the postponement, among them the request of the Mexican government that they not be held; others declare that the insistence of several Texas congressmen and even the State Department itself protested against the holding of the hearings in that section since the involvement of thousands of Mexicans who had been discriminated against who naturally would testify, would be embarrassing to the government's "good neighbor" policy aimed at the Latin American republic.

"No new date has as yet been set for the hearings."—From the Chicago Defender, August 29 (our emphasis).

decent living standard and working conditions, workers find themselves forced to strike, they must be able to count on the support of their union officials, and not their strike-breaking opposition. If this isn't the case, these union officials must be gotten rid of and replaced by militant leaders.

The triumvirate against the workers must be broken up. The first task is within the ranks of labor: namely, the demand of the rank and file that the union officials work for THEM—and not the bosses—and cease acting in concert with the bosses and the government against the ranks of the workers.

Don't Be a Hog!

When you've finished reading this paper, don't hog it! Pass it on to a friend.

Better yet—why not buy him a sub? Twenty-five cents for six months as an introductory offer!

Conscript War Industries Under Workers' Control! \$1-a-Year Men Help Steel Magnates

By JOHN BERNE

LABOR ACTION carries on its last page the platform of the Workers Party. Among the war demands made by the Workers Party is one which reads: "CONSCRIPT ALL WAR INDUSTRIES UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL."

If the Workers Party had hired a battery of experts to prove the correctness of this demand, they could not have produced better proof than has been provided—free, gratis and for nothing—by the report of Frederick Libbey, recently fired from the War Production Board because he was "too critical."

Mr. Libbey's report on the iron and steel branch of the WPB is one more damning piece of evidence that the war is a gigantic bonanza for big business—that the industrial magnates of the country are using human misery to increase their wealth and spread their power.

Mr. Libbey confirms the testimony and findings of the Truman committee that the dollar-a-year men in Washington are a flock of vultures. He reports that "the steel expansion program is largely of benefit to a small group of big and well established companies and that these companies, through their representatives in the iron and steel branch, are responsible for this state of affairs."

And "largely of benefit" doesn't mean a measly 50 or 75 per cent. No, indeed. It is pointed out that 99 per cent of the steel expansion program has been allotted to six big companies—all you may be sure, amply represented in the iron and steel branch of the WPB.

No wonder the consultant staff of the branch is made up of high pressure sales executives "borrowed" from the big companies. These are the boys who know how to get or-

ders and anything else their companies want. Mr. Libbey thinks that engineers are needed "to plan production"—not sales executives. But big business is not interested in planning production—in the abstract. Concrete gain is what it is after.

Feather Their Nests

From their positions in high places of government the profiteering capitalists are furthermore carefully feathering their nests for the future. Mr. Libbey states that they desire "to keep control of the steel industry after the war." The "big six"—whom names Mr. Libbey is too delicate to give, but which can be easily guessed—are not only gobbling up 99 per cent of all war business in steel—BUT ARE PLACING THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO LAY THEIR HANDS ON ALL AVAILABLE BUSINESS AND PROFITS AFTER THE WAR.

This pay-tribotic procedure is by no means true only of the iron and steel branch of the WPB. The war production program can be compared to a stupendous grab bag. The working people by their sacrifices are providing all the packages—the industrial hierarchy is doing all the grabbing. For example, the Kiplinger Business Service—which knows its Washington—quite openly discusses what it calls "the wire-pullings of private industries to make the war serve them."

THERE ARE NO HALF-WAY MEASURES THAT COULD REMEDY A SITUATION AS ROTTEN AS THIS. WAR INDUSTRIES MUST BE CONSCRIPTED AND PLACED UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL. THIS IS WHAT WORKING PEOPLE HAVE GOT TO SPEAK UP FOR.

Repudiate the Program of Capitulation and Surrender --

(Continued from page 1)

These rates seem all the more outrageous in the face of what has already been publicly exposed as to the fraudulent practices engaged in by the corporations which pay them.

The General Electric Co., with whom the UE has contracts covering tens of thousands of workers, was only recently labeled "war profiteer and international racketeer" in the tungsten carbide scandal. GE was accused of cornering the market and withholding the patents on tungsten carbide cutting tools, thus raising the prices of this product many times above its actual value in cost of production.

The Sperry Corp., which has agreements with two UE locals, only recently "discovered" that it overcharged the Navy one million dollars on war contracts. This is the corporation whose president, Thomas Morgan, raised his annual salary from \$120,000 to \$185,000 in this year of "wage stabilization."

The Phelps Dodge Copper Co. and a General Electric wire plant have just been indicted by a federal grand jury in Newark for fleeing the government out of profits ranging from THIRTY-FIVE to SEVENTY per cent. This "normal rate of profit" was added to Navy contracts for electric cable. Phelps Dodge is a UE organized company.

Despite the fact that the UE deals with corporations like these, which are waxing fat on war profits by "fair" means or foul, the national officers of the union had the gall to send a memorandum to UE locals directing them NOT TO ASK FOR GENERAL INCREASES in negotiations for new contracts this fall.

The president of the Sperry Corp. increases his salary by more than 50 per cent. But the UE locals bargaining with Sperry and its subsidiaries are advised not to ask for a general increase. If this is not stooging and scissor-bill unionism (to say the least), then what is?

We believe that the Auto Workers and other CIO unions were incorrect in proposing to sacrifice premium pay for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. But the UE outdid them all by its wholesale concessions. Its national officers not only proposed to give up premium pay; they proposed to permit the corporations to deduct the differences from government accounts. This privilege was given to corporations which have been publicly exposed for fraudulent dealings.

UNDEMOCRATIC OFFICERS YIELD UNION RIGHTS

The Auto Workers were at least permitted by their officers to discuss this matter at a hastily summoned and not too democratically elected conference. The UE held no conference whatsoever on this question except the private tete-a-tete of its national leaders; you, its dues-paying members, first heard about this proposal when it was an accomplished fact, published by means of expensive ads in prominent newspapers.

But they didn't stop there; they weren't through volunteering sacrifices for you. THEY ALSO PROPOSED A SPEED-UP. In brief, they suggested that the workers increase their day-to-day production by 15 per cent. How? By sheer sweat and excess labor; that is, 15 per cent over and above any increase due to technical improvements.

This is proposed to men and women who work fifty to seventy hours a week, often without vacations or adequate rest periods. Why? Because the union leaders have only one concern—and it is not labor's well-being.

WHO ARE THE LEADERS OF THE UNION?

What kind of men are the leaders of the UE; Fitzgerald, president; Emspak, secretary-treasurer, and Matles, general organizer? Why is it that they are noted for such extremes in their undemocratic behavior toward the membership and shameful concessions to the corporations? Why do they lightly surrender to the companies gains which labor has won by years of struggle and the personal sacrifices of so many discharged, black-listed and persecuted union men who led the fight for better conditions?

Perhaps a look at your union paper will divulge the answer. The UE News has undergone some remarkable changes in the last three years. Before June 23, 1941, it was a very militant paper on most questions affecting labor. It championed higher wages. It demanded better working conditions. It supported strikes, wherever they were necessary, against labor-hating corporations.

After June 23, 1941, the UE News became the most hysterical flag-waving union paper in the country. No sacrifice of the rights of its members was too great. Any surrender would do, so long as it benefited the political line of Brothers Emspak and Matles.

This most important date, this 23rd day of June, 1941, was the day on which Stalin's alliance with Hitler in World War II was broken by the German invasion of Russian territory, and the day consequently when Stalin switched to the "democratic" front.

Of Emspak and Matles we can only say that theirs is not the simple scissor-bill unionism of leaders who want to prove their loyalty to their bosses. They have a greater loyalty; it seems to be a strong devotion to the foreign policies of the dictator of Russia. That means right now that as union leaders they are more interested in promoting the war than in promoting the union.

Of Fitzgerald it can be said that since he became president, he in no way showed any opposition to the policies of Emspak and Matles, but helped and shielded them all the way.

WHAT MUST THE UNION DO?

This is a war period. Daily, the burden of taxes, rising prices and consumer restrictions grows heavier. This load must be borne by those who stand to benefit from the war. The taxes must come from the accumulating millions of the profiteers and NOT from the worker with his puny yearly income. If purchasing power is excessive, as various government agencies claim, let it be stripped from those who squander fabulous sums on country mansions and million-dollar coming-out parties; not from the factory hand who is just beginning to earn enough so that he has a few extra dollars with which to buy his wife a new coat or to make a down payment on some new piece of furniture.

This is a man-sized job for the national leaders of any union. Labor leaders who spend their energies defending workers against unfair income

taxes, sales taxes, payroll deductions and anti-labor decrees have a big job on their hands, but it's a good job and we must help them.

There is a battle to be fought to get Congress to tax the rich and plug up the loopholes in tax bills built with escape hatches for the wealthy.

There are unfair War Labor Board decisions to be argued against and fought against so that every organized group of workers is not slapped down when they ask for an increase of a few cents an hour.

The task of unions like the UE is to see that their members are not tricked by Congress and the Administration and the bosses into bearing the main burden of war costs while the owners of industry pocket huge profits.

It is not the task of the union movement to pledge its members to the Kremlin politics of the Communist Party, which veers with every turn in Moscow diplomacy. It is the business of union leaders to champion LABOR politics at all times, to help labor strike out independently with its own consistent political action based exclusively on labor's class interests.

In resolutions like those favored by Emspak and Matles are embodied the Stalinist program for labor which consists of endless attempts at alliances with the politicians of the old parties so that a maximum amount of favor may be won for the Soviet Union and for the American Stalinists.

This kind of politics can only harm labor's cause because labor has another kind of politics to concern it. It needs candidates of its OWN to represent it in Congress. It needs legislation for minimum wage levels of \$1.00 an hour. It requires higher taxes on big business. It should be represented by men who are capable of fighting for the right of collective bargaining unhampered by the War Labor Board. It wants political spokesmen for the hundreds of day-to-day legislative needs of the unions.

HOSTILITY TO OFFICERS IS WIDESPREAD

Are the UE leaders prepared to provide such spokesmen? UE members don't seem to think so.

Take the example of Equitable Meter Co., whose workers belong to a Pittsburgh local. They sued the international for interfering in the affairs of the local. It seems that after gains won through a four-day holiday, the international stepped in and signed a contract with the management, giving up many of the gains. And the contract was never ratified by the local. We don't approve of the local's action in suing the international. We believe that the best "court" for judging the guilt of union officers is the convention of democratically elected delegates of their locals. But from what we know of the UE officers, they cannot have been very democratic in the way they handled the problem of the Equitable Meter contract.

There are other locals which, in one way or another, are showing their hostility to the officers of the UE. We understand that several New York and Chicago locals are electing anti-Stalinist delegates.

We also understand that the Stalinists in the UE have become a bit panicky at the possibility of a large bloc opposed to them, that they have tried

to reorganize locals in such a way as to acquire a majority for themselves.

In other cases their representatives in the locals, having been chosen chairmen of election meetings, have filibustered the meetings with constant disruption until union members left in disgust and only the "faithful" remained, thus insuring a majority for the Stalinist slate.

These tactics and this method of union leadership we ask you, the delegates, to repudiate. We ask you to vote for a program of militant unionism and against a program of capitulation and surrender in the name of "patriotism."

WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP IS REQUIRED?

Who is to represent this program of militant unionism? That is a difficult question to answer.

Among you there are fighters, shop stewards and committeemen who are known to have battled for their men, who themselves work on the bench, who know and understand the problems of the working people and who are independent of the politicians.

These men have not the smooth tongues or the polish of an Emspak or a Matles. But they have the honesty and integrity to fight for labor's cause. Out of them you will have to choose your leaders.

LABOR ACTION.

Revolt In India -

Is featured in the August NEW INTERNATIONAL

In addition the issue contains:

"Trotsky's Struggle," by Max Shachtman.

"Tomorrow in America," by Harry Allen.

"The Myth of the United Nations," by Henry Judd.

"A Labor Base for Negro Struggle," by Ria Stone.

"The Polish Workers Take the Floor," by J. W. Smith—a supplement to the discussion article on the national question that appeared in the last issue.

"An Answer to the Stalinist Critics," by Leon Trotsky—in the Archives Section.

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Editorials

Lets the Cat Out!

We don't often take time or space to comment on the frothings of Westbrook Pegler...

However, his columns are sometimes worth reading. For in them you will find the complete expression of capitalist cynicism...

So, for example, on August 26 Pegler ripped the veil off the Atlantic Charter and let it stand in all its naked meaninglessness...

Further: the war is not being fought for idealistic purposes; its purpose is the "total obliteration" of Germany...

Here is the callously stated objective of Allied imperialism, stated with a minimum of camouflage. It is a statement of bankruptcy—not of Pegler's alone...

They ask the German masses to overthrow the beastly tyrant, but offer them... a super-Versailles, "freedoms" designed for propaganda purposes only.

German soldier, encourage him by solidarity and brotherhood to resist his fascist rulers; he is urged to "kill every German" because every German—mind you, not only the fascist tyrants, but EVERY German—is "simply a murderer."

No, there is no issue from war and fascism that way. Only a SOCIALIST appeal can give the masses of the world courage and inspiration to fight Hitler and his friends.

Socialist freedom, INTENDED FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC USE, is the answer to war and to fascism—THE WAY TO PEACE! But that's the last thing Messrs. Pegler, Churchill and Stalin want to see.

A Hundred Years

One hundred years ago, in August, 1842, China was defeated in the "Opium War" by the British. The British insisted on their right to sell opium to the Chinese, against the wishes of the Chinese government.

Numerous treaties were forced upon the corrupt Chinese dynastic government which granted all sorts of concessions, spheres of influence, trade rights and special privileges. One of the most reprehensible of these treaties granted extra-territorial rights to the invading foreigners.

But to this day, Britain and the United States, together with Japan, maintain their concessions and extra-territorial privileges against the clearly expressed will of the Chinese people.

Even during the war, with China an ally, a member of the United Nations, this insult against Chinese sovereignty has been maintained by all the imperialist powers.

To this day Britain has not renounced her rights to Hong Kong. The U.S. and Britain have not renounced their rights to the international areas in Shanghai.

This Is Your Paper--

So how about sitting down and writing a letter about what's on your mind? What's going on in your shop? How's the union getting along, and what are its problems?

The columns of LABOR ACTION are open to you, so why not take advantage of them!

WORKERS PARTY PLATFORM

Against Both Imperialist War Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF!

- 1. Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
2. Thirty hours a week; thirty dollars the minimum wage; time and a half for overtime! Rehire the jobless millions by a six-hour shift!
3. Wage increases which meet rising costs! No sales tax on consumer goods; no taxes on wages! Freeze rents and food and clothing prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living!

SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- 6. A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
7. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
8. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the 3 per cent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- 9. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces!
10. Sixty dollars a month minimum for draftees!

SMASH JIM CROW!

- 11. Down with Jim Crow and anti-Semitism! All discrimination against Negroes in the Army and Navy or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!

BE PREPARED!

- 12. For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!
13. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilante and fascist attacks!
14. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
15. For Peace Through Socialism! For immediate independence of all colonies! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism. For a League of Socialist Nations!

A Message for Labor Day: Let Us Fight for Our Needs!

(Continued from page 1) committees makes us stronger?

Does lying on our backs, and whining about "national unity" and "fair play" while the employers walk over us—does that make us any stronger?

Does keeping our nose to our work while wages are frozen, prices raised and taxes dumped on our backs—does that make us stronger?

Will big business love us the more because we act like willing sheep? Or will Washington respect us more for it? We were not born yesterday. A thousand and one experiences have taught us better.

Lesson No. One for labor is: Don't be a sucker! The minute you let down your guard you get it on the chin.

The delegate to the United Automobile Workers convention spoke the truth when he said: "There has been no real collective bargaining in this country since labor gave up the right to strike."

The captains of industry don't come from a race of weaklings. The business world operates on the law of the survival of the fittest. In Wall Street it's a matter of eat or be eaten. And when they deal with labor they get twice as tough. Not the outstretched open hand, but the mailed fist commands their respect and attention.

We are told that the open hand is necessary. We are told that labor must permit itself to be pushed around for the sake of victory. We are told that wages must be frozen even if price ceilings are pierced and taxes unloaded on the little man, even if big business is making a harvest of war profits—all in the interests of the war.

And what if labor pays this price for victory? Where will labor be at the end of the war if it permits itself to be walked over for the duration? Will labor have any say in the economic reorganization of the country? Will labor even be in a position to keep those who walked on it for the duration from smashing it to pulp once the war is over?

If we choose to be docile in time of war when they need us, they will force us to be servile in time of peace when there will be three workers for every job.

If the working class permits capitalism to remain in the saddle and conclude the war, the economic chaos will make 1929-33 look like prosperity. The millions of jobless defense workers will be joined by the millions of returning soldiers to form a jobless army bigger

than any army in the world. "No Help Wanted" signs will greet us everywhere.

Will that be the time to strike for better wages? Will that be the time to demand double time for Sundays?

Will that be the time to organize the unorganized? Will that be the time when Messrs. Green and Murray will ask us to parade on Labor Day to show labor's strength?

Can labor permit the employers to walk all over it for the duration and then get up and begin fighting as though nothing had happened?

If labor stays on its back for the duration, we can be sure it will still be there when, in the midst of economic prostration, the reactionary backwash of the war hits us. In 1919 it was merely the Ku Klux Klan, the Palmer raids and the employers' open shop drive. In 19?? it will be American fascism bidding for power.

Are you only interested in making sure that American fascism rather than the German brand will be supreme at the war's end? If so, don't march on Labor Day. Don't defend yourself by striking. Don't do anything if they freeze your wages and jack up your prices. Don't get up off your knees. Keep your posterior where the boss can give it a good swift kick whenever it suits him.

Are you interested in defeating fascism at home and abroad? Do you want labor to plan production in time of peace to guarantee plenty to all? Then you must wage a fight in labor's own cause—against the fascists and their capitalist supporters at home and abroad. You can't do this by giving political support to the present war.

We need a Labor Party and a Labor Government—both based upon a program of defeating fascism by solving the economic problems of modern production, by using the marvelous industrial power of the modern machine to eliminate poverty and want from the world. We have the natural wealth, we have the machinery, we have the manpower.

Eliminate capitalist mis-management for private profit and produce plenty for all. Produce for the use of mankind instead of the profit of a few. THIS IS SOCIALISM!

Only labor can build such a socialist world of peace and plenty. The program carried weekly on the back page of LABOR ACTION tells us where to begin.

So far, labor leaders have only told us to raise production. Now, how about raising a little hell about labor's rights?

Patterson - McCormack Axis - -

(Continued from page 2) governor of New York and be elected over a hand-picked Roosevelt candidate.

The Roosevelt-Caesar analogy is used incessantly. It would like to see "Caesar" overthrown so that a Caesar to Patterson's taste might follow. After all the heat and type spent on violently lambasting "Roosevelt-Caesar" it has only this to say: "Maybe this is our destiny; maybe we are fated to change from republicanism to Caesarism. Many nations have passed that way."

And here's the grand finale along these lines, from the August 2 editorial: "If this is happening to us (loss of freedom) maybe (what, again!) there is nothing we can do about it. Maybe it is evolution—in which case the smart thing for us, rank and filers (such modesty, Captain) to do is to watch the show and enjoy it as best we may." No comment.

Extreme Nationalism Number three is its attitude toward the question of war (in general) and the future of mankind. To even speculate about a world without war or want or fear is a dan-

gerous and ridiculous practice, says the News. It stoops to such good old vulgar tricks as a cartoon showing two average guys deciding that wars will end when "Smith and Jones no longer want the same girl."

Of course the editorial might have declared that in the event of any influx of low paid workers it might be a good idea to organize both them and the old-timers to maintain and raise living standards. That's how it usually has worked out. But that's not for Patterson. Fascism can obviously succeed more easily against a racially-divided working class than a united one, more easily against a population with reactionary, chauvinist prejudices than one with internationalist ideals.

Agitates Subtly The above items may not be as blatant a clarion call for fascism as can be found in Pelley's Gallilean. But, remember, it is appearing not in an out-of-the-way small sheet but in a respectable member of the newspaper fraternity that happens to have the largest circulation of all. Captain Patterson has to SUGGEST attitudes rather than advocate actions at present.

But because of his tremendous wealth and family background, because of the unfortunate popularity of his paper, and because of his sly demagoguery, he is a most dangerous publicist. No, Messrs. Holland and Ingersoll, it is not Hitlerism, but native American fascism, in whatever form may be found feasible, that Patterson is advocating.

The labor movement of the United States must get Patterson pegged right so that he (and the multitudes of others who are trying to sneak one over or impose fascist methods and ideologies) can be fought for what he is. And it must do so remembering that the native fascist front doesn't begin or end with the News and the Tribune!

Wanted! Wanted!

Copies of the July August and September, 1941, New International for purposes of binding. We will appreciate your sending these copies to: The New International, 114 West 14th Street, New York City.

WAR BONDS

Forced Savings In the Offing

By Henry Judd

The minds of the American people are being prepared for accepting a system of FORCED SAVINGS under which individual purchases of war bonds would be fixed by federal legislation and deductions would be made from the pay envelopes of American workers, automatically. Under this system, 10 (or perhaps 15) per cent of a workers' weekly wages would automatically be given to him in the form of bonds. It is stated that the necessity for this is the fact that the voluntary system of war bond purchases has failed.

VOLUNTARY PROGRAM HAS FAILED

Here are some of the facts cited to prove that the voluntary system has fallen short of its mark. The federal Treasury is aiming at a total purchase of twelve billion dollars in war bonds for the year 1942 (this year). This amounts to one billion dollars of purchases a month and is roughly calculated at 10 per cent of the expected national income of 110 billion dollars this year.

However, according to Treasury reports made public, this quota of approximately a billion dollars has not been met. In July only 900 million dollars of bonds was purchased—10 per cent short of the goal for that month. For the month of August (when the goal was set at only 815 million dollars, since it is a vacation month), purchases were 200 million behind—25 per cent short of the goal!

The quota for September is again set at one billion dollars, but government officials are concerned about the effect that the September 15 income tax collections will have. At the present pace, it is doubtful whether bond purchases for 1942 will reach a total of ten billion dollars, far short of the twelve billion dollar objective. When Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau was asked recently why the August sales were lagging so far behind, he is reported to have replied: "I don't know. You might ask the American public that question."

Unfortunately, Mr. Morgenthau has not taken the trouble to ask his public that question in an effort to find out why. Accordingly, LABOR ACTION is hazarding a guess at an explanation.

DOTTY LAMOUR IS IRRELEVANT

Now, there is no doubt about the attraction that Miss Lamour, Lana Turner and Jimmy Stewart have for the American public. Nor is there any question about how much energy these people put into their leg work, shows and other performances during their war bond tours. But the difficulty doesn't lie there. Would it not be more sensible, Mr. Secretary, to ask yourself a few more serious and important questions when you seek an explanation to your original question?

We take the liberty of suggesting a few answers as to why you are having so much difficulty:

(1) The rising cost of living—particularly SINCE the so-called price fixing program instituted in Washington—makes the proposal that a 10 per cent voluntary sum be paid for bonds each week equivalent to asking American workers to take a 25 per cent weekly wage cut! That's an awful lot to ask, Mr. Secretary, particularly when these same workers read about the fancy earnings of Mr. Boss.

(2) There is a fundamental distrust of the war and those in charge of it, accompanied by a reluctance to trust the war leaders in anything they say or do. This attitude of cynicism and apathy—often spoken about by the government leaders—is not conducive to the purchase of bonds.

(3) Everyone recognizes the complete unfairness of the whole bond purchasing system. A 10 per cent tax is supposedly levied on everyone—regardless of their circumstances, weekly wages, dependents, savings and position in America. Mr. Boss, salaried executive at \$15,000 per year, is democratically the equal of Brother Worker, making the war level wage of \$2,000 per year! Both are supposed to give 10 per cent! Reports about big corporations buying blocks of bonds for \$50,000, etc., only cause a big laugh, for everyone knows about their profits from government contracts.

(4) The masses of people, already bearing the real burdens of the war in the form of longer hours and harder work, more taxation and military service, are being threatened too much by the rulers of America. On all sides they hear threats of (a) a federal sales tax; (b) an income tax payable in advance by salary deductions; (c) forced savings plan in the English manner; (d) payroll deductions in advance, etc. In a word, they know, feel and see that the financial burden of the war is being placed on their shoulders. Does this induce them to buy more or less bonds, Mr. Secretary?

LABOR ACTION'S PROPOSAL

Save the Hollywood glamor boys and girls for Hollywood! Save wear and tear on the railroad trains and buses that carry the numerous Hollywood Victory Caravans to all parts of the country.

LABOR ACTION has a tax program that will more than pay for the costs of the imperialist war. We've suggested it many times and it's listed in LABOR ACTION every week. Why, only ONE part of that program would take care of the twelve billion dollar war bond fund Secretary Morgenthau wishes to raise this year. This part demands the confiscation of all war profits! After that's been done, we can continue with the rest of the program and put the burden of the war on those who are responsible for the whole thing to start with.

LABOR ACTION

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