

For a Genuine \$25,000 Limit On ALL Income!

By John Berne

Pulling rabbits out of hats is no trick at all compared to what politicians are doing these days.

President Roosevelt is the man who gave Economic Stabilizer Byrnes the power to declare the \$25,000 salary limit.

President Roosevelt is the man who now says he didn't mean \$25,000 at all. What he meant is \$67,200, plus certain allowances for insurance, fixed obligations, etc.

That's at least as clever as pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

When Mr. Byrnes was directed by the President to stabilize wages, WAGES WERE FROZEN, PARALYZED, OSSIFIED. They were not raised 170 per cent—and then stabilized. Even where contracts provide for wage increases, the workers must forfeit them unless approved by the disapproving WLB.

But we must always remember that there are two classes in society: the working class and those others who have special privileges. For the latter a salary limit of \$25,000 becomes \$67,200—PLUS. Not bad!

Of course, the President has his reasons for the 170 per cent raise for the privileged. However, they all boil down to one: Rich guys must have at least \$25,000 for their personal use, FREE AND CLEAR. Therefore, the President allows them that extra \$42,200 to pay taxes, with further allowance to each individual.

Well, the workers have to pay taxes, ETC., too. And how! There are 16,000,000 of us who earn less than \$16 a week—which is less than \$800 a year. But no politician pulled a rabbit out of a hat to stabilize WAGES with a 170 per cent increase!

However, there is no assurance that even the \$67,200 limit will be enforced. For Congress is on the warpath in defense of the sacred right of the rich not to be limited in their acquisition of wealth.

Senator George, chairman of the Finance Committee—one of those good Southern "democrats"—thinks that the "limitation was unwise and unnecessary" and that "there was no authority to issue it."

Senator Vandenberg, Republican of Michigan, is also very indignant and declared that Congress did not give the President power to limit the income of the rich.

Naturally, not a peep of protest has come out of the representatives of the people as to the limit on wages. Freezing workers' wages is the best possible thing in a bosses' world. However, interfering with the life mission of the rich to become richer is entirely out of order.

The boss press and its boss-minded columnists are, of course, inventing all kinds of arguments against a limit on income. There is the bewhiskered one about "PERSONAL INCENTIVE." What incentive has a worker got at less than \$16 a week—or even at \$38.50 a week, the average wage of all workers in the manufacturing industries of the country?

Then there are the bankers like Percy H. Johnston, president of the Chemical Bank & Trust Co. of New York—salary \$150,000 a year, plus interest, dividends and profits from various sources. He has no objection to limiting his salary—no, no! He only dreads to see "Socialism creep into our government and into our nation." That is also an old one. Socialism and our capitalist government have absolutely nothing in common!

But presidents of banks do dread the real socialism. And just because it will take away from them and their kind—FOR ALL TIME—their fabulous \$150,000 salaries, plus interest, dividends and profits. Economic Stabilizer Byrnes' ruling, however, is to limit only their salaries to the "mere pittance" of \$67,200-PLUS a year and that only until 1944. A far cry from socialism!

The other day the boss press headlined the news that President Roosevelt stated the \$67,200 limit should apply to all income, meaning interest, dividends and profits as well as salaries. This presidential coup must not be taken at its face value. As ever, Mr. Roosevelt is the shrewd politician.

He says that Congress is up in arms against a limit even on salaries alone. He knows darned well that the legislative protectors of the privileged will not allow sacred interest, dividends and profits to be touched. Especially will this be true of the new Congress. So the moneybags of the rich are pretty safe. And Mr. Roosevelt can spout his "liberal" stuff and strut as the friend of the common man—WITHOUT IN ANY WAY ENDANGERING THE WEALTH OF THE WEALTHY.

Surveying the whole question, it looks as if the upper class is going to get away with murder—unless the organized workers take a hand in the matter of limiting them.

It looks as if—left to the politicians—salaries will not be stabilized even at Mr. Roosevelt's figure of \$67,200-PLUS—to say nothing of \$25,000.

It certainly looks as if the unearned take of the rich in interest, dividends and profits from various sources will continue to be sacred.

Workers' wages have been frozen, even where contracts provide for increases. Workers are taxed and victory-taxed. They are ten-percented for war bonds. As consumers they are squeezed by unprecedented prices and gyped by the profiteering of big and little business. And their flesh and blood is being sent all over the face of the globe.

Will the workers allow the privileged class to collect salaries, interest, dividends and profits—AS USUAL!

Organized labor must demand a REAL \$25,000 limit on ALL the income of the rich—AND THAT MEANS EVERYTHING!

Bulletin on UAW Conference!

As we were going to press we received the sensational information that UAW locals throughout the country are calling a conference to discuss militant action to defend the union. The move was initiated by the Flint Local. It is reported that the conference will discuss a recommendation to the International Executive Committee that a special convention be called and that the union rescind its no-strike pledge! LABOR ACTION will carry the full story of this startling development next week.

LABOR ACTION

DECEMBER 14, 1942

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

McNUTT GETS DICTATORIAL CONTROL OVER MANPOWER

Post Office Again Hits Freedom of Labor Press

The Post Office Department has committed a new outrage against the labor movement and the freedom of the press. Hard on the heels of its autocratic suppression of The Militant, a weekly labor paper, the Post Office this time has withheld from the mails the December issue of the Fourth International, monthly socialist magazine which reflects the same political views as The Militant.

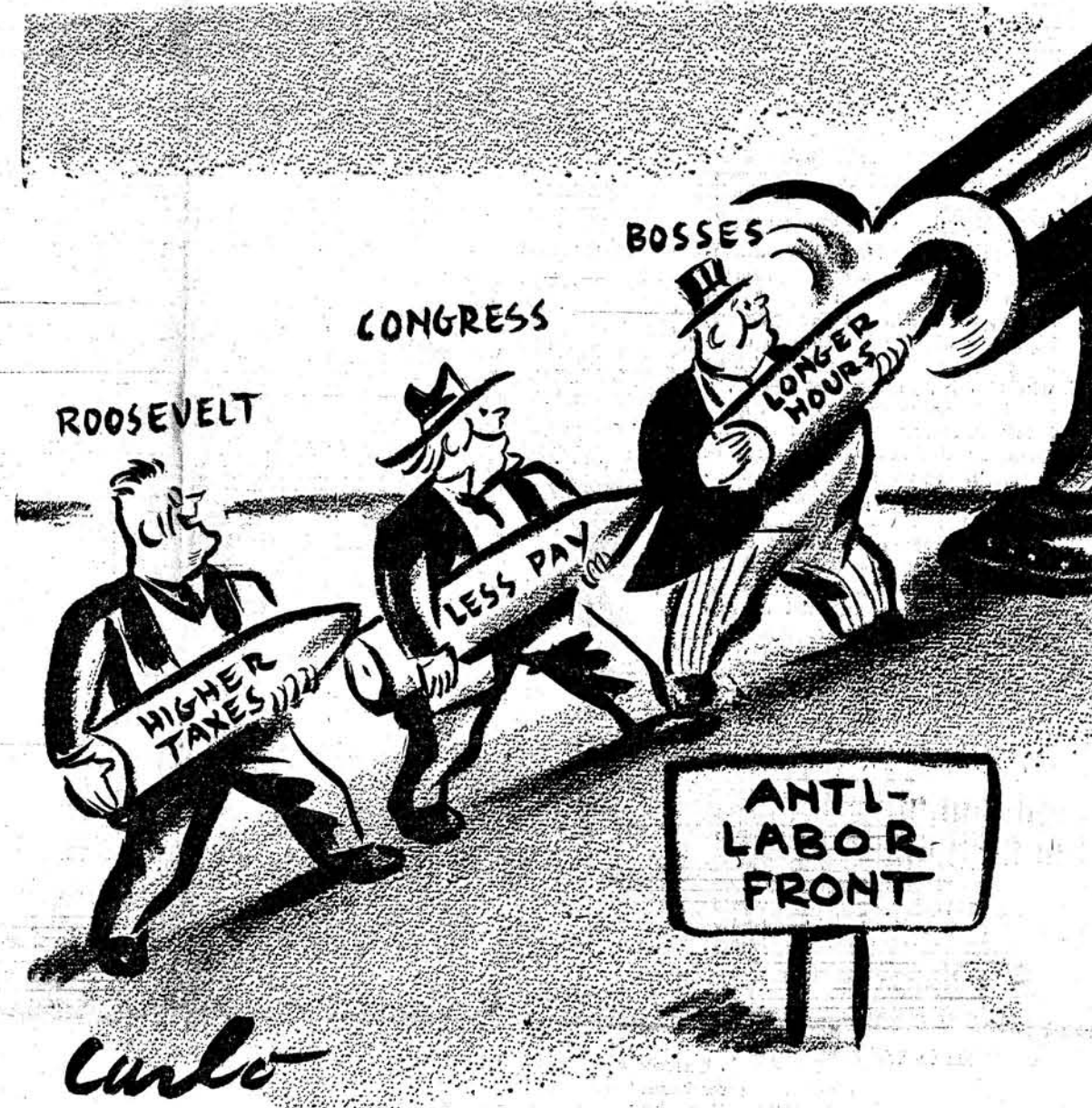
BULLETIN:

As we go to press we learn that the November 28 issue of The Militant has gone through the mails. We do not know if this means that the ban has been lifted on all the withheld issues, or merely on that of November 28. It seems likely, however, that only the one issue is affected. LABOR ACTION will report the latest developments next week.

Again the Post Office refuses to give any reason for its high-handed action. The Post Office has so far refused to allow some six issues of The Militant to go through the mails. No explanation has yet been given. The Post Office evidently intends to do the same with the Fourth International.

There were no legitimate grounds for banning the mailing of The Militant. And there are no legitimate grounds for banning the mailing of the Fourth International. (Continued on page 3)

"Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition!"



Labor Must Be on Guard To Defend Its Interests

Paul V. McNutt last week received more power over more men than has ever been exercised by any individual in this country. Through executive order, McNutt was given control of Selective Service, the United States Employment Service, the training of workers, as well as other powers which add up to sweeping authority over the nation's manpower.

McNutt can now decide where men shall work, at what they shall work, and whether they should be inducted into the Army or Navy. Unions will now have to be on their toes to see to it that McNutt does not do violence to their rights and organizations.

It is known, for example, that McNutt has long favored job freezing. Unions and labor leaders in general have almost unanimously expressed themselves in opposition to job freezing. At the miners' convention, John L. Lewis blasted the scheme as totalitarian in its concept. Murray and Green have opposed it. But if the unions are not vigilant, and if the labor leaders don't reiterate their positions clearly, firmly, quickly and loudly, job freezing may be put over before anyone can say "Paul McNutt."

The powers now given McNutt were recommended by him to Roosevelt several weeks ago in a report of a sub-committee of the War Manpower Commission. At that time we objected to the entire scheme, and we still do. We warned that while all sorts of demerits were issuing from official Washington sources, and while the press reported congressional opposition, the recommendations would likely be adopted while the labor movement sat back in quiet assurance that nothing would happen.

Virtually all the labor leaders expressed themselves as opposed to a manpower dictator. The very prominence given the recommendations in the boss press was the give-away both as to the likelihood of their being accepted and as to the essentially boss nature of the scheme.

Roosevelt didn't issue his order liberally to cut down the purchasing power of the workers' wages, it could not have done a better job.

From Mr. Henderson's own mouth we are informed that the OPA has been keeping down the prices of war material. Therefore, we must conclude that, like everything else in civilian life, prices on civilian goods are not important enough to bother with officially—except to aid and abet the private profiteers, big and little, to whose tender mercies the housewife has been entrusted.

Before now there was any doubt about the absolute necessity for the working class to create its own price controls, Mr. Henderson (Continued on page 2)

EXTRA! OPA Keeps Prices Down -- But Not Prices of Food and Clothing

By SUSAN GREEN

When the housewife buys her butter, eggs, meat, vegetables and groceries—that is, when she can get them—she has first-hand, uncontradictable evidence that the OPA has hardly done a thing about keeping prices down—FOR HER.

When she buys underwear, stockings, a dress, a coat, a boy's suit, a man's overcoat—or a kitchen towel—she gets more of the same evidence about the OPA.

There isn't a thing you and I buy that has not gone up from 10 to 100 per cent.

So you will be a very surprised person to learn that the OPA is actually keeping prices down. Believe it or not, the OPA is controlling and preventing the rise of CERTAIN prices. It even submits figures.

The question, however, is: WHAT PRICES?

Not food prices! Not clothing prices! But INDUSTRIAL prices!

And what are industrial prices these days? The costs of things that go into the making of war material.

The OPA apparently is a howling success—though not insofar as the

housewife is concerned. It has really kept the prices of war goods under such strict control that they have gone up a mere 3 per cent—or next to nothing—in the year since Pearl Harbor.

Price Administrator Henderson boasted before the 4,000 members of the National Association of Manufacturers gathered in New York last week that "There is nothing like it in the history of production."

There is only one thing wrong here. The working class family unfortunately cannot eat stewed bullets and guns, minced tanks and planes, sliced bombers and battle-ships! As for controls on food and clothing prices and other prices, which concern working people, there has been nothing like it in the history of humbug and hocus-pocus.

The OPA puts price ceilings on things—only to raise them officially. The ceilings have just been lifted on two such staples as potatoes and onions. The OPA announced further that before Christmas an additional number of everyday commodities will be removed from ceiling control.

But, of course, all this prattle about ceilings is a sorry joke. There is no serious control even of the things officially under ceilings.

The OPA itself reports that 400,000 retail stores are cheating. Daily the number swells. There are hundreds of ways of violating price ceilings.

But what the retail stores—both chain and independent—are doing to boost prices is a mere trifle compared to what big business is accomplishing WITH THE BLESSING OF THE OPA ITSELF.

In a recent issue of LABOR ACTION this writer reported from a private source that the OPA permits the same goods with a new label to be marked up at a new price. Now it is everybody's secret that the OPA has officially ruled that THE SAME GOODS WITH DIFFERENT BRAND NAMES ARE DIFFERENT COMMODITIES! How's that for hocus-pocus?

So the manufacturers are exceedingly busy with their paste pots. New labels are being stuck over old ones. There is an epidemic of "newness" and "improvement" on grocery shelves. As reported in LABOR ACTION previously, the "new and improved recipes" are strictly limited

to the label on the outside of the can. What's inside is the same as always—but the price is new and fancier.

The Consumers Union has now scientifically tested some of these fake "new and improved recipes" and reports that any noticeable difference would amount to about a fourth of a cent in cost. This hardly justifies an increase of 25 per cent in price.

If the OPA had been created deliberately to cut down the purchasing power of the workers' wages, it could not have done a better job.

From Mr. Henderson's own mouth we are informed that the OPA has been keeping down the prices of war material. Therefore, we must conclude that, like everything else in civilian life, prices on civilian goods are not important enough to bother with officially—except to aid and abet the private profiteers, big and little, to whose tender mercies the housewife has been entrusted.

Before now there was any doubt about the absolute necessity for the working class to create its own price controls, Mr. Henderson (Continued on page 2)

Local 9 Elections "Indefinitely Postponed"

Progressives Charge That Pollard Was Installed as Dictator to Prevent the Election of a Slate of Militant Officials

SAN PEDRO, Dec. 3.—Walter H. Pollard, Jr., recently appointed dictator of San Pedro Local 9 by the bureaucrats in the national office of the Shipyard Workers Union, this week "indefinitely postponed" the election of union officers. Though he is masquerading as an "organizer" who will "set the union on its feet," Pollard has proved the charge, made by progressives in the union, that he was installed as dictator to prevent the election of a progressive slate.

It is significant that the only supporters of the Pollard dictatorship are the Stalinists and the old-line reactionaries like Mulholland. A month and a half ago they were with Pollard 100 per cent in giving up the hiring hall to the bosses and in urging acceptance of the phony new contract. Little wonder they sup-

port his regime now, when there is a chance they can each find their own little niche in it.

Undoubtedly the local has taken on a new appearance of efficiency and organization with the coming of the dictator, a fact which may impress some of the membership who remember the meetings presided over by Adkins. An organization run from the top is usually efficient. But the efficiency in this kind of a set-up is efficiency gained at the expense of the rank and file. It is because they were tired of the incompetent and inefficient leadership that the militants proposed to replace them with AGGRESSIVE and COMPETENT officials. The efficiency of the Pollard regime will only be able to accomplish more quickly what the inefficiency of the old leadership

made possible; namely, the betrayal of the best interests of the rank and file.

Promises Organization Drive

Seeking to sidestep resentment against him, Pollard is grandiosely promising to organize the whole West Coast with Local 9 as model. This is not a new promise. Two years ago the national office assured the local assistance in this job. Their only move since has been to do away with the local's democratic organization.

That there is a definite need on the Coast for an organizing drive to replace the outmoded craft unions of the AFL with industrial unionism is an unavoidable fact. But a Pollard-controlled San Pedro local

is not a particularly inspiring model with which to start such a drive.

Pollard's main campaign right now seems to be against the shop steward system, bearing out fears already expressed by many leading union members. His first move has been to take over the power to appoint grievance committees; his second to decree what shop stewards can and cannot discuss in their meetings. Perhaps he intends to appoint himself chief shop steward, so that he can also preside over the meetings.

In the face of inadequate representation from many sections of the yards, and the presence of some non-functioning stewards, Pollard complains loudly that "there are too many shop stewards." Obviously his

real complaint is not against the number of shop stewards, but against the fact that the stewards, the most active and leading section of the membership, are rightfully indignant at his bureaucratic meddling in the local's affairs. He rightly fears their attitude and its influence on the attitude of the rank and file membership.

Bosses Attack Boych

Pollard's treatment of the shop steward system has emboldened the L.A. Yard itself to increase its attacks on the system, which they agreed in contract to recognize. They have refused to reinstate Prim. Boych, the chief shop steward, was fired on the outrageously flimsy grounds of creating an issue over race discrimination. (Continued on page 2)

Europe in Revolt

News from the Socialist Camp

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE AS HITLER TAKES OVER

France is now totally under the Nazi heel. In the South of France, Nazi oppression is felt just as heavily as formerly in the occupied zone. Many arrests have already been reported. Many prominent names of anti-fascists are among them.

But who talks about those hundreds and thousands of unknown people who carried on the fight for a long time in different countries; then came to France to find temporary refuge before leaving again for new places of exile and fight. They had practically no means; nobody can live in France if he hasn't a food card—and who would give them one? Very many of them have already fallen into the hands of the Gestapo. Many arrests of French workers have been reported, as also the arrests of former leftist politicians and even rightist army officers.

Hitler has abandoned all intention of collaborating with a docile France under the leadership of a willing Laval, of course, was willing to grant everything. But he was unable to make the French people believe that his policy was in their interest.

We reported some time ago on the strikes which took place in Southern France against the attempt to ship workers to Germany as slave workers. Here is a report which gives a vivid impression of how successful this movement has been:

"The London Times publishes a dispatch from its correspondent at the French frontier. The writer stresses the political victory which the French workers, in their opposition to conscription by Germany, have won not only over the Vichy authorities but also over the authorities of occupation. He recalls that labor unrest began on October 13 at Lyon, not among railroad workers at all—as Vichy claimed—

but among the employees of the "Gnome et Rhone" factories. Out of a total of 4,000 workers, 700 from this factory had been chosen to leave for Germany. Only fifteen had accepted voluntarily, the rest refusing flatly. When the uncooperative workers were fired, their comrades decided to back them by a strike. The Lyon German Armistice Commission thereupon tried to intimidate the workers by announcing that, in case of a strike, all the leaders and heads of trade unions should appear before a French court martial. The workers' delegates answered by issuing an order for a general strike on October 17. The Armistice Commission was forced to yield and asked Vichy to open negotiations with the representatives (illegal) of the trade unions in order to avoid a general strike at all costs. After three days of negotiations, Vichy failed in these endeavors. On October 16, the Vichy cabinet informed the workers' representatives that, in agreement with the authorities of occupation, the government accepted their request that only the workers who volunteered should be sent to Germany."

There will now certainly be a temporary setback in the resistance of the workers, since an organization able to cope with the Gestapo must be better organized than one operating against Laval's police. There will also be, in the first period, a certain tendency to keep quiet since it is "too dangerous" here now. But gradually the South and North of France, living under the same conditions of oppression, and faced with exactly the same problems, will evolve a common attitude of opposition. And the experiences that the workers of Lyon gathered in their October movement will not be forgotten.

GOVERNOR STASSEN ON THE POST-WAR WORLD

We reported in the last issue on some of the reactionary plans which are being drawn up for the future of American imperialism. We want to put before our readers a statement by Governor Stassen of Minnesota which seems to be as blatant an expression of imperialism as has yet been published in this country. Stassen is at least frank; he does not make any fuss about the Atlantic Charter and related liberal sauce:

"Governor Stassen of Minnesota, speaking at a Chamber of Commerce forum today, urged the establishment of a United Nations Legion to be the supreme police force in the world in the administration of world justice, airways and seaways, and a trade commission to work out increasing problems of world trade, prevent sti-

fling tariff obstructions and dumping of goods.

"He also suggested as a post-war need temporary governments over each of the Axis nations, preferably utilizing citizens of the United States, whose ancestry goes back to the Axis nations involved. "These temporary nations would serve until a stabilized opportunity can be given for the people of the respective Axis nations to establish proper government," he added."—New York Times, December 3.

Europacus.

P.S.—The government of the Polish "democracy" in London has already asked for a large share of Germany to be integrated into Poland after the war.

Local 9 Election "Postponed"

Company Sharpens Attack—Fires Chief Shop Steward Boyich

(Continued from page 1)

tion and taking up the case on company time. Evidence in the case is that Boyich, on his day off, attempted to secure a transfer for a Negro brother from one department to another. The company may be forced by union pressure to rehire Boyich, but the move has already had its effect as an attempt to intimidate all shop stewards.

The preservation and extension of the shop steward system was never more important than it is right now. With the company chiseling on and violating the contract, attempting to install speed-up and spying systems, and with the leadership no longer within the union's jurisdiction, the only protection to the man on the job is through the shop steward and grievance machinery. Were this protection removed, the contract would soon become a scrap of paper, and working conditions would

approximate those in unorganized yards.

For this reason the shop stewards must be backed up 100 per cent by the membership. Only then can they function as they should, and hold on to their jobs. The shop stewards themselves must also demand that the officials give them the backing they need in order to carry out their duties. If the shop steward system is surrendered, it will result in the weakening of the union in the yards, and the destruction of democracy in the local.

Pollard's authority has not gone unchallenged. At the Los Angeles Yard shift meeting quite a few members asked him questions about dictators, elections, sticking to the constitution, etc.; questions which Pollard dismissed airily, telling the objectors that they could appeal to the general executive body. Needless to say, this is the very body that voted to lift the autonomy in the first place.

Again, at the Bethlehem day shift meeting an aroused and vocal membership told Pollard off in no uncertain terms. Every bit of his 'authority' was challenged and when he threatened to appoint sergeants-at-arms to silence the opposition, he was dared to do so. He did not appoint the sergeants-at-arms, but he did rule unconstitutional a motion to remove him and restore autonomy to the local.

Bell Local Opposes Dues Rise

By ROBERT MASON

BUFFALO — Although the referendum under consideration by the various locals of the UAW for an increase in dues will probably be passed, some of the locals are voting against the increase.

On December 1, Bell Local 501 of this city went on record, by secret ballot, against the proposal with an overwhelming vote of 167 to 22. This vote was recorded in spite of the appeal for the measure by the local union president and the international representative, Peter Zang.

The reasons for the defeat of the resolution by the Bell workers are not hard to find.

1. Bell Local is far enough from Detroit to be away from the oratorical spellbinders, Messrs. Reuther, Thomas, Addes, etc.

2. The Stalinists, who support this increase, are not very strong in Bell and have very poor leadership in the person of Alli Brodese, president of the local.

3. The rank and file, led by militant unionists who do not follow the sell-out line of the international, attended in force and made their weight felt.

4. Bell is in the midst of an organizing drive and the raise in dues will harm the drive.

5. Finally there is an instinctive distrust among the Bell workers, as among most workers, to raise the dues in view of two facts: (1) The officers had their salaries raised at the last convention; (2) the UAW is failing in its main function, namely, to strengthen itself by a mass organizing campaign and by fighting for the retention of its hard-won rights.

Ask Freedom For Negro Teamster!

In October, 1940, Carl Gilmore was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment because he was a bystander in a picket line fracas. The Workers Defense League is now conducting a petition campaign to get Gilmore pardoned and freed.

From the facts in the case, it is obvious that Gilmore received a ten-year sentence (later reduced by a higher court to five to ten years because it considered the original one "unreasonable and excessive") because of the anti-union bias of the trial and the anti-Negro feelings of the jury.

In August, 1940, Local 693 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen & Helpers, AFL, of Binghamton, N. Y., was on strike against the Wilcox Wholesale Corp. On August 8, Ellis Klepfer, then an official of the union, accompanied by Gilmore, was driving past the warehouse terminal, where they saw a truck being driven by an employee of the struck company. After the scab had been asked not to unload the truck an altercation arose, resulting in a nose-bleed for the scab. On the following day Klepfer and Gilmore were arrested.

At the trial Klepfer received a sentence of from two and a half to five years, plus a \$500 fine, and Gilmore a sentence of nine to ten years, plus a fine of \$1,000. The Workers Defense League states that "Binghamton is an open-shop town and the vindictive character of the prosecution was the result of cooperation by the law enforcement officers of the county in breaking a legitimate strike."

At the time of his arrest, Gilmore was regularly employed by the Canby Trucking Co. and bore a good reputation as a loyal union member. He has already been in jail for two years, much too long for having been present at a strike dispute!

Write to Governor Poletti, asking clemency for Gilmore, and contribute to the Gilmore Defense Fund of the Workers Defense League, 112 East 19th Street, New York City. This is a case which deserves your support.

The Bethlehem men have not forgotten that nine months ago Pollard promised that the government would never let the ten-hour day go into effect at Bethlehem.

With a man like Pollard in power, it is necessary to have such vigilant and organized resistance to every encroachment on the democratic rights of members and their established working conditions. Too many fights have been lost in the past by apathy and resignation. Only an aroused and militant membership, with the firm desire to preserve and strengthen unionism, can or will oust Pollard and reclaim the local.

Judge Denies Writ in Lynn Case

The hearing scheduled for December 4 in Brooklyn Federal Court on the writ of habeas corpus sought by Winfred Lynn, Negro, to release him from jail pending trial on a charge of failing to report for induction into the Army was summarily dismissed by the presiding judge with these remarks: "I do not care to consider the case of a man who refuses to obey the induction order of his country."

Lynn contends that he cannot legally be forced to serve in an army in which Negro soldiers are segregated. He bases his contention on these words in the Selective Service Act: "...In the selection and training of men for service, and in the interpretation and execution of this act, there shall be no discrimination on account of race or color."

Lynn asserts that any induction order which would require a Negro to join a segregated unit in the Army is illegal. "I notified my draft board that I am willing to serve in the non-segregated Canadian Army if they will let me go there. But I am not going into the Army and I am Jim Crowed. I will go to the penitentiary instead, if I have to. I consider it contradictory to talk about fighting a war for democracy with a segregated army. I'll fight for democracy, but this is not my way of fighting. Maybe it will help to get a mixed division created. That would be a real step toward democracy."

Lynn is being represented by his brother, Conrad. The latter was assisted in court by the eminent liberal, Arthur Garfield Hays, who interested himself in the case because it offered the first opportunity to test the strength of the anti-discrimination clause in the Selective Service Act which supposedly bars Jim Crow in the Army.

Hays was allowed only a few minutes to show why this case was no mere case of draft evasion. He said: "The draft boards had no right to make quotas, one for whites and one for Negroes. All citizens were entitled to be taken in turn."

"In my opinion," he said, "the quota system is wrong constitutionally and is without any warrant in law. The federal government has passed a law that selects shall be taken in turn irrespective of race or color. Now if they take men out of turn, i.e., by quotas, they are discriminating against them."

The judge vacated the writ and December 8 was set for the trial.

Buy Labor Action In No. Philadelphia:

S.E. Corner—19th and Columbia.
N.W. Corner—19th and Master.
N.E. Corner—20th and Turner.

Sparks in the News

By Everett Weston

"John Scott, in 'Duel for Europe,' reports how the first Soviet tanks which crossed the border into Poland knocked down the sign which hung over the railroad tracks at the border, 'Workers of the World, Unite.' Wasn't that convenient to illustrate a Trotskyite argument?"—Sunday Worker book review.

Not "filthy Trotskyite slime" Comrade, you're losing your grip.

—LA—
"Last week the Harvard Department of Fine Arts started a special six-week evening course in industrial and civil camouflage... The course (was) organized for the training of a professional personnel in methods of camouflaging public utilities and war industries."—New York Times.

Graduates are promised jobs with the Office of War Information. Several students are specializing in oil company camouflage, which seems to be an especially promising field.

—LA—
"People never stop talking about communal differences (in India) and many—especially the British—lay there the root of all India's troubles. But you go to a village in Bundi or Jaipur State and you learn that in the villages Hindus and Moslems have always lived together amicably. You go to an army cantonment like Dehradun and find that there is no communal trouble in the army and never has been any."—Herbert L. Matthews in the New York Times.

Europe (which is comparable to India in population) has many "communal problems" and is forever at war. Therefore, according to the standard British argument, Mysore (which is comparable to England in size and population) should conquer Europe, maintain its rule by machine guns, and keep 99 per cent of the Europeans in poverty—to maintain the peace.

—LA—
A lesson from a "Good Neighbor": The original Cuban draft bill included all men from eighteen to twenty-five, but militant student strikes forced a change to a minimum age of twenty.

—LA—
COMIC SECTION: "They hope to see established a peace-which will afford to all-nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."—Atlantic Charter.

—LA—
Notes on the manpower shortage: The seniors at Vassar have cancelled their spring dance.

—LA—
"Fascism destroys the moral base for capitalist rule, discrediting bourgeois law in the eyes of the masses; it hastens the exposure of all demagogic supporters of capitalism, especially its main support among the workers—the socialist and trade union leaders. It hastens the revolutionization of the workers, destroys their democratic illusions and thereby prepares the masses for the revolutionary struggle for power."—Earl Browder, January, 1934.

—LA—
The New York Herald Tribune of November 22 front-paged a scoop about the retirement of Walter C. Teagle as board chairman of the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey because of his connection with the next day the rest of the papers carried the story on the business pages, but written on the defensive and explaining the retirement on the basis of Teagle's age.

All of the major oil companies

have formed a committee under the chairmanship of E. M. Grey of Esso to inform the public about the fuel oil shortage this winter and why they are not to blame. You will soon begin to see full page ads in the papers, with editorials to match.

Australian Unionists Hit Jim Crow

According to a letter sent by Sydney, Australia, trade unionists to the American Negro press, officers of the U.S. Army are carrying on a propaganda campaign among Australians designed to "keep the Negro in his place."

The letter makes these specific charges:

1. Southern white soldiers have started fights to drive Negro troops off the streets and out of public places.

2. American Army officers have visited schools and lectured to children not to associate with Negro troops.

3. American Army officers have conducted a deliberate campaign to prevent Australian soldiers and organizations from associating with or welcoming Negro troops.

4. Negro soldiers are barred from attending the troop center in Sydney established by the American community for American troops.

Speaking of the general conception of American Negroes held by most Australians prior to the war, the Sydney trade unionists declare: "We went to the movies and watched a somnambulistic character whose main joy in life appeared to be 'pickin' cotton' or singing 'Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground,' do his little bit to help along the impression that Negroes are simple, pleasure-loving folk, but specimens of a kind of mental deficiency."

Aussies Welcomed Negro

When Australians came into actual contact with American Negro troops they were "astounded," and, the letter goes on to say, "they were given rousing and often tumultuous welcomes by Australian citizens, who were genuinely amazed to find the Negro an intelligent, educated human being. He was treated as an equal; he walked about our streets as freely as our own soldiers; people spoke to him and did all those little things for him which help make strangers in a strange land a little less homesick."

"Then there started the most cold-blooded, inhumanly calculated campaign that any of us have ever witnessed."

"Various ways and means were employed—most of them extremely effective. It was rumored that the American Negro was a low, cunning, perverted fiend, who should be kicked out of all decent human society, trampled underfoot—and kept there."

"The various features of these rumors were: 1—The Negro is immoral, degenerate, untrustworthy; 2—He is usually rotten with syphilis and is undoubtedly a sex maniac; 3—No white woman can hope to be safe in his company; 4—He is of such low intellect that he is only suitable for work in labor camps."

"American Army officers have visited schools, delivered lectures to the children, and instructed them not to go near the black men. Australian soldiers have been told not to have anything to do with 'n...s.' Letters have been forwarded by American Army authorities to well known organizations telling about the Negro—and how at home in America he is 'kept in his place' and given no encouragement, because if you give them an inch, they take a mile."

Fights and Riots

"Fights have taken place in public because American Negroes were present, and white American soldiers didn't like it. Negroes are barred from the Trocadero and other Sydney dance halls because American soldiers don't care to see 'n...s' dancing with white girls. Girls who go out with them are subjected to such humiliation and embarrassment by 'Southern gentlemen' that they dare not be seen with them again."


"There have been several 'race' riots already; and unless something is done, and done quickly, a war is going to be fought on Australian soil in which no Japanese will participate."

"The American community in Sydney established a center for white—and no Negro can go there."

a Negro servant who hands John L. his top hat and then sticks out his hand for a tip. When John L. walks out without even seeing the outstretched hand, a look of amazement spreads over the Negro's face.

Hollywood depends on our patronage to keep going. I think that if we let them know what we think of their so-called Negro characterizations they would soon enough cut them out.

F. K. M.



Introductory Offer

TO: **LABOR ACTION**
114 WEST 14th STREET
New York, N. Y.

SIX MONTH SUBSCRIPTION 25¢!

Address _____
Name _____
City _____

Prices and OPA--

(Continued from page 1)

has removed every shred of doubt. Those 400,000 cheating store owners could easily be handled by committees of organized housewives. Those big business pasting artists could be corrected by the organized workers in the very concerns that do the pasting.

United Nations spokesmen are warning us to expect a long war. Look where prices are already. Where will they be as the war progresses?

The working class will be robbed right and left. This can be prevented. Organize committees of housewives, workers and working farmers to control consumer prices!

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Sperry Steward Hails LA Line

Dear Editor:
Each week I look forward to LABOR ACTION for rank and file labor news which is regularly suppressed in the union newspapers. Continue to protect and fight for labor's rights and you will continue LABOR ACTION's growth in circulation among militant union men from coast to coast. Please send LABOR ACTION to the addresses at the close of this letter.
I am a Sperry Gyroscope employee already familiar with LABOR ACTION. You have friends here, but they are far too few compared to the clique that is running a cold-water organizing drive. Your articles on the do-nothing attitude of the UE-CIO organizers hits home with a capital "H."
Our organizing drive here at Sperry is driving toward a long-drawn-out climax in low gear. Our executive Board has petitioned the NLRB for a Labor Board election, after the do-nothing-win-the-war-speed-up-production experts in charge have bungled the Sperry campaign since last July.
At our plant we have two organizers in charge. I believe they know I am a friend of LABOR ACTION.

But they also know I am a very active shop steward who gets around to a lot of workers. So naturally they treat me with kid gloves, but watch me with a careful eye. All they preach about is "production for victory" and a "people's era" following our "victory." They don't preach action to defend labor's hard-won gains, but they preach "sacrifice for victory," that is, sacrifice on our part but not on the part of the big shots.

This week one department decided to take some "labor action" of its own, concerning the working on Thanksgiving Day for time-and-a-half instead of double time. Some eight hundred employees work in this department. The men and women decided to stand up for their rights and show Washington that workers just won't stand for Roosevelt's taking away their economic gains; by executive order. Here's what happened in this department: Some fifty employees out of approximately 800 showed up on Thanksgiving Day, whereas practically all other departments and the plant as a whole turned out 85 per cent to work on the holiday. The company management is still trying to figure out why this department practically en masse refused to work the holiday while the rest of the plant did work. The reason is sim-

ple. It is a UE-CIO stronghold department; 85 per cent. Not only are they UE members, but with the assistance of militant shop stewards they are union rank and filers who won't stand for the abolition of collective bargaining by presidential decree.

For more labor action I remain,
UE Shop Steward.

Says Labor Action Is Stimulating

Dear Editor:
I like your stimulating paper. I like it because it is so thoroughly critical of everything and yet so full of energy and faith. May it prosper.
Here are some friends of mine to whom I want you to send the paper at your six months special subscription rate. I enclose two dollars cash. The change is yours.
N. N. F.

Sends in Sub For a Friend

Dear Editor:
Received the first copy of your paper and I will say that it suits me, even if not 100 per cent.

Why not 100 per cent? Well, to tell you the truth, I do not like to advocate "minimum" or "maximum" wages for the producing class, i.e., the working class. My desire was, since I studied socialism—the abolishing of wage slavery, establishing a society which is based on co-operation and ownership of the means of production and distribution, and since 1905 my motto was "All Power to the Industrial Republic."

Well, this you failed to advocate and still cling to the old reactionary unions, the AFL and the CIO, between which there is not much difference (although I'm at present a member of the CIO myself.)

Enclosed you will find a one dollar bill, of which sixty cents is for my yearly subscription for LABOR ACTION. Of the remaining forty cents, twenty-five cents is for a six months' subscription for a friend of mine who is a veteran of the World War 1914-18, a fellow member in my CIO Local. For the remaining fifteen cents send me LABOR ACTION previous to November 30 so I can pass 'em on to some amateurs in the labor movement to study the "Nine Lessons of North African Invasion." I'm with you for the reconstruction (or revolutionization, if you please) of society.

J. S.

Protests Ballyhoo For Bloody Batista

Dear Editor:
I see by tonight's paper that Major General Fulgencio Batista, president of the Cuban Republic, will inspect the aircraft factories in Buffalo this week. The trip has been arranged by the State Department.

Here is another good example of the kind of democracy we're supposed to be fighting for. Batista has always been nothing but a stooge for Yankee imperialism in Cuba. He's a dictator if there ever was one. For years he has ruled by terror, armed force and tyranny, abolishing civil liberties, illegalizing all political parties and doing away with all parliamentary government. Yet he's the one our government is parading around as a fighter for democracy—Bloody Batista, from whom even Hitler could learn a few things about smashing workers' rights.

There are few people who would want to live under democracy "a la Batista." I write this to you because I would like some people in Buffalo to see through all the fanfare Dictator Batista will get in the capitalist press.
Joan Cromwell.

P.S.—I would like you to clarify the

Puerto Rican situation a bit. Buffalo, Dec. 6, 1942. (We'll try to "clarify the Puerto Rican situation" soon.—Editor.)

Protest Hollywood Slander of Negro

Dear Editor:
There has been a new crop of movies from Hollywood showing the Negro as a lackey or a buffoon. Protests in the past have caused Hollywood to cut out this practice and I think protests right now, to theater managers, to newspapers and right to the studios, will do the same thing.

Two recent examples that come to mind are "Black Swan," with Tyrone Power and Maureen O'Hara, and "Gentleman Jim," with Errol Flynn. In the first picture there is a Negro servant who is given the role of making as big a buffoon of himself as possible. The characterization does not contribute anything to the story but is merely thrown in for the "comic" touch. In "Gentleman Jim" there is a dramatic scene where John L. Sullivan hands his crown over to Flynn before a hushed ball room. At the end of the scene, for absolutely no reason at all, there is

The American Legion

It Is an Anti-Labor, Reactionary Organization

By HARRY ALLEN

A fascist program is built primarily on a hostility to the labor movement. Evidence that the American Legion fulfills this requirement is to be found throughout its history.

The record shows that, beginning with the resolution on labor adopted at the first Legion convention in 1919 to the recent national convention at Kansas City in September, 1942, the American Legion has favored throttling labor's democratic and labor rights. It has fought against the use of the strike weapon in any form and at any time by labor.

Its attitude to strikes in wartime as expressed by Roane Waring at the recent AFL convention, and in a recent report adopted by the Legion's National Executive Committee is only a dramatic extension of its fundamental attitude to militant action and labor unionism, as well as to civil rights. But that is not all...

Preparedness Against Labor

The record shows that the Legion is always ready to "cooperate" with the authorities (police, FBI, Department of Justice, etc.) against all whom the Legion, or others, label as "radicals," and it does so in the interests of maintaining so-called "law and order." Indicative of its determination to be on the front lines against labor is the unanimous decision once passed by the executive committee of Chicago Marine Post No. 273, calling for the formation of a citizens' police force of 5,000 "carefully selected American Legion members" to assist the police "in riots, disasters or whenever needed."

In the same way, vigilantes, Ku Klux Klanners and other anti-labor, Jim Crow and fascist bodies have "cooperated," with or without the official authorities, in putting into practice their conception of "law and order." Yes, the Legion "cooperates" and "aids"; and it is always with the masters of society—the bankers, industrialists and landholders.

So far as can be ascertained over a period of years, one cannot find a single case where the Legion has supported the workers in a dispute or conflict with the bosses. But, contrariwise, there are all too many cases where the Legion has openly aided the employers against the workers.

At this point it is well to take note that the American Legion has deep roots in the government itself, not only in the military bureaucracy and apparatus, but in the intimate councils of the Roosevelt Administration. Especially today, the Legion's military and conservative point of view carries unquestioned weight in the determination of military and labor policy.

At the recent national convention of the Legion, speakers included Secretary of the Navy Knox, Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, former Assistant Secretary of War Louis Johnson, recent head of President Roosevelt's mission to India; the hard-boiled disciplinarian, General ("Yoo Hoo") Ben Lear; and such an outstanding em-

ployer of labor as W. P. Witherow, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers. All these military and administrative officials of the government are prominent members of the American Legion and two of them (McNutt and Johnson) are former national commanders.

All these speakers directed their major remarks against labor and its demands. Strikes, "even for a day," "cannot be tolerated." Profits were also included in their remarks; the speakers called upon employers not to be "selfish" in this "national emergency" and not to "pirate" labor from war plants to ensure greater profits for themselves. But these remarks were delivered with the admonishment of a fond parent, and most certainly not with the harshness and vehemence of the threats against labor. For the Legion, the major task on the domestic front consists in "controlling labor" during the war and in peacetime.

It may be said that the attitude of the American Legion toward wealth is in inverse ratio to its attitude toward labor. The faith of the Legion in great wealth is something to behold. For years the American Legion Monthly has carried articles consistently friendly, for example, to bankers—articles generally written by bankers themselves.

Jingoist and Militarist

The Legion professes to believe that the cause of war is rooted in man—that is, in "human nature." Greed, malice, jealousy, hate—these factors, says the Legion, make war inevitable. That these are manifestations of social, economic and political rivalries between imperialist powers, the Legion prefers not to see, at least, to say. The simple conclusion the Legion draws is that between brief periods of war, the nation spends its time arming to the teeth for the next war. Hence the American Legion has always favored the largest army and navy armament proposals (they haven't been enough till now); permanent universal conscription, etc.

Nevertheless, for two decades the American Legion has been vehemently isolationist on foreign policy. That is, the Legion declared or hoped that the United States could best get along by itself, without being or becoming involved in European or world political-economic problems. Meanwhile, of course, America must arm itself to demonstrate it was ready to ward off any "attack."

The Legion's peculiar provincialism and lack of historical outlook are perhaps best shown in this combination of isolationism with an acceptance, as a matter of course, of the inevitability of a Second World Imperialist War. The latter acceptance has enabled them to function as the loudest bellowers for transforming America into a militarist-imperialist nation second to none and as the advocates of those domestic measures which in time produce a totalitarian-dictatorial regime along fascist lines.

Thus big business has been able to exploit the Legion's nationalist-militarist spirit for its imperialist ends. (Later, fascist demagogues will try to utilize these Legion concepts toward the fascist goal itself.) Therefore, it is no accident that Legion leaders now proclaim and propose the abandonment of its isolationist position. "Isolation is dead," proclaims Lynn U. Stambaugh, recent national commander of the American Legion.

Moreover, the Legion, in addition to being ready to continue its normal role of (1) helping to keep "peace" at home—that is, helping to keep labor strapped; and (2) helping to whip up "100 per cent Americanism" sentiment, is (3) now ready to take on the duty of helping to police the world after the war. America today has the "role of destiny," says the American Legion Magazine (September, 1942).

1. Summing up, the American Legion is an incitement and provocation to organized labor and to the exploited masses generally. The

Not a Democrat In a Carload!

Have you ever stopped for a moment to consider some of the political and military allies FDR has tied the American people up with? You'd get quite a shock, right in your democratic nerve centers, especially when you think of the OPENLY EXPRESSED war aims of these "allies." Here we list only the smaller and lesser fry:

1. Queen Wilhelmina of Holland.
2. Count Storza of Italy.
3. King George of Greece.
4. King Peter of Yugoslavia.
5. King Haakon of Norway.
6. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.
7. Admiral Darlan of Vichy France.
8. Prince Otto of Austria.
9. General Sikorsky of Poland.
10. General de Gaulle of France.
11. Dictator Vargas of Brazil.
12. Dictator Batista of Cuba.

Try to find a single democratic "ally" in the carload. All of them represent monarchist reaction, or the restoration of the divided, warring prewar Europe, South America, etc., or ruling dictators. It is said that you reveal yourself by your friends.

working men who are ex-service men of the First World War recognized this by refusing to join the American Legion. For although there are four or more million ex-service men from World War I, only about 20 to 25 per cent have ever joined the Legion. At present the Legion claims its highest membership, over one million.

2. Imperialism looks ahead to the chaotic post-war period and the problem of "keeping labor in its place." Thus, for example, an article by Ralph Robey, professor of economics at Columbia University (American Legion Magazine, August, 1942), significantly entitled, "Our Third Front," sums up the major task of the American Legion and the bourgeois ruling class:

"We must make certain that the collectivists don't take us over."

Clearly, the specter of revolution—of socialism—haunts the Legion, as it does the capitalist class. Therefore, the Legion has been given its orders, to wit: intensify your anti-labor campaign.

The American Legion was an "insurance policy" for capitalism against bolshevism and workers' unrest and dissatisfaction in the period after the First World War. The American ruling class expects the Legion, once again, this time in the period after the Second World War, to be an "insurance policy" against a militant labor movement and a potentially revolutionary movement. That is why the government and the capitalists give every possible political and organizational support to the American Legion. That is why President Roosevelt recently authorized the American Legion to organize NOW the soldiers and sailors of the Second World War.

Interests of Service Men

3. The labor movement, on the

other hand, must recognize the American Legion for what it is—an anti-labor, reactionary organization, bitterly hostile to the immediate and ultimate interests of workingmen.

The service men of today, together with the ex-service men of tomorrow, must not be drawn into the web of this tool of big business, to become a reservoir for prospective fascist demagogues and interests.

Since the overwhelming majority of the service men of yesterday, today and tomorrow are either workers, or men whose interests are linked to the workers, the mass of service men must look to the labor movement for the preservation of their rights and interests. Similarly, the labor movement must also look ahead and aim to integrate and re-integrate the workers now in the armed forces into the labor movement when the imperialist war is finally finished.

Interests of Service Men

3. The labor movement, on the

What India Means to the American Working Class

On the Role of the Indian Ruling Class

By J. R. JOHNSON

If we want to see how absolutely bound, either to one imperialism or another, a colonial ruling class is, let us first look at Burma:

The administration of U. Saw, the former Burmese Premier, came into office during the days when Britain seemed about to collapse. U. Saw gave splendid support to Britain. But U. Saw naturally wanted as much power as he could get for himself and for those who supported him. Furthermore, the masses of the peasants and workers in Burma, as all over the Far East, have been so exploited by foreign imperialisms that no government could hope to get any sustained effort from them without, at least, promising some sort of independence, some new status after the war. That is the least, but as India has shown, there are times when a promise will not suffice.

U. Saw went to Churchill and asked only for a promise of Dominion status after the war. U. Saw was willing to cooperate. But Churchill's reply was, to quote one account, "very blunt." He told U. Saw to get out. It was only then that U. Saw went to the Japanese, whereupon Churchill put him in jail and everybody called poor U. Saw a fifth columnist. U. Saw's chief assistant, U. Tin Tut, who was imprisoned with him, has since been released and, it is said, has joined the British Burmese administration in India. Sir Paw Tun, who succeeded U. Saw, praised his work and said that serious unrest had broken out in Burma after U. Saw's arrest. Yet, when the Japanese came, Sir Paw Tun crossed over into India with the British rulers.

In U. Saw playing see-saw between British imperialism and Japanese imperialism, and the suspicious masses looking hostilely on, you have the perfect picture of the general behavior of any colonial or semi-colonial ruling class. Now that France's imperial power is broken, you see Darlan, for instance, doing the same between American and German imperialism, keeping a watchful eye on the French workers.

U. Saw See-Saw in India

The Indian ruling groups are in the same situation as the Burmese, but every contradiction and conflict in India is a hundred times as sharp as in Burma.

First, the British have been in Burma less than seventy-five years. They have been robbing India for three hundred. There is no powerful working class in Burma. The Indian proletariat has organized great trade unions and has repeatedly shaken India with great strikes, both economic and political. Burma has only a small history of struggle for independence. The last twenty years in India has been one long struggle of India to free itself from British imperialism. The situation in India is at the breaking point, and has been for years. We must get this very clearly in mind or we shall make mistakes.

We have noted that there is a Prime Minister in Burma. There is a Prime Minister in Egypt and a King and Parliament. There is even an Egyptian army. Some years ago the French government was able to come to some sort of pseudo-independence arrangement with the ruling groups in Syria. But the situation in India is such that the British cannot afford to do even that. They have tried for years to construct some sort of formula for Indian government whereby they would retain the power while giving titles, position and a little more share in the exploitation of the masses to the Indian ruling class. But India has gone far beyond that stage.

Some years ago, during the long and tiresome negotiations over a new constitution for India, the Manchester Guardian gave a perfect picture of the Indian deadlock. This paper, famous for its liberalism, said that what was required was a policy which would look like control in Britain and like freedom in India.

East for the dynamite that it is.

Roosevelt got seriously alarmed. So did Chiang Kai-shek. But Prime Minister Churchill has grown stiffer and stiffer. If more proof were needed of the pressure that is being brought to bear on him, it can be seen in his latest manifesto at the Lord Mayor's banquet, flung in the teeth of everybody:

"Let me, however, make this clear, in case there should be any mistake about it in any quarter. [Note that "in any quarter."] We mean to hold our own. I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside at the liquidation of the British Empire. For that task, if ever it were prescribed, someone else would have to be found and under a democracy I suppose the nation would have to be consulted."

Social Progress In England . . .

"...It would be easy for a transient visitor at such times to be misled into believing that Britain was undergoing basic social and economic change were it not for the fact that the existing House of Commons, which is frozen politically for the duration of the coalition government and heavily weighted by conservatism, always postpones action by referring reform projects to committees.

"It is no accident that recently big industrialists, business men and reactionaries throughout the fabric of Britain have been becoming more outspoken than at any time since the war began against such forward looking documents as the Atlantic Charter."

—Raymond Daniell, in the New York Times, November 29.

bly) for all foreign missions, etc. This was the first installment of the self-government to come after the war. It reads like a joke. It was not. What else could the British offer at that time?

Such is the tension in India, such has it been for twenty years, that if an Indian government took charge of India today, during a war, after a few months it would have the British government at its mercy. War administration means power over taxation, over prices; it means power over industry, huge contracts, building new factories; it means control over propaganda, recruiting of Hindu regiments, appointment of Hindu officers, all sorts of emergency powers over property and people.

Gandhi and Nehru are weak, but they are not fools. Such power, which always grows in a war, would give them just that force which they need to make them a real factor in India. In any dispute they would lean back on Roosevelt, the dominant power in the United Nations. This was suitable to Roosevelt and American imperialism. At the end of the war, if victory was won, an Indian government would be firmly in the saddle. American imperialism would act as its god-father; it would have great prestige for having "won" independence. And Britain would have won the war and lost everything.

In fact, it is not too much to say that British imperialism might have offered a little more if it were not for the fact that anything like a reasonable offer was playing into the hands of American imperialism. These imperialists understand one another very well.

It was under those conditions that the Indian capitalists, bitterly disappointed, played their last card. They declared for civil disobedience. That this was meant only as a threat is shown by the fact that they organized nothing, had no economic demands which would appeal to the masses, and are begging to negotiate today. But the masses went much further than they expected. Their disobedience was uncivil to the last degree. They rioted continuously. They showed what they might do tomorrow. It is this new force on the scene, what it has done, and what it might do, which has shown up the situation in the Far

East for the dynamite that it is.

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What this means is clear: he will resign first. He will call for a general election. As far as he and the Conservative Party are concerned, they will subordinate the national unity and the unity of the United Nations to this question. The workers should remember this when they are called upon to sacrifice everything for the war.

Of course, Churchill MAY do something. It will be boosted in the press. The Indian politicians may decide to make the best of it. Weak as they are they can only beg and threaten. But, from Churchill, the one thing they will not get is POWER. And yet, to give them some sort of power to hold the Indian masses in check is an imperative necessity in the Far East today.

Future in the Far East

The future in the Far East is, first, a military question. In a war, it is what armies do that counts. But it is far more than that. If there is anything that this war, a supreme crisis of capitalist society, has taught us so far, it is to avoid routine thinking. Of the dangers of this, the recent history of France is a notable example. In such a crisis as the present one, it is the apparently unexpected, the gigantic unpredictable, that becomes the normal, and increasingly so as the war goes on and the strains tighten. It is in these times that the writing and predictions and analyses of the great Marxists, which seem so far-fetched in normal times, become of great importance for us, not to repeat them, but to study and apply them.

The greatest in our time was Lenin, who studied the Far East closely. Just before he ceased work in 1923 he summed up his views. Soviet Russia, he said, was weak and poor and could not last long without help. That help would most likely come by means of a tremendous revolution in the Far East, embracing hundreds of millions of people, who with the Russians formed the majority of the world's population. He meant, it would seem, that the general situation of the masses in the Far East was so bad, their exploitation was increasing at such a rate, that this revolution was imminent. If it succeeded in one place it would spread. And this would cripple and ruin the more powerful Western capitalist states to such a degree as to throw them into disorder and precipitate the world-wide downfall of imperialism.

Note that Lenin, however, was not mainly concerned with people like Gandhi, Nehru, Jinnah and Chiang Kai-shek. He wrote of the MASS REVOLUTION, of workers and peasants.

Twenty years have passed. Russia, instead of helping the revolution in the Far East, is today a counter-revolutionary force. A great revolution in China fifteen years ago was defeated. Yet in the view of this writer, the outstanding political feature of the war so far has been the way the masses in the Far East have pushed themselves forward to the very center of the political stage.

As the imperialist armies shock one another and the warring powers exhaust and demoralize the peoples of the world, the initiative

Los Angeles Police Harass Mexican Boys Without Cause

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 30—In their hysterical pursuit of "Mexican gangs" the Los Angeles police have arrested over 3,000 Mexican youths in the last six weeks. Of these, only 300 were convicted of any charge whatsoever.

Eighty Mexican boys were arrested coming home from a wedding. One Mexican was picked up coming home with a new portable radio he had bought for his wife and was beaten.

In fact, after dark in certain districts, the cops pick up anyone who happens to be a Mexican. Frequently they are beaten.

The discrimination and brutal arrests against the Mexican people have gone so far that the Mayor and the District Attorney's office have had to deny that there are any undue arrests of Mexicans.

CIO Council Protests

The CIO Council has gone on record several times protesting the action of the police. The Council has asked the Mexican government to protest the procedure at the trial

of twenty-two Mexican youths charged with murder. The trial is now in its sixth week. The prosecution has refused to allow the boys to obtain haircuts and clean clothing in an obvious attempt to prejudice the jury.

The CIO Council has set up a committee of unionists to cooperate with the Lawyers Guild in the defense of the Mexican youths and to acquaint the rest of the trade union movement with the discrimination practiced against the Mexican people.

In Southern California, the Mexican people have been discriminated against in getting jobs, living quarters, relief, and government services. It's up to the labor movement to fight against this discrimination.

The latest action of the police against the Mexican people should be condemned by every working man and brought to the attention of his union. He should see to it that his union goes on record as disapproving the action of the police.

will pass to these hundreds of millions. The full power may be delayed until after the war. We cannot predict how, when, or where. But today every calculation as to what may come out of this war must give their Far Eastern revolution a high rating.

Roosevelt, Willkie, Chiang Kai-shek, Gandhi, Nehru, the leaders of the former Dutch Empire, are all acutely aware of what is brewing, and the blows the Japanese armies have administered are made ten times worse by the obvious determination of the Axis leaders to use this enormous revolutionary power if they can.

It is this which gives importance to the Indian Congress. What Roosevelt hopes to do is to use the Indian ruling class to check this pent-up torrent. Chiang too wants exactly that solution. He cares nothing about Britain, but much for his own hide.

There is already a pro-Japanese puppet administration in China under Wang Chin-Wei. There are pro-Japanese elements in Chiang's "Free" China. As British "obstinacy" continues to imperil the whole United Nations cause in the Far East, these pro-Japanese elements obviously are strengthened in their view that it would be better to cooperate with Japan. If there is any catastrophe, military or political, Chiang and his supporters, wife, sisters and all, face extinction because the Japanese would not want to come to terms with Chiang, Nehru and the rest.

And yet the American workers must watch and analyze and think. The war may last years longer and millions of workers will die, as a result of these tricks and maneuvers of the imperialist powers. Least of all must we pay too much attention to those miserable puppets, the leaders of the India Congress, and all these high-sounding speeches. Far more than Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang, they, powerless as they are, live in mortal terror of the mass movement. The only power they will ever have is what the imperialists push into their hands or what the revolting workers force on them. Why this is so we shall see in the next two articles.

Post Office Ban - -

(Continued from page 1)

grounds WHATSOEVER for banning the Fourth International. The very silence of the Post Office, its refusal to make specific charges and hold hearings, is proof. Post Office rules, under the bureaucratic set-up of the Department, require hearings only in the case of revocation of second-class mailing rights. Individual issues of a publication may be barred without any specifications or hearings. The Post Office is consequently using its bureaucratic powers to the utmost to suppress the two periodicals without provoking wider indignation by stating its reactionary reasons.

There is only one conclusion and that conclusion is unmistakable. It has barred these periodicals from the mails because both of them defend the rights of labor, condemn Jim Crow and otherwise refuse to bow before the government's anti-labor program.

In a press release issued last week, the American Civil Liberties Union protested the action of the Post Office Department on the ground that no charges had been made. The ACLU declares that "an examination of the issue barred discloses no material that can be properly construed

as violating the Espionage Act in the light of previous decisions."

The Call, organ of the Socialist Party, and the New Leader, organ of the Social-Democratic Party, have also protested the ban.

The suppression of The Militant was, by itself, a dangerous violation of civil rights and freedom of the press. With the suppression of the Fourth International this danger has been multiplied many-fold, and the iniquitous intentions of the Post Office bureaucrats further revealed.

This high-handedness should arouse a storm of protest in the labor movement because labor cannot afford to let this blow at its freedom of the press—or any blow against civil liberties—to go unchallenged. The very same undemocratic and unwarranted suppression that is applied today against The Militant and the Fourth International can be used tomorrow against a labor or union press of any kind—or, more broadly, against any paper or periodical that speaks its own mind.

We repeat, and will continue to repeat until the ban on The Militant and the Fourth International is lifted: PROTEST THE ACTION OF THE POST OFFICE DICTATORS. FOR A FREE LABOR PRESS!

Detroit Workers, Attention

For further information about LABOR ACTION, write to PO Box, 1805, Detroit

Editorials

On Beveridge And Capitalism

We have twice commented in detailed articles on the so-called Beveridge Plan for post-war England. We intend to return to this fraudulent piece of social planning which seeks to eradicate the injustices of the world inside the framework of the greatest injustice of all: class rule. With the liberal-capitalist press gushing itself sick over the marvels of the plan, and predicting a similar plan by Roosevelt, we wish to make comment on only one aspect of the Beveridge Plan.

Beveridge's scheme for the enlightened regeneration of democratic capitalism in England is unwittingly a withering indictment of capitalism, and consequently, of the plan itself. Examine the Beveridge scheme. What are its principal features? They are: unemployment, sickness and death insurance. As we have explained in LABOR ACTION, these provisions are far from adequate. They provide, for example, for \$1.25 a week to bring up a child.

But more than that, and giving the plan every benefit of the doubt, its very nature proves that capitalism is so decrepit and bankrupt, so outlived and reactionary, that its most "progressive" scheme for social reconstruction is predicated on unemployment and insecurity—twin scourges of capitalist society.

A world is torn in the conflict of war. Millions suffer indescribable horrors. And when the war is over and the world is back to normal, capitalism, in its fever of enlightenment and anxiety, promises the people of England what? Promises them the same old rottenness of deprivation and breadlines—but streamlined!

The last two years of war production have proved the unlimited possibilities of industrial advance. But so decayed is capitalism that it can envisage the use of these industries—and the possibilities have hardly been tapped!—only for the purposes of war. In peace, it is back we go to the closed factory gates, cobwebby machinery and painful pavement pounding in search of a job.

As do the bankers and bosses everywhere, Beveridge sees this post-war world clearly. Sees its throttled industries, its poverty in the midst of plenty. And, speaking for capitalism AT ITS BEST (for the actualities of post-war world capitalism will in no wise resemble the Beveridge Plan) offers solace in unemployment insurance spread more widely and liberally.

Unemployment insurance is a good and necessary thing. Under capitalism it is something the masses have to fight for, demand—and given the continuation of capitalism, fight for it is precisely what the masses will have to do.

But it is possible to build a world in which salvation will NOT lie in a miserable \$1.25 a week for a child. It is possible to build a world in which ALL will be employed in producing the goods that make for health and security. A world in which science will everlastingly plumb the resources of industrial plenty. A

world in which the nightmare of unemployment will disappear—but, equally, a world in which the bitterness of exploitation—long hours, low pay, speed-up—will be ended. A world in which no man will live off the toil of another; a world in which social equality will be guaranteed by the social ownership of industry.

This world of which we speak is a workers' world, a socialist world built on the fresh ground of peace, security and freedom, from which the dead-wood of capitalist injustice will have been swept away. This is OUR plan for the reconstruction of the world, and we, THE WORKERS, putting our might and aspirations behind that plan, can realize it.

The Beveridge Plan is all right for capitalists seeking to hold on to their ill-gotten property and class rule by feeble concessions. It's no good for us. Our plan is: SOCIALISM. And we'll have to do the job of realizing it ourselves. So let's begin doing it now—building our strength today for the socialist victory tomorrow!

From Empire to 'Commonwealth'

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, who has neither her country nor her colonies, has just announced her "post-war plans"—and they're sure to put some more zip into your spirit! Here's what the Queen sees as the world of the future, or at least her share of it:

1. Creation of a "post-war Netherlands Commonwealth."
2. The "Commonwealth" is to be made up of four parts, each a "complete partnership."
3. The four parts are Holland, the Dutch East Indies, Curacao and Surinam. That is, one piece of mother capitalist land mixed with three colonies makes—one "commonwealth"!

She used to call it an empire; now it's a commonwealth! What's the difference? Does the gracious Queen think that the millions of Javanese, Sumatrans and East Indians—who thought so little of her rule that they refused to help her when the Japanese were marching in, are going to stand for the restoration of the old order under a new name?

The Queen said, in announcing her reactionary plans: "I know that no political unit nor national cohesion can continue to exist which is not supported by the voluntary acceptance and the faith of the great majority of the citizenry."

That would seem to rule her out of the running, if the Dutch and the colonial people ever get the chance to exercise their rights. The Dutch will vote for a democratic workers' and people's government—and not a reactionary monarchy; the colonials will vote for national independence—and not a restoration of the hated rule of the Queen's overseers, plantation masters and white imperialists.



Cover design of pamphlet issued by the Workers Party. You can order copies of this pamphlet from the Workers Party, 114 West 14th Street, New York, N. Y. 25 cents for a single copy; 20 cents per copy in bundles of five or more.

Gets Dictatorial Powers --

(Continued from page 1)
Army. Deferments, it is reported, have been denied union militants. With a dictatorial coordination of the draft and manpower agencies, the process of putting the draft skids under labor militants can now be streamlined, speeded and generally facilitated.

There is, however, something that can be done about it, and it is up to the unions to take care of the "doing." It is up to the union to protect its membership. If a worker is threatened with the draft because he refuses to shift jobs as directed, or seeks a higher wage, it is the union's job to see to it that his interests are protected.

Of course, the ostensible purpose behind the new order is to relieve the draft pressure on men in industry so that the factories will not lose irreplaceable workers. No doubt this entered into the motivations. And, cleverly, the sting was taken out of the order by the release of 38-year-old and over men from the draft. But that's only a deceptive concession intended to make the whole idea more palatable. Once before the draft age was lowered to 35, and then raised. The same may happen again. Whether that is so or not does not materially affect the essence of the scheme. Above all, the possible effects of the draft and employment tie-up bear watching by the unions.

Furthermore, the United States Employment Service, now under McNutt, has been given wider powers. These powers do not specifically prescribe job freezing, but they CAN be used to the same effect. The Administration has so far hesitated to risk the indignation of the union movement that would certainly follow a job freezing order. But the same may here be accomplished under the cover of general powers given McNutt.

Here again the utmost of union vigilance is demanded to spike the first signs of job freezing.

In his recommendations to the President, McNutt asked that the USES be made the clearing house for all employment "with proper exceptions made for union hiring halls satisfactory to the WMC." As yet a complete definition of McNutt's new powers has not been issued. Some

Eats with Negro; Is Fined \$50

So you think this is a free country? You think you can talk to, live with, associate with anyone you like? Well, try it down South and you'll pay a \$50 fine for the privilege.

Donald Rasmussen, a white professor, and his wife were visiting in Birmingham, Ala., when they decided to meet and dine with a friend of theirs, Louis Burnham, local Negro educator. They were hailed into court and fined \$25 each for violating the city segregation code prohibiting members of the two races from eating in the same restaurant. The restaurant owner was fined \$50.

When originally proposed for enactment into law even the most tepid of union leaders rose in arms and denounced it as a dangerous piece of "malted fist" legislation. If the unions aren't on their toes, IF THE UNIONS DO NOT APPLY

THE PRESSURE OF ACTIVE OPPOSITION, the "draft labor" scheme will be put over WITHOUT benefit of legislation.

Under the McNutt intention, the USES could force labor to accept any job, anywhere and at any pay. To be sure, where unions are satisfactory to the WMC (McNutt), that is, where union halls do everything but function as UNION halls, they may retain their power. This threat to unions with hiring hall power must also be carefully watched and stifled in its infancy.

In our issue of November 9 we said that we were opposed to any kind of manpower dictator, but that we were doubly suspicious of any proposal or order that makes McNutt the dictator. McNutt's record is well known. In none of it is there the slightest sign of a pro-labor attitude. When he was governor of Indiana, labor dubbed him the "Hoosier Hitler." This "Hoosier Hitler" has now been given the most sweeping powers over manpower ever given an individual in this country. Every step he takes must therefore be watched, and watched with the greatest of care. The first misstep should be met with ear-shattering furor.

Left to his own devices, McNutt will seek to emasculate the union movement, strip it of its powers, fetter its rights. The time to let McNutt know that he will not get away with any anti-union scheme is RIGHT NOW, at once. It does no good to wait. Because, while we shall be waiting, McNutt will be acting. Labor must IMMEDIATELY serve notice that it will resist any attempt to use the draft as a club over workers, that it will resist job freezing, that it will resist the "malted fist" of draft labor machinery. As always, the time to act against a threat is BEFORE it becomes a reality.

INDIA:

Judd Pamphlet A Reading MUST

By Reva Craine

INDIA IN REVOLT, by Henry Judd, with an introduction by Max Shachtman. Published by the Workers Party of America, New York, 1942; 101 pages, 25 cents.

Here at last is a book which tells the story of India without the usual apologetics for the aspirations of the Indian people and without appealing to them to lay aside their desire for national independence until the "Four Freedoms" are conceded by the United Nations. "India in Revolt" is written from the standpoint of the interests of the international working class, English and American as well as Indian.

In a style that is at once ardent in its devotion to the cause of Indian liberation and coldly objective in its analysis of the tasks confronting the colonial peoples, Henry Judd supplies the historical background of the present revolt and explains its relationship to the Second World War.

In the opening chapters Judd explains the development of India from its history and mode of life before the British conquest through two and a half centuries of British rule. The old communal system was ruthlessly and treacherously destroyed by the white sahib until the English today control every decisive and important factor of India's life.

Today India is a land of contrasts—not, as Judd tells us, in the technicolor of a movie travelogue, but in the juxtaposition of the world's worst slums and huge manorial estates; the contrast of the "kisan" working the soil as he did sixty centuries ago and the Indian proletariat working in the up-to-date factory in Cawnpore; the contrast of extreme poverty side by side with the fabulous wealth of the British and feudal princes. "These are social and political contrasts that explain the causes and source of the revolutionary upheaval that rocks the Indian sub-continent," says the author.

Arising out of the almost unbearable conditions of life, the nationalist movement has peculiarly Indian features, though basically it has the same characteristics common to all colonial movements. The conquest by the British overthrew the old class relationships but created new classes, and the struggle between these classes goes on unabated. Each social grouping behaves according to the dictates of its class interests. The writer clearly explains the aims and wishes of each class in India—the feudal princes, the native bourgeoisie, the peasantry and the proletariat—showing how their conduct flows from these aims.

Of all the classes, only two, the peasantry and proletariat, must have national independence, in order to achieve what they want—land and freedom from taxation for the one; and economic security and freedom from exploitation for the other. The national bourgeoisie can always compromise with imperialism—and always does. Therein lies the explanation of the conduct of the National Congress. An examination of the existing political parties shows that only one has an uncompromising program—the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India—because it is the party of socialism.

One of the most interesting sections of the book answers a number of frequently asked questions about India, regarding the religious differences, language differences, national minorities, etc. Finally, to the question as to whether India, for the sake of her own defense, ought not to wait until Japan is licked before demanding freedom from England, Judd replies: the Indian people can defend themselves against Japan only if they are free, only if they have something worth defending, their national independence, which they have desired for 250 years!

In a closing letter, Judd, speaking for the oppressed and gagged workers of India, tells the American and British workers why they must assist in the struggle for Indian independence and how the Indian Revolution is bound up with battles of the American workers.

At the end of the book there is a section called "Facts on India" which speak as eloquently as statistics can about conditions in that country. The Indian people are on the march—their revolution has just begun. In the course of time, the Indian workers will create the necessary organizations and leadership for victory. The American workers must assist them. But first we must understand what is happening in India—and why. For this, Henry Judd's book is invaluable and is a must for every worker.

No Comment...

"According to the Frenchmen who have come here (North Africa) from France, the fear of the German political and military police haunted them. They were certain that the Germans would sooner or later occupy the whole of France...."

"These arrivals quite candidly acknowledged that Admiral Darlan's authoritarian, corporate and clerical state system was for them anything but temporary. This is the way they see the future of the Allies will drive the Germans out of North Africa, wrest control of the Mediterranean from the Axis, win the victory in Europe and then withdraw from Africa. Thereupon, according to President Roosevelt's pledge, these territories will return to French hands. Having, through the immigration of industrialists, bankers and financiers, gained the political majority for conservatism in North Africa, they naturally hope to perpetuate a regime favorable to them."—New York Times, December 8.

LABOR ACTION

A Paper in the Interests of Labor

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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. \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
3. Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
4. For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
5. No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
6. For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations, housewives and farmers' organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
7. No government contract without a union contract! The closed shop in all war industries!
8. Maintain and increase all government social services!
- SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!
9. A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
10. Conscript all war industries under workers' control!
11. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three percent of the people who own 96 per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

12. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
13. The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
14. The right of all youth, male or female, to vote at the age of eighteen. Old enough to fight; old enough to work; old enough to vote!
15. For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

SMASH JIM CROW!

16. 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!
17. For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

BE PREPARED!

18. For Workers' Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, against vigilante and fascist attacks!
19. For an Independent Labor Party and a Workers' Government! No political support to the Roosevelt government!
20. For Peace Through Socialism! For the independence of all colonies!
21. For a World Socialist Federation! Only a socialist world will destroy capitalist imperialism and fascist barbarism!

"'Twas the Night Before Christmas"
--And a Damn Good Time was Stirring at

LABOR ACTION'S

XMAS EVE PARTY

- BAZAAR—Exciting Values at Amazingly low prices.
- DANCING—Gregory Felix and Seven Swingsters—Village Maestro of Swing and Calypso.
- FOLK AND SQUARE DANCING—Choose your partner and cut a caper.
- COMMUNITY SING—Oil up your tonsils and sing off key to your heart's content.

DOOR PRIZES

REFRESHMENTS

Start the New Year Right!

THURSDAY EVE., DEC. 24, 9:00 p.m.

Grand Ballroom—IRVING PLAZA—Irving Place and 15th Street

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Come Early, Stay Late