

Coup in Argentina Leaves Reactionaries Running the Country

By HENRY LORING

The "revolution" in Argentina, while it has not developed along quite the lines that would fully satisfy our State Department, nevertheless shows no signs of giving either Argentine or American industrialists any cause for worry; nor does it give the Argentine masses any cause for hope.

The overthrow of the reactionary Castillo government was accomplished by an assortment of generals, admirals and politicians ranging in political complexion from moderately conservative to openly fascist. They appear to have the situation well in hand.

General Arturo Rawson, who assumed the office of President in the new regime, resigned after three days and was replaced by General Pedro Pablo Ramirez, who immediately dissolved the Senate. There have been no indications of wild enthusiasm on the part of Argentine workers. The only civilian in General Ramirez's cabinet is Dr. Santamarina, who "has for many years been president of the Central Bank of the Argentine."

The Ramirez regime has made the usual declarations of its stern intention to maintain public order, etc., etc., and disappointed the U.S. State Department by a further declaration of "neutrality" toward the rest of the world. Restrictions on civil liberties will not be relaxed.

The Argentine Socialist Party has expressed some polite doubts as to the democratic character of the new government. The Socialist Party has always been a very polite party, and there is no revolutionary socialist grouping in Argentina of sufficient size to influence events, or even to make itself heard.

The Argentine affair has at least revealed one thing: that we have a bunch of real revolutionists in Washington. FDR's boys have shown that they have a warm appreciation of revolution (at the right time—and at the right place), that they are by no means inclined to turn their backs upon all forms of political activity that are not strictly peaceful and constitutional. The military revolt in the Argentine was regarded very benignly, as a true expression of the democratic spirit. You can just see the bright young men of the State Department discussing, over their mint juleps, the fine points of the coup d'état.

Of course, there are revolutions and revolutions. A few trade unionists in Minneapolis can get together to discuss ways and means of protecting their union against fascist attacks—and THAT'S not only a full-fledged revolution but a NASTY, BAD revolution that no decent person here or in the Argentine would have anything to do with. When General Arturo Rawson, at the head of several thousand revolting troops, marches into Buenos Aires and seizes control of the government, and President Castillo flees in a gunboat, THAT'S a revolution to go down in history as a magnificent expression of the spirit of the "four freedoms."

Klan Responsible For Packard Trouble

DETROIT, June 7—Twenty-seven men were suspended today by order of the Army as "instigators" of the recent walk-out against upgrading of Negroes at the Packard Motor Co. as the plant resumed operations.

Among those suspended are an undisclosed number of Negro workers. All the Negroes in the plant had struck (several days before the general walk-out which began last Thursday) to force the company to upgrade colored workers. Apparently, the alleged leaders of THAT strike are those now penalized.

Union officials have proved that the Packard director of industrial relations, C. E. Weiss, told the white workers that they did not have to work with the upgraded Negroes when the company was compelled to place colored workers in the aircraft engine division. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, has also charged that the Ku Klux Klan organized the walk-out against the Negroes. (See his statement below.)

In a telegram to Col. George Strong, industrial relations officer of the Army Air Forces, the officials of Local 190, UAW-CIO, announced the "removal of the men accused of stoppage from the plant" and demanded the immediate removal of Weiss because the "men suspended followed his advice that they did not have to work with Negroes."

The local officials, however, do not mention the suspended colored workers. No announcement has been made of any plans to defend these workers who fought for their rights as union members and citizens. The Stalinist-controlled local, whose leaders have boasted of the best union-management committees for the speed-up of production in the entire country, have been accused of constantly seeking to compromise with the reactionary elements in the plant and with the company "in the interests of national unity and the war effort."

There have been at least six work stoppages at Packard in the past year instigated by the Ku Klux Klan, which had a strong group there at the start of the UAW-CIO organization. The Stalinist line has been to patch up the immediate causes of the conflicts without tackling the real problem of Klanism. Now it appears that they are ready to sacrifice militant Negro workers to the disciplinary action of the Army.

Says UAW Is Ready To Fight the Klan

DETROIT, June 6—Charging that the four-day Packard walk-out against the upgrading of Negro workers "was in fact actively promoted, organized and carried out by agents of the Ku Klux Klan or its successor body in Detroit," R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, told the 20,000 delegates assembled at the NAACP mass rally here today that the union demands a full investigation of the Klan by the federal government.

He declared that he had received further evidence of the Klan instigation of the walk-out just before coming to the meeting. He added: "I refer to the transcript of a telephone conversation held Friday night and taken down verbatim by a newspaper reporter, with the caretaker of the Forest Social Club, widely known headquarters of the 'nightshirt Axis.'"

"This transcript, which names names and clearly shows that members of this organization were active in fomenting the situation at Packard, will be turned over to federal authorities with the demand from the UAW-CIO that the government move in forthwith to discover whether or not there is any connection between the Klan and Axis agents in Detroit.

"This evidence, together with other documentary evidence already in the possession of the authorities—such as a formal invitation to Klansmen in the Packard plant, signed by the 'Excellent Cyclops' and 'by mandate of the Imperial Wizard' to a Klan meeting held in early April—convinces me that enemy agents are using the 'nightshirt Axis' to do their work in the arsenal of democracy.

"I stand by my pledge of yesterday: the UAW-CIO will fight with everything we've got to see that every worker, regardless of his color or creed, has a chance to work for his country at his highest skill—and not on a Jim Crow basis, either.

"If the Ku Klux Klan and the rest of the nightshirt boys want to fight the UAW on this issue, we're ready and willing to take them on....

"I demand that the federal government, including the FBI and the La Follette Civil Liberties Committee, come to Detroit without delay and get to the bottom of this situation, and expose the Klan and kindred bodies for the filth they are."

Go and Do Likewise!

DETROIT, June 6—Eighty-seven six-month subscriptions to LABOR ACTION and one hundred and eighty-two copies of "India in Revolt," by Henry Judd, were sold to delegates to the NAACP conference and rally here. While most of the new subscribers are Detroit workers, the list includes individuals from many other places, as widely separated as Tampa, Fla., and Wichita, Kan.

LABOR ACTION

JUNE 14, 1943

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

WORKERS, BLOCK PASSAGE OF CONNALLY-SMITH BILL!

This Can't Be Handled by Police!

An Editorial on the "Race Riots" in Newark

Incidents growing out of a grade school track meet in Newark, N. J., recently resulted in a "race riot" in which a fifteen-year-old Negro boy was killed and a young white boy was seriously injured. To date no one, except probably the principals in the affair, seems to know why and how the "riot" began.

It is known that a fight of some sort took place between Negro and white youths at the meet, and that later in the day bands of these youths began roaming the streets armed with whatever weapons they could lay hands on. A group of white boys accosted two Negro boys and demanded to know whether or not they had attended the track meet. Before the boys could answer, one of the white boys fired a shot at one of the Negro boys, who later died. One white boy was taken to the hospital, stabbed, and may die.

For a few days following, groups of Negro and white boys roved the streets, presumably looking for each other. They were armed with weapons of all varieties: guns, sabers, bricks, clubs and knives.

By this time the Newark police had

awakened to the situation, and were beginning to make arrests. The strange part of the activity of the police was the fact that only Negro boys were arrested. The police acted as though the fighting had taken place between Negro boys, that the Negro boy who had been killed was killed by a Negro, and that the white boy in the hospital had also been stabbed by a Negro. No white boys were arrested.

Negro boys were arrested indiscriminately and held in police stations with no charges against them. One boy was released when his mother, a war industry worker, went to the police station and demanded her son's release.

The Newark director of public safety entered the affair with a public statement that the Negroes of Newark knew him to be their friend. He hoped that they would remain law-abiding, and promised that justice would be done. This statement appeared right at the time that the police were making wholesale arrests of Negro boys and making no effort whatsoever to find the white boys who were involved in the murder of the Negro youth.

This incident is out of the same piece of cloth as similar incidents in other cities in the United States. An interracial fight takes place. Negroes prefer to defend and protect themselves because they know from experience that they cannot expect protection from the police department, which all too often is busy either covering up the white mob or spurring it on. Then some city official comes out with an insulting declaration about friendship and admonishes the Negroes to "remain law abiding." All of which solves nothing, answers none of the relevant questions and gets nowhere.

The police, even the best police department, can do very little in situations of this type. The trouble transcends the mental equipment of a cop, and goes far deeper than any police solution. New York City tried the same methods to halt a "crime wave" in Harlem. For weeks during the night cops were hiding in doorways and crouching in dark corners to apprehend "muggers." Of course, such a procedure failed to get at the root of the problem.

(Continued on page 4 in editorial column)

Congress Is Hell-Bent to Put Shackles On Workers

By GERTRUDE SHAW

If a man is held up by ambushed gangsters, beaten and robbed, it might be said that it's his own fault for not staying home where he belongs.

Only by virtue of such cock-eyed and distorted reasoning can it be claimed that the strike of the miners is responsible for the Connally-Smith anti-strike bill. On this sinister anti-labor measure the Senate and House are almost in complete accord, and they are now hell-bent to pass it before June 20—the deadline set by John L. Lewis for a new miners' contract.

The congressional ganging-up against labor has been well prepared. The master minds have had the Connally-Smith bill in readiness for many a month—waiting for the best opportunity to spring it on labor. The golden opportunity has now come, but not through the action of the miners. That kind of action or the threat of it, would do more to stop anti-labor legislation than a million pious speeches. The opportunity has come to the labor-haters as a result of the weakness of the labor leaders. These weak-kneed labor leaders justified their appeasement of the bosses partly on the ground that it would halt threatened anti-labor legislation. Well, they appeased the bosses, yielded labor's rights. Result: the reactionaries did not retreat before this sign of weakness; they pressed forward.

Every fascist-like restriction that their fertile minds, inspired

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Boss and Government Machinations Fail to Break Coal Miners' Ranks

By DAVID COOLIDGE

This piece is being written on June 9, just eleven days before the new "truce" in the mine strike situation expires. It is probable that a settlement will be reached before the "truce" expires. The settlement will not come because of anything that the operators have contributed, or because Ickes or the WLB decided to gather up their marbles and go home. The strike will not end because the miners have been scared by a bill presented to Congress by a couple of backwoods "statesmen" from two poll-tax states of the South.

The strike will probably be settled before June 20 because it must be clear by now to everyone, the WLB included, that the miners are getting mad. It is about time. This run-around has gone on long enough.

All the forces lined up against the mine workers realize now that they put their foot in it. Now they are only trying to save face. They know now that they haven't scared the miners, and that they are not likely to. The WLB, a group of labor leaders, big business men and something known as the "public group," attempts to wield the big stick with a great deal of bravado and strutting, but no one is impressed, certainly not the miners. This board has no prestige and should quit and go home. Its hatchet man and chief cop in the present dispute is Wayne Morse, law professor and "liberal." Mr. Morse has the nice-sounding title of WLB "compliance officer." In the past, Mr. Morse has talked about strikers being charged with "treason."

Mr. Ickes has entered the scene again with statements and telegrams. He is the "custodian" of the mines but he has no authority. It is reported that Roosevelt was inclined to let Ickes handle the dispute and reach a settlement, but the WLB took the position that, if Ickes was given authority, the board would resign. The WLB won out, and saved its face for the present.

The operators don't like the situation either. They have been sitting tight since March 10, hoping that the miners would crack. They depended on the government to do their dirty work for them, but the miners' ranks have held firm even

in the face of this threat. Now the operators feel that their WLB has made a few mistakes.

Mr. Burke, representing the Southern Appalachian operators, in commenting on the order of the WLB to cease negotiations, said that while the instruction of the UMWA officials to the miners to return to work "was not technically in compliance" with the WLB directive, "it is a sufficient compliance so that we could at once proceed with our efforts to reach an agreement." Mr. O'Neil of the Northern Appalachian operators used stronger language when he said: "As far as I am concerned, the board made a grave mistake. I think the action constitutes a wholly unwarranted and unnecessary obstruction

to the work of the conference."

The instructions of the UMWA leadership for the miners to return to work on Monday wasn't enough for the little WLB. They wanted to see every last miner all over the country actually back on the job before permitting the resumption of negotiations. Said "Compliance Officer" Morse: "...the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators are not to resume contract negotiations until the mine workers are actually back at work."

It is clear that the miners have the whole bunch backed against the wall. If they keep them there they will win. The miners should take full advantage of the disagreements that must be under discussion behind the scenes. The WLB quarrels with

Ickes, and Ickes quarrels with the WLB and the operators. The operators, after putting all their eggs in the WLB basket, now perhaps feel that the WLB has let them down since the board hasn't been able to frighten the miners yet.

The operators were hoping that the government would break the strike quickly. They are afraid that the miners will win a substantial award that will be retroactive. This means they will have to pay out a lot of money in back wages. That's the reason they did not agree with the WLB decision to halt negotiations until the miners were actually back at work. They haven't been able to break the

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Sub Drive Over Top Ahead of Time!

By HENRY COLEMAN, Campaign Director

	13th Week: May-30-June 5 Returns	Pct. of Total Quota Achieved
Detroit	13	236
Buffalo	7	167
Chicago	—	132
Cleveland	1	114
Los Angeles	10	113
New York	9	91
Sierraville	—	80
Streator	—	80
Akron	—	72
National Office	11	62
Reading	—	40
St. Louis	—	30
Philadelphia	11	29
Weekly Total	63	
Grand Total	949	94.9

AS THIS ISSUE OF LABOR ACTION GOES TO PRESS, EIGHTY-SEVEN SUBS HAVE COME IN FROM DETROIT, WHICH, ADDED TO THE PAST WEEK'S TOTAL, PUTS US WELL ABOVE OUR GOAL OF ONE THOUSAND SUBS! Next week we'll tell the whole story. It looks as if we'll exceed our quota for the drive by the full hundred subs we asked for, and maybe do a lot better. Meanwhile, HATS OFF TO DETROIT!

Our returns for the past week increased slightly over the previous week. Philadelphia had its best week of the drive, and that helped. But this was offset by New York's poor returns. New York will show up a lot better next week.

Now with only two more weeks to go, and with our goal already reached, HOW ABOUT PUTTING EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT INTO A FINAL PUSH?

And now's the time to order those Prepaid Sub Cards and put them to work! Remember that these cards offer the simplest, quickest and best means of selling a sub. Buy them from LABOR ACTION at twenty-five cents each, sell them to your friends at twenty-five cents each—good for a six months' trial sub. The cards are stamped and addressed to LABOR ACTION. The person that buys the card has only to fill in his own name and address and drop the card in the mail box. His subscription will be entered as soon as we receive the card. Use the sub blank to order your cards. If a substantial number of our readers will get into the habit of buying a few of these cards from us every now and then, many of our problems will be solved. It's hard to keep going on twenty-five-cent subs. But if they're paid for in advance and if we have an army of sub-getters that we can depend on to keep them coming in, a lot can be accomplished.

Detroit responded to our call for a little socialist competition with a batch of subs that made our eyes bug out. We'd like to see some socialist competition with these Prepaid Sub Cards. Philadelphia has bought some, and a couple of other cities have indicated that they are going to. But the response must be better than that. It's a sure-fire way to get subs—once you've tried it, you will see. ORDER YOUR SUB CARDS NOW!

LABOR ACTION
114 West 14th St., New York City

LABOR ACTION, 6 mos., 25c.; 1 yr., 50c.
New International, 6 mos., \$1.00; 1 yr., \$1.50. LABOR ACTION and New International, 6 mos., \$1.00; 1 yr., \$1.75.

Enclosed find \$_____ for which please enter my subscription to
LABOR ACTION _____ 1 yr., 6 mos.
New International _____ 1 yr., 6 mos.
LABOR ACTION and
New International _____ 1 yr., 6 mos.

Please send me _____ Twenty-Five-Cent Prepaid Sub Cards, at twenty-five cents each, for which I enclose \$_____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Old Craft Union Dispute Behind IAM-AFL Break

By MIKE STEVENS

The withdrawal of the International Association of Machinists from the American Federation of Labor, after forty-eight years of affiliation, is a direct outgrowth of jurisdictional conflicts in which the bureaucrats refuse to relinquish their private preserves. This action once again shows the inability of the outmoded craft set-up to keep step with the advance of production and modern industrial methods. And it further reveals craft unionism as the breeding ground of jurisdictional squabbles.

Jurisdictional disputes are almost as old as the AFL itself. But the development of mass production, and the growth of the industrial giants has intensified these squabbles a

hundred-fold. The IAM is a craft union, and does not have any fundamental disagreement with the AFL. Its departure is due to developments within the labor movement, and is related to the basic structure of both the IAM and the AFL.

Crowded by Building Trades
The IAM is in direct competition with the United Auto Workers, Steel Workers, United Electrical & Radio Workers of the CIO and with District 50 of the United Mine Workers. The growth of the CIO unions in these industries has been very much at the expense of the IAM and the other Metal Trades Department unions of the AFL.

On the other hand, however, the Building Trades Department of the AFL has suffered very little from

the CIO; in fact, the impetus given by the CIO to organization eyes aided the unopposed Building Trades.

All craft leaders are interested in preserving intact their interests, regardless of the fact that new methods, materials and processes have substituted or overlapped craft lines, and in many cases have broken them down completely. The Building Trades are taking advantage of their control in the AFL to guarantee their own personal future by raiding the weaker Metal Trades Department. They deny the all-inclusive jurisdictional claims of the IAM, and even refused it permission to join the Building Trades Department, although the IAM has many members in that industry.

By refusing membership to the IAM, the Building Trades Department forced IAM members, and all others claimed by IAM jurisdiction in the building trades, to join their unions, because all agreements signed with building associations and with the government gave the Building Trades Department exclusive jurisdiction.

William Green did not dare raise a finger on this issue. The IAM became suspicious when Green did not include one single member from the Metal Trades Department on the AFL peace committee which discussed unity with the CIO. But their fears that the Building Trades might make a deal with the CIO at their expense were really heightened when the

AFL-CIO peace committee agreed in a secret pact, revealed long after their public resolution, to arbitrate any jurisdictional dispute. This was the first time that the AFL had agreed that the CIO was much more than a "dual" upstairs that ought to come home.

To arbitrate jurisdictional differences is a procedure the AFL has not permitted its own affiliates in cases of long-standing disputes. By the "secret pact" decision, the IAM and the other MTD unions were the only ones that might suffer any appreciable consequences, for they

are the unions that are in conflict with the CIO.

Organized Many Thousands

Taking advantage of the CIO's appeasement policies of the past two years, the IAM has demagogically disclaimed any responsibility for the giving up of many of the workers' rights and benefits. It has conducted a vigorous campaign and has organized many thousands of workers. During the same period, the Building Trades were very busy with government and war building work.

But the building of camps by civilians, and other sections of the construction program, is nearing an end. The union leaders are now faced with the problem of their members entering industrial plants. These building trades unions are not only insisting that these workers remain members of their unions, but they are now taking time off to check up on what the IAM has organized during the past two years. Through their control of the AFL, they could take what they want, and also insist on being part of the craft picture in whatever future situation the IAM is involved.

The IAM is attempting to organize the aircraft industry. It realizes that in order to be successful in this it must oppose the powerful UAW by not presenting itself as part of a craft set-up. In aircraft, the IAM organizes the workers on an industrial basis, but sets them apart in a special subdivision where their union privileges are very limited. It is difficult enough for the IAM to explain this second-class citizenship to the aircraft workers without having the additional burden of trying to organize workers into unwanted craft unions.

The IAM with its half million members, in leaving the AFL, feels strong enough to remain independent. A very large section of its established membership is in the railroad industry and in the Navy yards, where it cannot feel the wrath of the building trades. The AFL unions it comes into contact with are from the Metal Trades Department, and they are closer to the IAM than to any section of the AFL. Fear of losing these unions will stop the AFL from prohibiting their working with the IAM.

There is no possibility of unity between the IAM and the UAW, as many newspaper rumor-mongers have claimed. The IAM is a craft union—no better than its chief jurisdictional contender Hutchinson's carpenters—and differing from the latter only in the respect it was in the minority in the AFL.

Pedro Workers Hear Shachtman

LOS ANGELES—Before two well-attended meetings of shipyard workers in San Pedro and Los Angeles, Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, spoke on "Socialism, the Only Hope." The meetings were sponsored by Labor Action Forum for the purpose of acquainting the 12,000 readers of LABOR ACTION in this area with the program of the Workers Party, and to give rank and file workers an opportunity to express themselves on many problems confronting them—taxes, rationing, etc.

Comrade Shachtman described the break-down in the capitalist system, its ever-recurring crises and depressions which have now culminated in the second world war in our generation. Predicting new and deeper crises after the war, Shachtman showed that only socialism, a system of production for use to meet the needs of the people, could eliminate the hunger and insecurity of the capitalist system.

Shachtman sailed into the misleaders of labor. He called for the rescinding of the no-strike pledge and for support by every working man and woman to the coal miners. Walter S. Pollard, administrative director of Local 9, IUMSWA, and a union leader of the type that Shachtman subjected to biting criticism, was present at the San Pedro meeting (which was attended by fifty-two workers), but did not avail himself of the floor to answer Shachtman.

Part of the speech was given over to exposing profiteering in war contracts.

Comrade Shachtman called for the abolition of the capitalist system and for the establishment of a socialist government by the workers. His speech was greeted with much enthusiasm, and a large collection was taken to finance the further distribution of LABOR ACTION in this area.

Pedro Repairmen Vote "No!"

SAN PEDRO—Repair workers at Los Angeles Shipbuilding & Drydock showed their determination to win long-standing grievances against the corporation when a rank and file negotiating committee was elected by the workers.

Over a year ago ship repair workers on the Pacific Coast lost double-time premiums under the Shipbuilding Stabilization Board agreement; and in return the wage scale was set at new construction rates—plus 11.6 per cent. This agreement was all in favor of the bosses, for in repairing ships men often work twenty to thirty hours at a stretch, and formerly were paid on an overtime basis at the end of eight hours.

Coupled to this is the fact that repair work is extremely arduous and performed under dirty and dangerous conditions. Under these conditions of work, a premium of 11.6 per cent is hardly enough. Yet, to this day repair workers in the LA Yard have not received a penny of this premium pay. The corporation has simply refused to pay.

For all these months, the union

officials have discussed with the corporation, which has blithely passed the buck from board to board and back again, while the men have continued working for less than the Stabilization Committee has already granted them.

Completely fed up with the stalling by the corporation, and dissatisfied by the lack of progress made by the officials of Local 9, the repair men met in a stormy session and decided to set up a committee of men who work on the job.

It may take more than a new committee to force the corporation to pay the 11.6 per cent, but this committee is likely to prove more energetic and determined than the officials who were negotiating. The repair workers have taken this step—direct and active participation in all negotiations with the corporation—in spite of Union Administrator Pollard's very active resistance.

Continued efforts to install the ten-hour day in the machine shop finds the men still solidly opposed to the shift change. After weeks of agita-

Earl Browder in Detroit-- In Words and in Action The Stalinists Are Finks

The article we print below was sent to us several weeks ago, but publication was delayed because of lack of space. Since it was written, and since Browder spoke, the Stalinists have demonstrated their strike-breaking role in ACTION—notably in the Detroit and Akron strikes.—Editor.

By V. JENSEN

Earl Browder's speech on "The Mine Strike and Its Lessons," made in Detroit on May 10, is the most vicious and blatant anti-labor speech that anyone has dared to make in that union stronghold since Rickenbacker launched his impudent labor-baiting campaign from there last winter. It is an unmitigated piece of gall.

And yet this speech is a perverted tribute to the militancy and vitality of the labor movement that it slanders. Browder did not come to Detroit to waste his time belaboring a corpse. He came to knife an insurgent labor rank and file, not only the miners seething with just grievances, but the UAW militants and all others who put up any fight for labor's rights and against labor's bearing the oppressive burden of the war on their already overlaid backs.

The Communist Party prepared lovingly and well for this meeting. It went all-out for publicity before and after. After the meeting it paid for space in the city's largest evening newspaper, the Detroit News, to reprint the text of the speech.

Browder made an all-out speech. All-out against labor's fighting for its rights and just grievances, all-out against the class struggle. All-out for labor's unconditional surrender to the bosses, for its unconditional submission to Roosevelt, for its uncomplaining bearing of low wages, speed-up and the full burdens of war production. All-out to drive Lewis, Reuther or anyone who speaks up, no matter how feebly, for labor's rights, out of the union movement.

Browder, never shy, started right out by saying that "every effort to break down the no-strike policy was a blow for Hitler." He attacked Lewis and Reuther for saying that the "no-strike policy was a concession made by labor to the government."

Browder maintains that this and other sacrifices are not "concessions" but that "the no-strike policy, absolutely necessary to victory, is labor's own unilateral policy, which labor

decides upon itself, enforces in its own ranks, and which labor maintains without any reservations or conditions."

Browder, perhaps too used to the "unilateral" habits of his own party, where discussion and balloting are lost arts, does not tell us when the ranks of labor voted on this, its "own unconditional, unreserved" policy.

He is not too shame-faced either to say openly what it is that frightens him most: "Any conditional form of policy means... to let loose an explosion of class struggles in America which will ruin the war effort."

(Translated, this means that if labor tries to make any fight for its rights and standard of living it is going to come up against the profiteering bosses, who have not a no-strike-at-labor pledge, and that might delay a shipment to Earl's Uncle Joe in Moscow.)

Labor's Just Grievances

Even Browder can see, by dint of much painful squinting, that some of labor's grievances are just. But, says the Kansas City seer, "labor is not going to take the line of whining, self-pitying, complaining abandonment of real leadership of the nation." No siree. "Labor will remedy its grievances." How, you ask, since Browder has already proscribed striking or even whining or complaining?

For fear someone will think that he has a mote in his eye and unduly favors labor, Browder has included in his speech a section entitled "The Responsibilities of Labor." Lest some workingman and his hard-pressed wife, who have suffered from the wage freeze, the job freeze, the soaring cost of living, the failure of governmental agencies to keep prices down as promised, and the innumerable bureaucratic stupidities of the government agencies, think that possibly those agencies and the Roosevelt Administration had something to do with causing these ills, Browder hastens to set them right. Have bosses and government taken advantage of labor's no-strike pledge to put more and more the burdens of war on labor's shoulders and follow a do-nothing policy on the rising cost of living? Perish the thought, says Browder. Who is responsible? Those wreckers, Lewis and Reuther, of course.

Browder goes out of his way to place Walter Reuther in the same super-duper No. 1 class of wreckers, favorers of strikes and opponents of Roosevelt, as John L. Lewis. Actually, this is very far from the truth. Reuther is one of Roosevelt's strongest supporters in the labor movement; he is opposed to the miners' strike and in favor of the no-strike policy, and his milk-and-water support to the miners and not to their strike was howled down by the UAW regional conference here. Reuther believes in Roosevelt as the "only friend of labor" in the government and wants to hold down any opposition to Roosevelt policies to the point of "putting pressure on the President to show him we are backing him against the reactionaries." Browder himself states that the remedy for labor's grievances is "cooperating wholeheartedly with the Roosevelt administration."

But Reuther at the present time is leading the opposition in the UAW to incentive pay, that is, to the speed-up system which the Stalinists so ardently support. And around Reuther's program for wage equalization and pay increases, are rallying the most militant and progressive elements in the union, who threaten to kick the traces over and go far beyond Reuther's program to a real program of labor action for obtaining labor's just demands. And it is this possibility that makes Browder froth so at the mouth!

The Stalinists in the Detroit unions are at the moment pretty unpopular with the workers, and Browder's speech will not further endeavor them to union militants. They control a few locals, but not many, and the overwhelming majority of the best militants have long ago repudiated them and continue to do so. They were attacked on the floor of the UAW regional conference and on many local floors. Reuther has quickly picked up the gauntlet of Browder's speech and challenged them to an open fight in the UAW. Murray returned with a quick "no thanks," Browder's sycophantic praise of Murray as the great labor leader.

The UAW militants and militants in the labor movement as a whole must proceed to effective organization for action on their grievances. Browder's scabbing pro-boss, pro-Roosevelt program must not prevail in the unions. Browder simply carries to its logical conclusion the program of the union leaders. He knows that any fight to remedy labor's grievances means breaking with Roosevelt and what Browder calls "the progressive employers" (translate: the profiteering bosses) and proceeding to a real fight.

Sperry Workers Win 5-Cent Raise

The five-cent interim award announced to Sperry workers two weeks ago was a victory for the union and, more specifically, for the hundreds of Sperryites who really fought, and fought hard, for it. It is a victory, because it is the first time that a real trade union has obtained any concession from this anti-union company.

But despite that, and despite the fact that it is even a retroactive raise, it is a limited victory. It is limited in the sense that it doesn't reach in any respect the goal that the union membership set for itself.

One of the most important points in the original contract was the elimination of the category of repetitive workers. This was, and remains, important because the largest single section of Sperry employees is included in that category, and, as repetitive workers, no matter what their skill, they can make no more than seventy-five cents an hour. The union argued against this classification because it allowed the company to place hundreds of people in that class, without taking their skills into account. It thereby cheated them of the wages they deserved.

In obtaining the interim award, the union gave up the fight to have repetitive workers reclassified. They MAY be reclassified by re-rate committees and the like but the company will continue to hire hundreds of repetitive workers and save thousands of dollars on their payroll by doing so. Essentially then, this award merely gives the majority of Sperryites a five-cent raise and stops there.

Almost everyone is asking: "How come the raise?" Everyone working for the Sperry Gyroscope Co. for any period of time is duly suspicious when the company, whose wage policies are well known, suddenly hands out a raise before negotiations are even finished. Why? Can it be that the company remembers the April 1 strike of over 3,000 workers? Can it hear the grumbling, and sense the unrest in the plant, at this very moment?

Both of these reasons are involved. It is a sop which the company hopes will stop any further activity of the sort that has occurred in the past. The visiting of company officials by whole departments, the mass requests, releases, the stoppages and, most important, the strike—all this the company hopes can be stopped by this five-cent raise.

In the light of all this, it is a disgusting spectacle to see the union writing editorials against the miners in their newspaper. The miners today are doing what Sperry workers decided they had to do in April. They are fighting in the best way they know how for their raise, for their chance to live decently. Their

fight is ours, labor's fight. For Sperryites, who are also fighting for a contract, the miners' fight is doubly important. They can learn from them and reap some of the fruits of the victory of the miners.

With this in mind, the membership of the union should make it clear that a five-cent raise is not the end, but the beginning of their fight.

Walkout in Newark Brewster Plant Forces Company Action

NEWARK—When the girls of the covering department walked out on Thursday, May 28, they broke the dam that was holding back all the pent-up grievances of the workers at the Newark plant of the Brewster Aeronautical Corp., and the whole shop walked out.

Since April, 1942, when the Taylor rates had been established for most jobs, these girls and three other departments have been waiting for arbitration to fix rates for their jobs. As on all other grievances, management hemmed and hawed, delayed and took its time—fully aware that labor's hands were tied by the no-strike pledge. Even the passage of the Bushnik program, which called for an end to the no-strike pledge, didn't convince management.

The company thought it was safe so long as the local leadership could put all the blame on the international for not acting. It took only sixteen girls to convince them they were mistaken. Department after department walked out with the girls, despite the opposition on the part of some union officials and stewards. Nor were they intimidated by the threats of naval lieutenants to close the plants and induct some of the stewards. The entire plant walked out. It goes without saying that the little influence the Stalinists had was used to keep the men in.

Although they couldn't get an arbitrator for fourteen months, the company produced one and the men went back to work after they were assured that arbitration would begin immediately, and on the spot, at the Newark plant.

At the regular meeting, held the same day, the men booted union officials who had opposed the walk-out and demanded an officially sanctioned strike. A motion to hold a special meeting in a few days to hear a report on negotiations and, if unsatisfactory, to take a strike vote, was passed, although many demanded immediate action.

During the regular business of the meeting, the membership voted to relieve a known Stalinist of his

steward's button after it had been proved that he had turned in one of his men to the chief leadman for being away from the job. They also voted to suspend a guard against whom union charges were pending.

Local 365 is one of the few UAW locals that has a contract requiring good standing in the union as a condition of employment, and, according to the contract, the guard should have been suspended. But the company refused and was backed by the Navy brass-hat in charge at the Newark plant, who insisted that the guards were not subject to the union contract, since they had been enrolled in the Coast Guard Reserve. The shop committee informed him that the temper of the men was such that they would not stand for any violation of the contract. As a result, the men walked out after eight hours. This infuriated the Navy representative, who closed the plant as punishment. He issued a public statement, broadcast by Walter Winchell, that the plant was closed because there weren't enough guards to prevent sabotage. A hastily called meeting decided to work only forty hours, until the company and management live up to the union contract.

Faced by the determination of the men, the company backed down, but the Navy stood its ground for a few days until overruled by Washington. On Tuesday night the plant went on a normal shift.

Despite the energetic action of the rank and file, and the efforts of the shop committee, only one grievance—that of the girls in the covering department—has been settled. The rest remain. The special meeting was not held, for fear of what the men would demand.

Unless management comes across and settles the accumulated grievances promptly, it will have no one to blame but itself. And the next time it comes, the union leadership will not be able to avoid responsibility.

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor...

Why Not Draft Labor-Baiters Into the Mines?

Dear Editor:

I have a corking idea.

All the boss papers and their corporation stooge columnists have been screaming about drafting the striking miners into the Army. Well, why not draft some of the columnists and editorial writers into the coal mines at miners' wages and see how much coal THEY turn out.

Take Westbrook Pegler and David Lawrence, who screamed so loudly at the proposal to put a limit on salaries of more than \$25,000 a year. Give them a pick and lantern, send them down a black, 200-foot shaft and let us see how contented and patriotic THEY are when pay day rolls around. Throw in a Rickenbacker or two and a few more brass-hat generals who try to stir up work-

ers in uniform against their brothers in the coal pits and see how proud and loud THEY will talk after trying to support a family of five or six on thirty lousy dollars a week.

Let Mark Sullivan and Lowell Limpus, at the end of a hard, dangerous week's work, take THEIR measly checks to the gyp company stores and let THEM see with their own eyes how the food for their own kids has gone up thirty, forty and even one hundred per cent in one year. Let THEM walk back to the company-owned shacks they live in, through streets so thick with coal dust the light of the sun itself is obscured, and watch the faces of THEIR own hungry kids when they see how little food their father could buy with his check. And then let THEM listen to President Roosevelt promise that prices would be rolled back, and then go to the company store the following week and find

that most food had gone up a cent or two a pound since then.

Take the gentlemen on the WLB and the corporation executives of United States Steel, and the Northern mine operators and the Southern mine operators and all the rest of the pot-bellied parasite crew, put THEM on the mine elevators, wish them godspeed and let THEIR wives hope and pray they will see them again at nightfall. Let 74,000 of THEM and their ilk be crushed, drowned, suffocated or badly injured in one year alone and then let THEIR just wage demands be flouted and scorned by the arrogant mine operators and their WLB stooges. Then invite THAT whole gang to continue mining coal at top speed in the name of patriotism.

Then we will get enough coal to feed the furnaces not only for this war but for all the other wars the

bosses are planning. Yes, we will—in the pig's eye!

William Garfield.

On the Miners And J. L. Lewis

Dear Friends:

We know who John L. Lewis is. We know where he came from; how he came to his present power in the world of labor, and we know how he maintained his power. And most of us disapprove of most of his methods. However, we'll all agree that his present stand is praiseworthy. He is helping labor to pull off the shade, consisting of empty "democratic" phrases and FDR's demagoguery, and thus exposing the collective dictatorship of capitalists.

The miners were to the coal mines today, June 7. They are to

work two weeks, expecting in the meantime to get a contract from the coal owners (operators). They would not have gone if it was not for JLL asking them.

The coal miners, during these two weeks of grace, are going to get either a new contract, or anti-strike legislation, or perhaps both. If they get a contract, all is well. But if instead they get anti-strike legislation, there is going to be a strike.

Of course, as J. L. Lewis says: Roosevelt will accomplish his aim, by temporarily securing an indictment against JLL. My prediction is that, if this should happen, there is no strike in the history of the American labor movement as serious as this one would be. And, if John L. Lewis's aims are political, as some people believe, he certainly will accomplish what he is looking for. This is JLL's opportunity to build

himself as the leader of American labor.

I am sure serious thinkers in the labor movement would give their lives for the opportunity JLL has. What he will do with it is another matter.

I am afraid Lewis' business connections, his political affiliations, his family-bourgeois affairs, his fear to offend the capitalist morale, would scare him out of the historical, perspective standing before him. If John L. Lewis took a firm stand, all the capitalist demagogues would soon find out what we socialists mean when we say there is a class struggle, even in the USA.

For all the combined hullabaloo from the White House and the dog catcher, and the holy water in between, would not force the miners into the mines until they would get what they are entitled to.

S. K. (Scranton, Pa.)

Polish Laborite Takes His Life to Focus Light on Murder of Jewish People

A small item of news that passed unnoticed by most of the press was the suicide of the Jewish Labor member of the Polish National Council (in exile), Samuel Zygelbojm. He had witnessed the torture of his comrades at first hand and so didn't have the stuffed-shirt point of view to be expected from members of a government body. He had been one of the organizers of the underground movement in Poland and was in close touch with his country after he escaped from the Nazis to London.

He killed himself as a demonstration of protest against the "democratic" Allied governments for their indifference to the extermination of his countrymen by the Nazis.

One of the last appeals to come via underground channels to London was that the Allies exchange 10,000 German prisoners for 10,000 Jewish children in Poland. Other appeals expressed discouragement over the fact that no aid was forthcoming to the Jews working dangerously to overthrow their Nazi oppressors from within.

The Germans went in with machine guns to destroy the Warsaw ghetto, according to reports, and the Jews there resisted with their bare hands. Thousands of Jews were massacred. Other thousands are hiding in the forests along the rivers, trying to escape Nazi troops searching for them. In other large towns, the ghettos have also been physically annihilated. In Warsaw, it is also reported that German artillery was employed to destroy 200 large tenement houses. The cities are being made completely "Judenrein."

Zygelbojm revealed his protest in letters to General Sikorsky, the head of the Polish government in exile.

The letter which Zygelbojm addressed to the Polish government in exile before his suicide read as follows:

"From the latest information received from Poland, it is evident that without doubt the Germans, with ruthless cruelty, are now murdering the few remaining Jews in Poland. Behind the walls of the ghettos the last act of a tragedy unprecedented in history is being performed.

"The responsibility for the crime of murdering all the Jewish population in Poland falls in the first instance on the perpetrators but indirectly also it weighs on the whole of humanity, the peoples and governments of the Allied states, which so far have made no effort toward a concrete action for the purpose of curtailing this crime. By passive observation of this murder of defenseless millions and the maltreatment of children and women, the men of those countries have become accomplices of criminals.

"Out of the nearly 350,000 Polish Jews and about 700,000 Jews deported to Poland from other countries, there still lived in April of this year, according to the official information of the head of the underground bund organization sent to the United States through a delegate of the government, about 300,000. And the murders are still going on incessantly.

"I cannot be silent and I cannot live while the remnants of the Jewish people of Poland, of whom I am a representative, are perishing.

"By my death I wish to express my strongest protest against the inactivity with which the world is looking on and permitting the extermination of Jewish people. I know how little human life is worth, especially today. But as I was unable to do anything during my life, perhaps by my death I shall contribute to destroying the indifference of those who are able and should act in order to save now, maybe at the last moment, this handful of Polish Jews who are still alive, from certain annihilation.

"I wish that this handful that remains of the several million Polish Jews could live to see with the Polish masses the day of liberation—that it could breathe in Poland and in a world of freedom and in the justice of socialism in return for all its tortures and inhuman sufferings. And I believe that such a Poland will arise and that such a world will come.

"I trust that the President and Prime Minister will direct my words to all of those for whom they are destined and that the Polish government will immediately begin appropriate action in the diplomatic and propaganda fields in order to save from extermination the Polish Jews who are still alive...."

S. ZYGELBOJM.

The Giraud-De Gaulle Maneuvers Will Yet Have To Reckon With the Restless French Proletariat

The Giraud-de Gaulle, or perhaps the de Gaulle-Giraud, business is a grim comedy. Were it not for the fact that the fate of the French proletariat is involved, it would be a thing to laugh at and enjoy these fateful days.

Who is this Giraud, anyway? He is a French general, very tall and very reactionary, who, in days when he could speak with more freedom, informed the world: "I am no democrat," which, to do him justice, no one ever accused him of being. He was captured in June, 1940, and escaped from France under circumstances which are still a mystery. Either he performed physical feats which only Humphrey Bogart and Tarzan are capable of (Giraud is over sixty), or the Germans let him out. He lived in France for a while and when the Americans invaded Africa, Giraud escaped to join them.

When the Americans landed in North Africa, the de Gaullists staged a little revolution, captured Darlan, the man of Vichy, and handed him over to the "vanguard of democracy." But Darlan made a deal with the U.S. authorities, and the de Gaullists landed in jail. The representative of Roosevelt and the State Department asked this collaborator with the Nazis to join them with all the unsavory crowd of French fascists who were fattening themselves in North Africa.

But this was too much. The whole world protested, the French proletariat swore that it would have nothing to do with him, and Darlan was, providentially, murdered. Giraud was given Darlan's post. He, too, stank, but not so badly. Some democratic eau de Cologne, liberally sprinkled on him, could disguise the stench for a while. Unfortunately, no amount of holy water could stifle the stench of the Vichy capitalists in Algiers.

They kept the Spanish republicans in jail, they passed laws to disfranchise the Jews in Algeria, and Giraud not only kept them in power, (or rather, they kept him) but explained to the world at large that he was going to establish a military dictatorship in France, that there would be a new constitution, etc. On May Day, Giraud told the workers that the old capitalism was dead, that in his new France agitators would not be allowed, but "good" labor leaders would have their chance. In all this, he had the complete backing of the State Department and of Roosevelt. Obviously, Giraud was Roosevelt's man to put the French workers in their place after the national "emancipation."

The New Democrat

But there was another candidate for the post. De Gaulle had made an international reputation for him-

self by raising the banner of French resistance when Pétain and Reynaud capitulated. Pétain's nephew, monarchist and reactionary, de Gaulle began by saying that he was no politician, but was concerned solely with the national emancipation. He got nowhere so fast with that, that he soon changed his tune and began to shout for democracy as loudly and clearly as Samuel Grafton or Sidney Hook. The Stalinists took him up, and before long de Gaulle became a symbol of the underground resistance in France.

He naturally challenged Giraud's claim to leadership. And British imperialism, jealous of Roosevelt's domination of the European scene, backed him at first. But Roosevelt forced them to abandon de Gaulle, and things looked bad for the monarchist-democrat. Giraud corre-

sponded with him in public letters of exceptional arrogance, and de Gaulle, thrown on his own, fell back on the underground. In one letter he told Giraud that the French workers were in command of the situation and would never accept the kind of regime he intended to impose upon them.

The expected invasion of Europe by Anglo-American imperialism gave a tremendous stimulus to the underground movement in France. It combined struggle against fascism with warnings that it would resist the men of Vichy by force if necessary. It became obvious that Giraud's exclusion of de Gaulle, and his continued leadership, would mean an immediate civil war in France, after the national liberation. Gradually Giraud climbed down. Today he is in Algiers and is fighting for the post

of chief. But it is not Giraud who has climbed down. It is American imperialism.

The French Workers

The really serious side to this rivalry is this: De Gaulle needs Giraud and the Vichy crowd in Algiers as much as Giraud needs de Gaulle. The Stalinist underground paper, L'Humanité, on April 15 published instructions from the French Council of Resistance. No. 3 is the call for a general strike on the landing of Anglo-American troops. No. 5 is to occupy public buildings, especially railroad stations, telegraph offices, telephone exchanges. No. 6 is to throw out of office the Vichy authorities' representatives, and replace them by boards of delegates from resistance groups, to manage food supplies and public administration.

They need not worry. The pro-

letariat in France is going to do just that, with or without de Gaulle. If de Gaulle does not get some reliable capitalist backing now, he will be powerless, a prisoner in the hands of the French revolution. His plan is obviously to dismiss with a great noise the chief Vichy men in the administration, thereby impress the underground movement, and then work out a compromise with the men of Vichy. The press reports show that American imperialism is working for this, too.

Giraud-de Gaulle or de Gaulle-Giraud, their maneuvers in Algiers and their maneuvers in France will have to reckon with the French proletariat. The real battle is between the revolutionary workers and peasants on one side and world imperialism on the other.

Impossible to Reform Profit System

Int'l Food Conference a Fiasco

By SUSAN GREEN

Coming from all over the world, some four hundred delegates and food experts met for seventeen days in Hot Springs, Va., in a food conference of the United Nations. The pressing question supposed to have been tackled is the feeding of the undernourished, semi-starving and starving peoples of the countries they came from. Perhaps they also poked around with the problem of feeding the peoples of the Axis countries. In any case, they no doubt decided upon the uses to which imperialism could put food in black-jacking rebellious peoples.

In the countries tied to or allied with the United Nations, there are some 1,600,000,000 people—or three-fourths of the population of the globe. Of course, not all of these billions are undernourished, semi-starving or starving.

For instance, none of the assembled delegates and experts could be truthfully placed in any of these categories. Housed in princely comfort amidst rural splendor; dining and wining like potentates of old; swimming, golfing, riding, luxuriating in the balm of a Virginia spring, these delegates did not represent the millions literally dying for lack of food.

These upper class conferees only symbolized the great divide between the haves and the have-nots in this capitalist world.

Why the Conference?

When the President refused representatives of the press access to the food conference, realists rightfully suspected that such political fengling would be going on, such shameful trading of a crust of bread for imperialist domination, that secrecy was essential. Whatever maneuvering of this kind went on behind the scenes, none of it seeped out. What did come through to the press indicates such a poverty of ideas, such a routine and unserious approach to the billion-mass problem of food, that it is quite possible Mr. Roosevelt simply wanted to keep this fiasco behind locked doors.

The editor of the New York Times is of the opinion that the accomplishments of the food conference, "for the most part, consist of a set of platitudes that no one would dream of questioning. 'All men on earth are consumers of food.' Producers must be assured that their labors will earn them an adequate livelihood.' The conference recognized that a great increase would be needed in the production of food if progress was to be made toward freedom from want."

It is a noteworthy occasion indeed when LABOR ACTION, representing revolutionary working class interests, can quote with complete approval from the New York Times, representing die-hard capitalist interests. This is such an occasion. Any bright high school pupil could write a composition of equal value as the final declaration of this food

conference—without being a food expert—and might even use more original language.

But let us not forget to mention the greatest PUBLISHED achievement of this conference of winners, diners and horseback riders. After agreeing unanimously that "all men on earth are consumers of food" (how about pie in the sky?), they agreed also to the establishment of a permanent United Nations food and agricultural conference, for which plans will be worked out in Washington, of course.

This permanent conference-to-be is very reminiscent of the various committees and conferences for this and that grandiose humanitarian cause, all connected with the defunct and unlamented League of Nations—and all having gone the same primrose path as the League itself. And while it may have solved nothing as to the feeding of starving peoples, it probably laid more concrete plans for the use of food in crushing rebellion. And that, after all, was the REAL purpose behind the conference. On this we have already written, and will write again.

In order to give this silly conference at Hot Springs an air of importance, the President invited the whole delegation to the White House and made to them a broadcast speech of appreciation for what they did. The President told them and the world that this food conference was an "application of the principles of the Atlantic Charter." Woe to the hungry, suppressed masses if their salvation were to lie in such an inept application of such nice-on-paper-and-in-speeches principles!

Roosevelt Speaks

Mr. Roosevelt paid the delegation many sugary compliments and intoned the usual neat clichés about freedom from want, etc. However, he made certain to remind the world that this end is "NOT EASY TO ACHIEVE." Yet, according to the President, it is a "worthwhile challenge."

But what about the famished people? What are they to do while capitalist politicians play their frolicsome game of "challenges" at swanky conferences?

The President did not stop to explain why it is "not easy" to feed the people of the world in this day and age of fabulous productivity. Are there, not expansive Mother Earth—and plenty of human labor—and marvelous machinery of every kind—and marvelous chemicals—and ever-advancing science—and lightning-fast transportation? Why cannot at least as much food be produced to nurture life as bombs are being produced to destroy life?

Mr. Roosevelt did not say that the production of food—like the production of everything else—is for the profit of the owners of production. It is indeed not only "NOT EASY" but IMPOSSIBLE to change the characteristics of the profit system.

Mr. Roosevelt knows like a book

ators are up to them. They also know what the WLB game is. There is the Smith-Connally bill, but there have been anti-labor bills before. For centuries the labor movement has been fighting its way against anti-labor legislation and anti-labor decisions of the courts. If Murray and Green had let it be known that they and their organizations would not tolerate the anti-labor rampage that is now going on in Congress, this body would not dare pass the Connally-Smith bill. And Murray and Green would get the solid support of the ranks of labor—with the exception of the Stalinist stooges in the unions.

the characteristics of the system of production for profits which he so staunchly protects. He himself feels and yields to the powerful political pressure of the economically powerful farm bloc. He has knowledge of the vicious dumping of food into the oceans and rivers to keep up prices—and has himself tried his own variant of plowing-under for the same purpose of keeping up prices. He himself caters to the big farm corporations by pushing government subsidies for them while workers' wages are held on a line far below the rising cost of living. And as an admirer of the profit system, he understands how the cost of food is raised by putting up all kinds of artificial barriers to free exchange, by organizing monopolistic combines, by restricting production, etc.—to mention only a few ways in which profits are made out of starvation.

The People's Way

Fortunately, the masses who don't get enough to eat anywhere in this

capitalist world—including the lands of the "benevolent democrats" as well as those of the dictators named Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, Hirohito—have their own way to freedom from want.

For so long, but not longer, can the Roosevelts fool the masses with promises of plenty while these wise guys do battle for the system that starves the people. For so long, but not longer, will the people tolerate such insults to their intelligence and empty stomachs as this Hot Springs conference.

The way of the people is to sweep out of power the capitalists and their greater and lesser politicians. To eat and live in peace, to have security for themselves and their children, the working people will have to take over production themselves under workers' governments.

THE ONLY VIRTUE OF THE HOT SPRINGS CONFERENCE IS THAT ONCE MORE IT IS MADE CLEAR THAT THE WAY OF THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES IS THE ONLY WAY.

Labor Action Book Service

LABOR ACTION has now established a mail order book service for the convenience of its friends and readers. In the past we have received numerous requests for books and pamphlets dealing with the various problems of the labor movement. We are now in a position to supply a number of these books. However, much of the material requested is now out of print and very difficult to obtain. We are making every effort to get our hands on as much of it as we can. We list below some of the books and pamphlets that we have available now, but in very limited quantities. From time to time, as we acquire more books and pamphlets, we shall publish new lists.

All orders for these books will be filled through the mails. Send your order, with remittance, to LABOR ACTION BOOK SERVICE, 114 West 14th Street, and we shall send the books to you by return mail. If you want books that are not listed, write us and we shall try to get them for you. If you have books to sell, write us and we shall make you an offer.

KARL MARX:

Capital—Three volumes	.....	\$7.50
Single volume	.....	2.50
Critique of Political Economy	.....	1.50
Poverty of Philosophy	.....	1.25
Value, Price and Profit	.....	.25
Wage, Labor and Capital	.....	.10
Communist Manifesto	.....	.05

ENGELS:

Socialism—Scientific and Utopian, paper25
cloth60

MORGAN: Ancient Society

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SIMONS: Class Struggles in America

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The following books are second-hand, scarce and out-of-print copies:

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LEON TROTSKY:

The Third International After Lenin	2.00
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cloth75
Lessons of October, paper50
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COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL:

Theses and Resolutions of the Second Congress	3.00
Theses and Resolutions of the Third Congress	.....	5.00
Theses and Resolutions of the Fourth Congress	.....	3.00

Tresca Murderer Still at Large

By ALBERT GATES

June 11 will mark the sixth month since Carlo Tresca, noted figure in the labor movement for many years and a fighting anti-fascist, was murdered by hired assassins. The murder was well planned and simply executed.

On the night of June 11, Tresca and a companion waited in the office of his newspaper, Il Martello, for a meeting which did not materialize. He left the office at Fifth Avenue and 15th Street in New York City, crossed the street and then was assailed by a gunman, who fired two shots into him and rushed away in an automobile which was there for the purpose of a get-away.

The automobile was found abandoned a short distance from the scene of the murder. Shortly afterward the New York City police arrested one Carmine Galante, an ex-convict out on parole. Galante's parole officers observed him entering the car which was later found near the scene of the murder. Cross-examination of this ex-convict disclosed that his alibis were all shaken, but no confession was obtained. It was obvious to the police and to all familiar with such incidents that this ex-convict was a hireling for some powerful forces.

From the time of the arrest of Galante until now, no progress has been made in the case. The police and the district attorney's office pursue this case as they would any ordinary murder case, overlooking the fact that this was a political murder. As a political assassination, the forces behind the murder are unquestionably well organized and the murder planned in such a manner as to circumvent police methods.

Some weeks ago, Walter Winchell, the nation's snoop, wrote that the powerful individuals involved in the Tresca murder made it certain that the case would never be solved! Does Winchell know anything about it? Does he have any information which could lead to an indictment of the real culprits?

Shortly after the Winchell item, the New York Mirror, in a lead story, declared that the Tresca case would

be broken very shortly, and the murderers and their employers brought to justice. But nothing has happened.

Rumors point sharply in the direction of Generoso Pope, publisher and editor of the Italian daily, Il Progresso Americano. Pope was for many years America's leading spokesman for Mussolini and the Italian fascist regime. He was one of the outstanding opponents of the American anti-fascist Italians. It is only since America's entry into the war that Pope suddenly became an advocate of democracy and an enemy of fascism. It is only in recent months that he took full-page advertisements in the metropolitan papers decriing anti-Semitism, racialism, and fascism.

But in a pamphlet, "The Tresca Case," by Ezio Taddei, we are given a great deal of information about Pope and his aides. There is Frank Garofalo, noted gangster and gunman, and an associate of Pope. He is a prime figure in the case. At an Italian-American War Bond banquet, Tresca refused to participate when he found that Pope was present with Garofalo and more of his friends.

Tresca openly denounced Garofalo at the banquet as a gangster and walked out. He was followed by Garofalo, who threatened to get Tresca for denouncing him in pub-

Bosses Fail To Crack Miner's Ranks--

(Continued from page 1)

ranks of the UMWA, and they would like to get on with negotiations.

When the last walk-out began, the press reported the President had sent for Murray, Green and other labor leaders. We don't know why. It is difficult to see what Murray and Green could contribute. They don't have any influence with the UMWA. In fact, there is reason to believe that these two gentlemen are losing influence in their own organizations. The AFL has just lost the machinists, and it has a few strikes on its hands. Murray has seen the Chrysler and rubber workers strike for sev-

eral days despite HIS pledge to Roosevelt that there would be no strikes.

We would like to suggest to Murray that he keep away from the White House and spend some time in Detroit at the Packard plant, where 20,000 white workers struck because a few Negro CIO members and workers were given better jobs.

Bill Green might also stay away from the White House and give his attention to Jim Crow and discrimination inside the AFL. Along with other problems, this matter of union discrimination against Negroes can well occupy the time of Green and

Murray. It seems that the miners are capable of handling their own affairs.

Cards Are on the Table

The miners are still in a very strong position, despite the many truces they have consented to. It is our opinion that this "truce" should be the last. We have the impression that this is the opinion of the UMWA. If their demands are not met in a substantial amount by June 20 it will be clear to every miner that there is nothing to be gained by any further extensions.

The cards are on the table now. The miners know what the oper-

ators are up to them. They also know what the WLB game is.

There is the Smith-Connally bill, but there have been anti-labor bills before. For centuries the labor movement has been fighting its way against anti-labor legislation and anti-labor decisions of the courts. If Murray and Green had let it be known that they and their organizations would not tolerate the anti-labor rampage that is now going on in Congress, this body would not dare pass the Connally-Smith bill. And Murray and Green would get the solid support of the ranks of labor—with the exception of the Stalinist stooges in the unions.

The cards are on the table now. The miners know what the oper-

Editorials

Smash Klanism!

We print on page one of this issue a story of extreme importance to white and Negro labor. It is the story of the Packard strike against the upgrading of Negro workers which, according to charges made by the union, was fomented by the Ku Klux Klan with the connivance of the management.

That the Ku Klux Klan is active in Detroit has long been known. It has done its best to charge Detroit with the atmosphere of race hatred. Recently we ran a long editorial, "Smash Klanism in Detroit," which sounded the alarm, and called upon Negro and labor organizations to meet the menace with organized resistance.

Smashing the Klan is no easy job, but it can be done. The basis for its being done already exists in the concrete demonstrations of the United Automobile Workers Union against Jim Crow. UAW spokesmen have addressed gatherings of Detroit workers on this issue. They have collaborated with Negro organizations, notably the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in staging at least one street demonstration. It has otherwise declared itself against the shame of racial discrimination.

But, and this is a big but, something more is required in the situation than speeches or even conferences and demonstrations. The NAACP, for example, this last week held a successful conference in Detroit. Detroit was the proper place to hold such a conference. Fine speeches were made. But where was the detailed program to combat the menace?

Concrete plans have to be laid for the education of those workers who are sucker-bait for the Klan (many of Detroit's workers come from the South and bring with them those invidious prejudices with which a capitalist system has been careful to educate them). And, more important, concrete plans must be laid for resistance against the Klan and its program of race hatred.

This is not a matter that can be trifled with, or postponed in consideration. There are, we know, elements who may be sincerely opposed to Jim Crow, but whose allegiances are so occupied with the war that they prefer to deal with the problem of Jim Crow (and most other problems of concern to labor) piecemeal and half-heartedly. That way lies suicide. And it was properly answered in the preamble of a resolution adopted at the NAACP conference which said: "We refuse to listen to the weak-kneed of both races who tell us not to raise such controversies during the war." Good! Actually, nobody needs to "raise" the controversy. It is there.

That this problem should exist as acutely as it does in Detroit, the strongest union city in the country, is in the very nature of the situation a double

crime. It indicates that the intent behind the campaign of race hatred is not only to continue the horrible persecution of the Negro people, but also to disrupt and disunite the workers of the city—and thereby to drive a wedge of color into the labor unions of the city.

But the fact that it is Detroit, the city of powerful unions, is also indication of where the answer lies—in the organized action of the workers who have made Detroit the union city it is.

The workers of Detroit who knew how to build powerful unions, who know how to strike and wage battle for legitimate labor objectives, can be taught (that is, those who do not already know it) that strikes against Negro workers are impermissible; that Jim Crow is the ally of reaction, the weapon of labor-haters; that the Klan is the instrument of anti-union bossdom; that it is in the interest of the employers to promote race division, just as it is in the interest of white and black labor to stand together.

Again we sound the alarm: SMASH KLANISM IN DETROIT!

Not for Police--

(Continued from page 1)

Every day that a youth picks up a daily paper he learns that the whole world today is attempting to solve its problems by violence, by the use of deadly weapons. He reads daily about tons of bombs being dropped on this city or the other by the United Nations or the Axis Powers. It isn't strange that so many youths decide that this is also the correct manner to solve the problems that arise in their daily lives.

This sort of reaction is especially to be expected from a white youth who is taught that the Negro is inferior, and that if he kills a Negro he is likely to get away with it. The white youth sees all this with his own eyes. He knows that the Negro boy in Newark was killed by a white boy, but only Negro boys are arrested. He sees Negroes Jim Crowed in the government service, in industry and in the Army and Navy.

The Negro youth on their part know these things also. They believe that their only way out is to protect themselves, and that is what they, in some manner, were doing in Newark.

All of the boys involved in this Newark affair are the victims of a situation which they did not create, and which they alone cannot correct. All of these boys were from working class families that are also being victimized and exploited. The beginning of a solution to situations of this kind is the elimination of Jim Crow, work at adequate wages for these boys and their parents, better schools and teachers and a civilized world for youth to grow up in. A world dominated by a policeman can never be a civilized world.

NAACP Conference Demands Jim Crow Be Fought NOW!

DETROIT, June 6—Twenty thousand people packed Olympia Hall here today at the wind-up mass rally of the conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"The President, as Commander-in-Chief, has the full power to end discrimination and segregation in the armed forces. We call upon him to use that power now," declared the "Statement to the Nation," read by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP.

The statement was adopted at the special conference on "The Status of the Negro in the War for Freedom" by the 743 delegates representing thirty-nine states, and enthusiastically endorsed at the Olympia meeting.

In its preamble the resolution declared that "The NAACP and its members are appalled at the wide discrepancy between our professed war aims of democracy and freedom and the treatment meted out to the Negroes in every part of our national life.

"The issues with which we are concerned must be raised now. We refuse to listen to the weak-kneed of both races who tell us not to raise such controversies during the war."

It further attacks the "treatment of Negroes in the armed services (which) is marked by daily subjection to the indignities of segregation and discrimination, with constant recurrence of brutalities and murders by civilian and military police."

Summarize CIO Fight

R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, charged the Ku Klux Klan with instigation of the Packard stoppage and pledged that his union would continue to fight for full equality for all workers, regardless of color or creed.

Representing Philip Murray, president of the CIO, Raymond Walsh summarized the record of the CIO's fight for progressive legislation and for racial equality, and declared: "If we do not plan for the post-war period we can expect race tensions such as we had in 1919." What was required, he added, was full employment, "security from the cradle to the grave," equal pay for equal work for all, and extended and equal educational facilities for Negroes and whites.

Judge William H. Hastie, who had resigned as civilian advisor in the Army Air Corps because of Jim Crow practices there, was awarded the Spingarn Medal by Congressman

Will Rogers, Jr. The medal is awarded annually to the Negro making the outstanding contribution to his race.

In accepting the medal, Judge Hastie declared:

"The intransigent bigot says we must be kept 'in our place.' We will not have any assigned place. Those who for reasons political or psychological, or from lack of understanding, seek a middle ground in this conflict cannot succeed. There is no place for neutrals here. Sooner or later all must line up and be counted for freedom or for repression. And those who still seek a middle ground run the grave risk of their kind throughout history—that, forfeiting the confidence and respect of both sides, they be crushed between irreconcilable forces. They cannot even have the satisfaction that they went down fighting for something in which they believed."

The statement of the late Justice Holmes, repeated by many speakers, "We must form our battalions and fight," was warmly acclaimed by the 20,000, but, as was the case at the Cadillac Square demonstration against Jim Crow held here last month, nothing was done at the NAACP conference to implement the program adopted.

MR. LERNER

Ideas Are Weapons, But How Use Them?

By A. A. B.

(Continued from last issue)

Now, any fool can see that the revolution which was unfulfilled in Germany was the SOCIALIST revolution, that the mistake of the German people was to stop at capitalist democracy and not go on to PROLETARIAN democracy.

This is obvious for two reasons: First, it is almost impossible to have a more democratic constitution in capitalist society than the constitution the Germans made after driving out the Kaiser. Secondly, (this is the joker, and a very grim joker it is) it is precisely because the Weimar constitution was such a ghastly failure that Germany is such a problem to all who are not socialists. No one in his right mind can say "a democratic constitution will solve the problem," because that is exactly what the democratic Weimar constitution did not do. Faced with this, you can say, as does Cordell Hull: "We'll police these barbarian Germans," or you can babble about paranoia and dominant fathers. The socialist says neither.

JOINS REVOLUTION TO STAB IT

Lerner is too sensible to prattle about paranoia. He does not want to say, like Cordell Hull: "Put the whole German nation in a concentration camp." What to do? He knows that a revolution is on the order of the day so he joins it. "There is an unfulfilled revolution in Germany with which the German people have a rendez-vous." If you have not got a long experience with this particular brand of faker, you would be tempted to turn a welcoming eye and extend a tentative hand. You would be committing suicide. For Lerner is joining the revolution only to stab it in the back.

"There has been that unfulfilled revolution ever since 1848, and again since 1918. Britain, America, France, Russia, China—all have gone through their basically democratic revolutions. Germany and Japan have not."

In plain words, this enemy of the German PEOPLE tries to insinuate himself into the revolutionary ranks to turn the German PEOPLE back from the socialist revolution into the same Weimar trap that led them to where they now are. "Basically democratic revolutions." Doesn't Lerner know that the "basically democratic revolution" in America today is based on Morgan, Rockefeller, du Pont and a dozen others who own or control this country and whose interests have us fighting an imperialist war all over the world? Doesn't Lerner know that the same situation exists in Britain, and that Churchill says to all the Lerner's in the world: "We shall hold our own?"

As well call the Greek slave-owners "basically democratic." That is exactly what they were not. They were basically slave-owners, just as the democracies of Britain, France and America were and are "basically capitalist." Any revolution in Germany which leaves the Krupp's, the Stinnes's and the great capitalist trusts where they are will ruin the German people, as it ruined them in 1918.

Is Lerner for a revolution which will wipe away these enemies of society and give the German people a chance to create a true, a genuine, a "basically democratic" society, a society of collective ownership, democratic at the best? Not he. Capitalist property in Germany is in danger today. Yes, the German people want to and must fight for their democratic rights, but, if we judge them aright, they will want to go beyond that and wreak a merited vengeance on the capitalist supporters and friends and close associates of Hitler. And who comes rushing to the defense of German capital, who comes saying: "Revolution, of course, but keep it 'democratic,' boys, as in America (with Wall St.) and Britain (with The City)?" Lerner, of course, and close behind him, Dorothy Thompson, and Samuel Grafton, and Johannes Steel, some of them fools, some of them fakers, some a mixture of both.

IDEAS ARE WEAPONS

Now a reader may say: "But, after all, that may be his honest opinion. Why so hard on him?" Why?

Some years ago, one of the weekly journals ran a series of articles on important books which had influenced our thinking in this generation. Lerner wrote on a book called "The State and Revolution," by Lenin. This is how he ends his article: "No book that has been discussed thus far in this series has been so widely read as Lenin's. In America it sells in editions of 100,000, in the Soviet Union in editions of millions. Tens of millions have read it all over the world, and their minds have beaten to the rhythm of its logic. Lenin has become the supreme symbol of the revolutionary tradition...."

Now, do you remember what "The State and Revolution" is about? From the first page to the last it condemns, it exposes, in excruciating detail the pseudo-democratic revolution that Lerner recommends for Germany as incapable of solving humanity's basic needs, and writes page after page showing how the only genuine SOCIAL revolution possible today is the socialist revolution. So Lerner knows. What he is doing is deliberate. He has actually had that essay reprinted in a book called "Ideas Are Weapons." Sure they are. It depends on who uses them for what. Here is a practitioner expert in the art of stabbing with one hand while he shakes with the other.

Stop the Anti-Strike Bill--

(Continued from page 1)

by hatred for labor, could conceive, has been included by the senators and representatives in this repressive bill which is now before a joint conference committee for final agreement.

With the passage of the measure, a \$5,000 fine and a prison term of one year would be the penalty meted out to any worker or labor leader advocating a strike. Not only that, but any worker having anything to do with such an erring fellow worker or labor leader would be subject to like punishment.

The House sought to make a distinction between privately-operated plants and government-operated plants by allowing workers in the former to take a secret ballot strike vote and then "cooling off" for thirty days. But the Senate emphatically says nothing doing—no voting—no "cooling off"—JUST NO STRIKES.

Both the House and Senate

versions of the bill recognize the graveyard of the War Labor Board as the place for burying labor's grievances. The pro-boss contingent likes the washed-up WLB.

The House would furthermore take away from unions every vestige of independence, would require them to register and to submit financial statements, and would even prevent unions from using their money as they wish.

Not satisfied with such crippling provisions, the most extreme anti-labor boys both in and out of Congress want this golden opportunity used to put a work-or-fight clause into the anti-strike bill—which, in fact, the President has openly threatened.

Naturally, congressmen, the boss press, syrupy radio commentators and the National Association of Manufacturers, whose agents the foregoing all are, wrap themselves in the flag, beat their chests with patriotic ardor, and swear that an anti-strike law with sharp teeth in it must be passed so that no more strikes can hold up war production.

But these pay-triots lie in their teeth. They are not interested primarily in war production—BUT IN WAR PROFITS. As witness their machinations and delays to get the last ounce of fluid gold out of their cost-plus war contracts.

Is Congress purely and simply interested in war production? Then why not pass a law abolishing the Little Steel formula and restoring collective bargaining? This is what the workers now want and must have to enable them to cope with high prices. That is why they are restless. That is why they are striking.

But such a just solution would result in the bosses parting with some of their war profits and in workers being able to buy the wherewithal to live. Better try coercive legislation on the workers than place them in a position to make inroads on "the rewards of private enterprise."

In the bitter class struggle of the miners, who want a wage to enable them to live, against their bosses, who bulge with order books and a new high in profits, the President, Congress and every government agency have revealed themselves in their true class alignment. None of them tells the bosses to take their posteriors off their money bags long enough to give the miners their just and modest demands. All of them are against the miners and other striking workers. Their enmity for the working class is expressed in the Connally-Smith anti-strike bill. This outrageous measure, camouflaged as a war measure, is, however, designed

to restrict labor and serve the bosses after the war also.

In their militant actions, the miners, rubber, auto and other fed-up workers have asserted the inalienable right and the basic power of workers to strike. No mere law on the statute books can kill that right, or take away that power. Even the Nazis, masters of labor suppression, have not been able entirely to prevent strikes of disoriented workers pressed beyond endurance.

But an anti-strike law, like the one now being railroaded through Congress, can make a lot of trouble for the workers and their unions. Organized labor must oppose the Connally-Smith anti-strike bill. PROTEST, DEMONSTRATE, FIGHT AGAINST ITS PASSAGE. IT IS NOT BY A SHOW OF WEAKNESS BUT BY A SHOW OF STRENGTH THAT THE CONNALLY-SMITH BILL WILL BE DEFEATED!

Get Subs for 'L. A.' At Chicago's Shachtman Meeting

CHICAGO—Max Shachtman, national secretary of the Workers Party, spoke here on Friday, June 4, to an attentive audience of fifty workers. The subject of Shachtman's talk was "Labor in the War," and the socialist way out of the dilemma in which the labor movement finds itself today as a result of the war.

The audience was composed of workers from all sections of the city and from various industries.

The meeting was held under the auspices of LABOR ACTION. Most of those who attended had either already subscribed, or subscribed to LABOR ACTION at the meeting.

"True Democracy"

Credentials for the press galleries in Congress and for the White House have always been officially denied to Negro newspapers and to accredited Negro newspapermen. But, with the arrival of President Edwin Barclay of Liberia, this discrimination was temporarily lifted.

Five Negro reporters from Negro press services and newspapers, and two Negroes from the OWI were given credentials. The ban against Negroes was thus lifted—for twenty-four full hours.

For twenty-four full hours the color of a reporter's skin did not bar him from seeing Edwin Barclay shake hands with Roosevelt and hearing him speak in Congress. The reporters then returned to their papers and wrote about a "true democracy."

The WLB Must Look Into This...

The New York Post of June 8 reported an announcement by Chester Davis, War Food Administrator, that Louisiana sugar cane workers have received wage increases of sixteen per cent, thus going beyond the Little Steel formula!

The present wage scale of these workers is seventeen cents per hour for women and twenty cents an hour for men. For a ten-hour day, six-day week, these workers would earn \$10.20 per week for women, and \$12 per week for men. What has the Food Administrator done? He has increased the weekly earnings of the women workers to \$11.83 per week and that of the men to \$12.92 per week.

This is clearly an inflationary wage increase. No fooling! Ask the thousands-of-dollars-a-year editorial writers on the New York Times and the whole capitalist press, reactionary and liberal. Ask those in Washington in charge of wage matters. A sixteen per cent wage increase! Think of the poor sugar barons! My God, what is this country coming to?

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!

- Hands off the right to strike! For the defense of civil rights and all workers' rights! Against any wartime dictatorship measures!
- \$1.00-an-hour minimum pay! Time and a half for overtime; double time for Sunday and holiday work.
- Wage increases to meet rising costs. No wage or job freezing! Equal pay for equal work!
- For a greater share of the increasing national income. For a higher standard of living!
- No sales tax on consumer goods! No tax on wages! Against forced savings!
- For control of price fixing and rationing by committees of working class organizations. Freeze rents and consumer goods prices at the 1940 level to stop the rise in the cost of living.
- No government contract without a union contract. The closed shop in all war industries!
- Maintain and increase all government social services!

SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- A government levy on capital to cover the cost of the imperialist war. Confiscate all war profits!
- Consent all war industries under workers' control!
- Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the three per cent of the people who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth!

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE DRAFTEES!

- The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men in the armed forces.
- The right of soldiers to vote in all elections.
- 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!
- For adequate dependency allowances paid by the government with NO deductions from the soldier's pay.

SMASH JIM CROW!

- 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!
- For full political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

BE PREPARED!

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

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