

Living Costs Up 45.3%, CIO Says

Bureau of Labor Statistics Tries to Hide True Figures

The dispute over what really constitutes the rise in the cost of living has come to a head with the publication of the CIO report on "Living Costs in World War II." This report conclusively proves that the figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics have been all wrong in understating the real rise in the cost of living, that it has underestimated increases by a half.

The CIO report shows that the cost of living has skyrocketed by 45.3 per cent. In simple language it means that every person in this country is now paying 45.3 per cent more for the things needed in order to live than he did in January, 1941.

As revealed in the boxed article on this page, the people of this country, in their overwhelming majority workers and their families, have been paying "70.9 per cent more for food than you paid in January, 1941; 76.8 per cent more for clothing; 63.5 per cent more for house furnishings; 15 per cent more for rent; 14.8 per cent more for fuel, and 22.8 per cent more for 'miscellaneous.'"

The average of 45.3 per cent increase in the cost of living, as reported by the CIO committee, is nearly twice the figure of 23.4 per cent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The interesting thing about the whole dispute over what is really the increase in the cost of living is that only the BLS adheres to its own figures. An economic subcommittee of the Department of Agriculture previously issued a report which nearly coincided with the report of the CIO-AFL committee issued several months ago.

The CIO report also states that the Social Security Board does not use the Bureau's figures and "makes its own higher estimates of price increases."

The War Food Administration uses the index of the Department of Agriculture, whose investigation of living costs for farm areas reveals the rise to be 43 per cent!

The War Production Board, "in its work dealing with civilian supply and rationing, disregards the BLS index and makes its own higher estimates of price increases."

Big business and its editorial mouthpieces, the Wall Street Journal, Business Week, etc., "have often repudiated the BLS index and published their own studies showing larger increases in particular fields."

At the same time that the Murray-Thomas report was released, the CIO News points out that William L. Davis, chairman of the War Labor Board, released the report of his own special committee, which found the BLS index "misleading." Says the CIO News: "The Davis Committee's report, done as part of the President's Committee on the Cost of Living set up last winter, criticized the BLS for deliberately ignoring the total cost of living and selecting only a few items to study."

Referring to the Davis report, the CIO News quotes it as saying: "The widespread opinion that the BLS index grossly understates the rise in the cost of living is justified, if the cost of living is taken to mean the amount of money a family spends for the commodities and services it buys."

What else can it mean? It certainly doesn't mean the commodities and services a family does not buy! And it doesn't mean luxury goods which the workers and working farmers do not buy!

But... while WLB Davis' committee makes the above acknowledgment—the WLB continues to accept the figures of the "discredited" Bureau of Labor Statistics report!

Why? By accepting the BLS index, the WLB uses it to "freeze" workers' wages far below the cost of living!

What a spectacle! The Bureau of Labor Statistics issues a report on the cost of living that is palpably false. No one accepts this false report—not even Davis' committee appointed as the result of presidential action!

But the WLB accepts it and uses the report to measure wages and to decide against wage increases!

Where does the President come in on all this? The CIO report makes no mention of him at all! Yet it is his Stabilization Act which has frozen wages. It is his administrators who are keeping the wage freeze in effect. It is his War Labor Board which accepts the BLS index, even though it knows it to be false!

And what do Murray and Thomas propose to do about this? They propose to reject the BLS index! But it is already rejected—by the CIO, the AFL, big business circles, the Department of Agriculture, the War Production Board, the War Food Administration and—the WLB itself!

With all of this knowledge, Murray and Thomas still insist upon their acceptance of the WLB, upon maintenance of the no-strike pledge which has made the labor movement the easy prey of big business, every labor-baiter and every union-buster. Murray and Thomas, despite their knowledge that labor has been getting it in the neck in the war economy, they still have their strings tied to FDR and the Democratic Party of New Dealers, big business men, poll-taxers and union-busters.

(Continued on page 4)

500 Laid Off at Bell, More To Go; Company Hits Seniority

BUFFALO—Layoffs, which have been hitting the whole Buffalo area for the past two months, struck sharply at Bell Aircraft Co. workers when more than five hundred of them were laid off recently in the first of a series of cuts which the company has graciously promised its workers.

These layoffs are expected to affect more than five thousand Bell workers in the very near future although an exact estimate is impossible because of the company's policy of spreading contradictory rumors throughout the shop.

The company is trying to break the seniority system in layoffs in several ways. First, an attempt was made to give preference to veterans over other workers regardless of their respective seniority. This, of course, is becoming an old story throughout the country, as big business tries to play the workers in uniform against the workers in the shops.

FIGHT OVER SENIORITY

In this case, however, Local 501, UAW-CIO, correctly insisted that strict seniority be maintained. The union pointed out that the local has its own veterans in the service who are accumulating seniority and who will naturally expect to come back to the shop where they have seniority.

The company is also trying to negate the seniority clauses of the union contract by asking for numerous exceptions, the exceptions exceeding the layoff list in some departments. The overwhelming majority of these exceptions are men easily replaceable by others with more seniority, but by asking for these exceptions

indiscriminately the company hopes to drive a wedge into the union ranks and destroy the seniority set-up entirely.

Unless the union takes vigorous action to forestall these company plans, the life of the union itself will be endangered.

THE MAIN PROBLEM

With many particular problems of its own, the main problems of Local 501, UAW-CIO, are those which are a thorn in the side of every union in the country at the time. With layoffs taking place more rapidly, with the ceiling on prices being destroyed by the very government which is supposed to be enforcing them, with a national wage freeze that affects practically every worker in the country and with shop grievances piling up to a mountain, the local unions have their hands tied by the infamous no-strike pledge given by their leaders without their consent.

Until this pledge is rescinded, Bell Aircraft management will continue to ride roughshod over Local 501 just as other managements are riding roughshod over other local unions.

The real weakness of the local and its leadership at the present time is in not making these facts clear to every Bell worker. Both the top bargaining committee and the executive board are up against a stone wall, a stone wall not of their own making and one which they themselves can do little to break. Only the organized action of the workers of Bell, together with the rest of the UAW, can break this wall by rescinding the no-strike pledge and beginning an aggressive fight for labor's demands. These facts can be made known to the whole shop by means of an intensive educational program.

LABOR ACTION

JULY 3, 1944

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

98

ONE CENT

Big Business Staged GOP Convention!

It's More Than Time To Cut The Ropes!



That the working class of the United States must build a party of its own is the uncontrovertible lesson of the recently concluded convention of the Republican Party in Chicago.

Labor observers at the dull (hapless proceedings in the Windy City voiced the opinion that the Democrats, whose convention immediately follows that of the GOP in Chicago, will have to exert their energies to produce a platform containing more deceptions, more ambiguities, more evasions of the real issues facing the American people today.

LABOR ACTION is inclined to believe that the Democrats are not beyond such miracles. They will produce one every word as pathetic.

The fact of the matter is that big business has just met in Chicago. Big business met this time under the name of the Republican Party. Big business will meet in Chicago again. The next time it will be under the name of the Democratic Party. And it will be revealed that there is not a single fundamental difference between the two.

Tresca Case Still "Mystery" to DA's Office

Sharp criticism of District Attorney Frank S. Hogan for saying nothing about the unsolved Carlo Tresca murder case in his annual report is voiced in an open letter addressed to him by the Rev. Aron S. Gilmartin, chairman of the Workers Defense League's national executive board, made public last week in New York.

Citing a part of the prosecutor's report, which refers to wire-tapping in "an unrelated case," which revealed the close connection between Magistrate Aurelio and Frank Costello, racketeer, Mr. Gilmartin says: "We think it strange that you made no mention of that 'unrelated case,' which we understand was the Tresca murder."

"A great many people like ourselves," the League official's letter goes on, "are wondering why, after seventeen months, no apparent progress has been made toward apprehending Tresca's slayer and those who instigated that killing."

A FEW POINTED QUESTIONS

Mr. Gilmartin asks also: "Isn't the public entitled, by this time, to some report from you on what has been done in the Tresca situation?"

"What, for instance, did your office discover about the different suspects connected with foreign political groups named as having possible motives for 'eliminating' Carlo Tresca?"

The full letter to Mr. Hogan follows:

"We have been greatly interested in your report on the workings of your office in 1943, and especially in the high percentage of convictions and guilty pleas in felony cases, which you compare with the lower percentage in Mr. Dewey's term as District Attorney.

"You speak of the close relations of Magistrate Aurelio to Frank Costello, racketeer, revealed when detectives from your office tapped Costello's telephone wire while investigating 'an unrelated case.'"

"We think it strange, however, that you made no mention of that 'unrelated case,' which we understand was the murder of Carlo Tresca, editor of the Italian-language paper."

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The Republican show was a cut-and-dried affair. Everything was decided in the back rooms. A representative convention indeed! Self-appointed leaders and leader-appointed delegates. The delegates came to ratify the decisions of the party bosses!

WHO RUNS GOP?

Who are the party bosses? They are Pew of Sun Oil, they are the political office boys of the big corporations and monopolies in the country—Wall Street bankers, the oil interests, the steel, auto, aircraft and utility enterprises! They are the Winthrop Aldriches, the Rockefelleres, the du Ponts, the Wilsons and their likes. These are the real leaders of the GOP, not the little state and county politicians, the ward heelers and the precinct workers. The latter merely carry out the "policies." They do the leg work for the "machine."

In any case, the Republicans went on record officially as the voice of Wall Street. From the keynote speech of California's Governor Earl Warren to the pompous acceptance drivel of New York's Thomas E. Dewey, the Republicans boasted that they were the defenders of the industrialists, the bankers and war profiteers. Their hypocritical walling against the Roosevelt Administration was based mainly on an unacknowledged desire to lay their mitts on the public moneys, political power and privileges the Roosevelt government has in its hands.

Where the Republicans are inclined to retreat to the status quo ante of pre-war foreign policy, to wit, the economic domination of the entire American continent and some minor spheres of influence, the Roosevelt plan for the post-war world represents the conscious determination that American imperialism shall have the most diverse and far-reaching control in the whole world.

A "LABOR" PROGRAM

While a detailed analysis of the platform must be deferred to next week's issue of LABOR ACTION, its section on "Labor" deserves immediate attention.

Here it is most demagogical and precisely here it forfeits all support from working men and women and trade unionists.

While it condemns the New Deal's usurpation of real collective bargaining, it dare not call for the abolition of that agency of "bureaucratic control" namely, the War Labor Board. The auto, steel and oil corporations know only too well whose interests that infamous body of corporation lawyers and labor zombies represents.

(Continued on page 4)

Here's How Your Costs Rose

According to the latest survey of the CIO, called "Living Costs in World War II," your cost of living has skyrocketed to a figure that exceeds the estimate of last January's joint CIO-AFL study.

It has risen 45.3 per cent since January, 1941!

You are now paying:

- 7.9 per cent more for food;
- 76.8 more for clothing;
- 63.5 per cent more for house furnishings;
- 15 per cent more for rent;
- 14.8 per cent more for fuel;
- 22.8 per cent more for "miscellaneous."

Released the same week as the findings of the President's Committee on the Cost of Living, which is chaired by the notorious corporation lawyer and head of the WLB, William H. Davis, the CIO report slammed the deliberate underestimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The figures of this government agency are used as the basis of the WLB's wage policy, which to this day revolves around the fifteen per cent cost of living increase of the Little Steel formula.

Even on the basis of the report of Davis' advisory committee of statistical "experts" this formula is an unjustified affront to the labor movement, since it also revises the BLS figures upwards—from the BLS

"total rise" of 23.4 per cent to its own discovery of a 26.8 per cent to 28.5 per cent increase!

But by its own admission the committee suggested that its survey cannot stand up under close scrutiny. It urged that the BLS estimates be called a "price index" and not a "cost of living index."

In contrast to this deception of the government bureau based on limited investigations, the CIO report is a summary of all of the following factors:

- 1—Higher dollars-and-cents prices.
- 2—Quality deterioration.
- 3—Forced trading-up.
- 4—Disappearance of low-priced items.
- 5—Decline in special and week-end sales.
- 6—Greater increase in restaurant prices than in the prices of food consumed at home.
- 7—Greater increases in prices of all foods than in the prices of the sixty-one sample foods in the BLS index.
- 8—Forced shifts to higher-cost stores.

Any survey which ignores any of these factors—the BLS ignores most of them—conceals the inner mechanism by which the cost of living has been continually raised. In addition, the BLS found increases to be only half of what every housewife and consumer actually knows them to be!

Rubberworkers Face Convention

Want No Synthetic Programs or Leaders

By BILL FORD

AKRON—With the announcement from the URWA International Executive Board that the ninth annual convention of this union will be held in New York in September, Akron rubber workers are beginning to gird themselves for the final stretch of their fight against their Dictator-President Sherman H. Dalrymple and his stooges of the IEB.

As LABOR ACTION readers recall, the big issue that will be decided by this convention is whether or not the United Rubber Workers of America is to be restored as a functioning, genuine democratic organization of workers, or whether it shall continue on as dictator-ridden, half-hearted, excuse for a union un-

der its present international leadership.

At this convention the ranks will have the opportunity to stem the tide of reaction in their international that reached its high point early this year when the Dalrymple crowd launched out on its company-inspired policy of expelling, without trial, militant unionists who engage in strike action. Before the convention will come the key question of Dalrymple's expulsion in January of seventy-two General Tire Local members, without trial, which has been bitterly fought by the rank and file in Akron and many other locals in the country.

In addition, since the Dalrymple wrecking machine did not stop at this one offense against all union standards of decency, they will have

to answer for their actions in expelling and having fired from their jobs two workers of the Seiberling Local in Akron, and for having levied \$25 fines on more than two hundred workers of the Jeannette, Pa., Local and expelling one unionist there. The International Executive Board recently rejected appeals from these unionists.

News of the internal fight in the international has by now reached everywhere through the ranks. The big question now before them is: Do the anti-Dalrymple forces possess sufficient strength to ensure a genuine victory at the convention? If not, why not?

As LABOR ACTION sees it, there is no GOOD reason why the ranks cannot carry through successfully

their fight to preserve democracy against dictatorship within their union. This issue is so clear-cut and so popular that any kind of fighting campaign that does not seek to pull punches can overwhelmingly convince CIO rubber workers that their true interests lie one hundred per cent for DEMOCRACY and against Dalrymple's machinations.

But everything is not so simple as all that. Victory in this situation cannot be achieved merely by throwing Dalrymple and a few of his more outspokenly vicious cronies (like Tommy Burns and Buckmaster) out on their ears. That would be much too simple.

It is rather a question that out of the ranks of the 178,000 organized rubber workers a new type of lead-

ership must be created in this fight, a leadership that recognizes the precarious situation of the whole labor movement today because of the autocratic POLICIES of its official leaders. These policies have been adopted by leaders like Dalrymple because they FEAR having to put up a real fight against the millionaire rubber corporations. They would rather sit back and repeat forever that the government is "taking care of labor's interests" during the war period and labor should therefore sit tight, which means to them: "Don't put up any real effort to enforce union demands!"

If the coming convention should arrive at a similar conclusion to Dalrymple's on this matter, it would represent a tremendous waste of time (Continued on page 4)

Platform of Workers Party

For a People's Peace and a Workers' World! Against Both Imperialist Camps! For the Victory of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples! For the Victory of the Third Camp of Socialism!

The Workers Party recommends this platform for adoption as the fighting program of the trade union movement and of the national Independent Labor Party which it must form.

LABOR MUST DEFEND ITSELF NOW!

- 1. For the defense of all democratic rights! Against wartime dictatorship measures! Abolish wage-freezing and job-freezing!
2. Restore full and unrestricted collective bargaining rights of the unions! Rescind the no-strike pledge! Repeal the Smith-Connelly anti-strike law!

- 17. For doubling present dependency allowances paid by the government with no deductions from the serviceman's pay!
18. For a two years' base pay grant to all demobilized veterans, with option of trade school and higher education facilities at government expense, and guarantee of decent jobs!

DOWN WITH JIM CROW AND ANTI-SEMITISM

- 1. All discrimination against Negroes, Jews or other minorities in the armed forces or by employers in industry must be made a criminal offense!
20. For complete political, social and economic equality for Negroes!

PROTECT THE FARMER

- 22. Adequate government provision of land, technical aid, machinery and supplies to all small farmers! Cancellation of all small farmers' debts to government and banks!
23. Nationalize all absentee-owned farms lands. Abolish tenancy and sharecropping by turning over the land to those who till it.

PROTECT THE YOUTH

- 24. Adequate government provision for free education of all youth, including trade schools and universities! The right of all youth, male and female, to vote at the age of eighteen! Government-maintained nurseries for the children of working mothers.

AGAINST REACTION—FOR A LABOR PARTY, A WORKERS' GOVERNMENT

- 25. For Union Defense Guards, trained and controlled by the unions, to defend labor, the Negroes, Jews and all racial minorities from native fascists, Jim Crow rioters, anti-Semites, Klansmen, Silver Shirts and other capitalist tools!

- 3. A higher, not a lower, standard of living! For a \$1.00-an-hour minimum wage law, with time and a half for overtime, double time for Sunday and holiday work, and equal pay for equal work for all industrial and agricultural workers! An "escalator clause" in all wage contracts, hitching wages to the rising cost of living, plus a margin for comforts—a "cost-plus" wage!
4. No tax on wages and no sales tax on consumers' goods! Abolish all taxes on annual incomes of \$5,000 or less!

- 5. Down with control of rationing and price-fixing by the monopolists and the government bureaucrats! For democratic control of rationing and price-fixing by joint committees of working class organizations, farmers' organizations, cooperatives and consumers' organizations and housewives' leagues.

- 6. No government contract to plants without a union contract.
7. Maintain and increase all government social services and establish adequate federal medical service, health and accident insurance, old-age pensions, child care, protection for the unemployed!

SOAK THE RICH—LET THEM PAY FOR THEIR WAR!

- 8. Expropriate the "Sixty Families"—the plutocratic three per cent of the population who own ninety-six per cent of the national wealth!
9. A one hundred per cent tax on all war profits above a five per cent maximum on invested capital! Immediate renegotiation of all war contracts to cut the fabulous profits to this level!

PREPARE NOW TO WIN POST-WAR JOB SECURITY AND PLENTY

- 12. Government planning to guarantee the highest national production and income, a year-around job and a minimum annual wage to all, and a rising standard of living!

FOR A DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S PEACE AND A WORKER'S WORLD

- 13. Conscript all war industries! Nationalize the banks, big industrial monopolies and transportation systems. No handing over of government-built and owned plants and facilities to private ownership!

- 14. For a two hundred and fifty billion dollar five year program to provide decent housing for all, extensive public works, rural electrification and modernization!

- 15. For a guaranteed \$5,000 annual income to all workers' families, made possible by a planned rise in the total national income and a thirty-hour maximum work-week.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO DRAFTEES

- 16. The right of free speech, free press and free assembly for the men and women in the armed forces! The unrestricted right of the armed forces to vote in all elections and participate in all political campaigns!

The Invasion Reveals--

Labor's Apathy to the War

By J. R. JOHNSON

The invasion lights up once more the unceasing warfare waged on all fronts and with all weapons by the Allied powers. They rain lead and steel against German imperialism. At the same time they plot to clamp military government on the European peoples for whose liberation they say they are fighting.

According to the capitalist propagandists, never since Lucifer was thrown out of heaven were such forces of light, of progress, of freedom, of liberty, of a better world, arrayed against such darkness, such criminals, such enemies of the human race. The climax was reached by the 'New York Times' in an editorial which expressed envy of the young men who were dying in the full flush of their manhood, and would never know the pains and sufferings and disappointments of age.

Unfortunately we have not been able, by the most diligent search, to find in the Times since then any accounts of mass suicides by the capitalists in America, killing themselves off in order to avoid the sorrows and disappointments of the passing years. Bravely they bear up against the terrible evils of capitalist society while the tears run down their cheeks for the good fortune of those being killed on the beaches and fields of Normandy!

But, despite all this pressure, most observers have noted a very striking, and perhaps unexpected mass rejection of the invasion propaganda. The great body of the American people responded to the actual news of the invasion in a manner that does them remarkable credit. They were quiet, indulged in no heroics, but insofar as they expressed themselves, showed that they were more than anything else conscious of the young lives that were being destroyed or maimed in the tragic struggle in Europe. This widespread sentiment needs some examination.

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT

First of all it is in harmony with recent developments. Masses of workers are beginning to think their own thoughts about the war and to act accordingly. They are not "defeatists." They want victory. They want the war to end. They would like to see Hitler defeated. But they strike and keep on striking in increasing numbers. Thus they reject in action the "sacred unity" of the nation to which the capitalists give lip-service but which they violate at every turn.

But they have shown their growing rejection of capitalist ideas in another field. When the propaganda about the bombing of Germany was at its height, the press had to devote columns proving that such bombing was not only necessary but just. In Britain a Gallup poll showed that a majority of the British people in the

most heavily bombed areas had no wish to see the German people harassed by incessant bombing. The attitude, it is true, was not very logical. War is war. But the sentiment of revolt and disgust was against the terrible brutality to which men and women like themselves were being subjected. They felt that somehow it was wrong, that there was some other way in which people should be able to live without doing these things to one another.

Now comes the invasion. The American people have the greatest confidence in the sons and daughters of America who are shedding their blood on distant battlefields. But they refuse to delude themselves with dreams that the nation is engaged on a heroic struggle for a better world, a struggle in which sacrifices, though heavy, can be borne cheerfully in view of the noble aims, etc., etc. This is what the capitalist class tried to inculcate with all the power and ingenuity at its command. This is what it signally failed to accomplish.

This sober and realistic estimate of the invasion by the masses of the people should be seen for what it is—merely a continuation of the spirit which has characterized the people not only in America but in every country. From the hour that the Second World War loomed in view no longer as a distant threat but as an imminent possibility, the masses have hated it. From country after country came authentic information of the gloom, bitterness, resignation; no enthusiasm of any kind, no songs, none of the wild hysterical outbursts of military and nationalistic pride which have characterized many wars in the past.

TOWARD CLASS ACTION

Churchill in Britain capitalized on fear of German conquest of Britain and mobilized the British people on a basis of national defense, pure and simple. But Roosevelt and Wallace found it necessary to promise the American people "four freedoms" and "the century of the common man" to whip them not only into acceptance but into enthusiasm for the

war. They have, for the most part, failed. Now comes this final proof of the stubborn refusal of the American people to see the war through the same rosy spectacles as their rulers.

The above should not be overestimated, but it should not be ignored. It is a sign of the growing sharpness of class relations in the country. Once the CIO was organized, it not only expressed but sharpened and clarified that fundamental incompatibility of interests which characterizes the relation between the various classes in an advanced society.

But this instinctive resistance to being propagandized and ballyhooped where serious questions are at issue cannot be allowed to dissipate itself. It must be organized.

FOR A LABOR PARTY

At the present stage the workers need to have political expression for all the issues on which they have a point of view of their own. At the present stage the road to this political expression and clarification is through an Independent Labor Party. It is only there that the workers can bring their ideas, desires and aspirations before leaders of their own choice, leaders who are responsible to them.

The workers may not for the moment have that clear penetration into the economic roots of their dissatisfaction and the drastic political re-orientation which this brings. That is not an argument against but for the formation of an Independent Labor Party. They cannot think their thoughts to the end. They cannot even place their powerful instinctive reactions in organized opposition to the ceaseless propaganda the ruling class beats into their ears night and day. Yet their reaction to the invasion shows that they have something of their own to say, shows it as clearly as the strikes show that when Ford and a Ford worker say "We support the war" they mean different things.

C. P. Councilmen In New York Apologize And Vote Sales Tax

By MIKE WYLIE

When the question of extending New York City's vicious sales tax for another year came up in the City Council, Benjamin Davis, Jr., and Peter V. Cacchione, both elected as Communists, recorded themselves as "not voting" on the issue.

Then the fun began. Cacchione, who insisted that he was against the sales tax because it was unfair to low wage earners, and Davis, who explained that he was against it on "principle," were pounced upon by gleeful, politically wised-up Democrats and Republicans in the Council.

NEWBOLD MORRIS APPEALS

The Democrats said that if the Mayor's friends, the Communists, could block the sales tax, they would not only do likewise, but would vote against the whole city budget as well. Which they proceeded to do.

Republican Newbold Morris, president of the Council, got up and appealed to the "Communists," saying: "I thought the Communist Party line had been changed. I thought you men believed in democratic government. Only a few years ago the Communists sought to bring anarchy. This must be a survival of that desire as it will produce financial anarchy in the greatest city in the world."

This must have touched Cacchione and Davis to the quick, because you can call a "Communist" any foul name these days and the most he will do will be to cynically shrug his shoulders and call you a "Trotskyite."

At any rate, this is what Davis and Cacchione pulled: a motion to reconsider the defeated sales tax was passed and when a new roll-call came up both of these "Communists" changed their vote in favor of the sales tax! The Republicans rose to praise them for their action and the Democrats, falling all over themselves with hysterical laughter, assailed them for hypocritically changing their votes on a "matter of principle."

THE COMMUNIST COUNCILMEN EXPLAIN

As if this disgusting exhibition wasn't enough, Davis rushed into print the next day in the Daily Worker with the following apology: "Councilman Cacchione and I see that the position we originally took was incorrect, since it created the impression of narrow partisan gain (for the working class, to whom the sales tax is a vile economic hardship—Ed.). It would have been better if at the very beginning of the vote we had voted for the measure." Yes, it would have been better! It would have made clearer at once that the Communist Party stands on the side of all those who wish to make the war burdens of labor even heavier than they now are. The action of the "Communist" councilmen is an excellent illustration of what Stalin's American agents mean when they say they are for capitalism and free enterprise. In every instance it means: For the boss; against the worker!



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URW Convention--

(Continued from page 1) and effort and money of 178,000 rubber workers. No matter what changes might be made by the convention in the personnel of its officers, no great gain could be recorded. SHERMAN'S PALS TO RESCUE The holding of the convention in wartime New York City may well have been planned by the Dalrymple bureaucrats in order to encourage "busy" national labor leaders to run up from Washington to make speeches in support of Dalrymple's tottering regime. As a member of the National Executive Board of the CIO, Dalrymple naturally expects support from his fellow bureaucrats in the CIO, since they too are following a policy in their own unions of expulsion of militant members. As

GOP For Big Business--

(Continued from page 1) Nowhere in this section is there a demand for the repeal of the Smith-Connelly anti-strike act, or a guarantee to labor that it will have the right to enforce its organized power with the right to strike. How could there be when Republicans played a leading part in passing the bill! No mention is made of measures to protect the living standards of the American people, who have had inflationary prices hoisted on their backs in addition to the burdens of oppressive taxation, wage freezing and various forms of pay gouging. Only the taxes of the rich are to be reduced by the Gruesome Old Pirates. Price controls are subtly linked with rationing as two of the "nuisances" they would abolish. They openly proclaim the coming day of the robber barons and consumer-chiselers. The issues of post-war conversion and employment are dealt with in typical Tory fashion, replete with hoary hosannas to "free enterprise" and the "good old days"—of the breadlines and evictions. Taken as a whole, the platform should prove to those millions of workers who are fed up with the anti-labor, increasingly reactionary Roosevelt Administration, that the Republican Party is a Wall Street blind alley, that it cannot possibly grant any redress for their many justified grievances. It should prove to the overwhelming majority of the people in the United States that they have no real representation in the White House or in the legislative bodies. These

Price Rise--

(Continued from page 1) What is needed is a bold and forthright program: Rescind the no-strike pledge! Take labor's representatives off the WLB! Abolish the Little Steel formula! Abolition of the wage freeze! This struggle over the cost of living has demonstrated to the hilt that labor can have no reliance on the political parties of big business or their representatives. That means that labor must build its own party. places are controlled and operated by the two parties of big business for the benefit of the sixty ruling families who own ninety per cent of the nation's wealth. Why should labor support or vote for the parties of Rockefeller, Pew, du Pont, Aldrich, Ford Mellon and the Morgan banking interests? Why should they defeat their own hopes and desires and jeopardize their children's future by stringing along with the parties of the Northern manufacturers and the Southern bourbon poll-taxers, with Republican and Democratic war makers and their system of capitalist exploitation, in security and interminable imperialist wars? LABOR MUST HAVE A POLITICAL PARTY OF ITS OWN! THERE IS NO OTHER DECISION IN 1944!

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Tresca Murder Unsolved--

(Continued from page 1) ing. The garage was close to the spot where Galante was picked up by the police. But Galante was sent back to prison to complete an unexpired term and Nuccio was released on the curiously low bail of \$5,000—with no explanation to the people of New York about either. NO PROGRESS REPORTED "Isn't the public entitled, by this time, to some report from you on what has been done in the Tresca situation? "What, for instance, did your office discover about the different suspects connected with foreign political groups who were named as having possible motives for 'eliminating' Carlo Tresca? "If your staff examined the files of Il Martello carefully, it must have found evidence of long and bitter conflict between Tresca and certain

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