

BUSINESS CONTROL OF RECONVERSION GUARANTEES MASS UNEMPLOYMENT

Sales Tax Plan Soaks the Poor

By MARY BELL

A Midwestern front has been opened in the drive of big money against the poor working man. Calling themselves the Twin Cities Research Bureau, Inc., a group of big business men from Minneapolis and St. Paul has launched a tax scheme against labor for the post-war period. Their plan, which would lower corporation taxes and steepen those of working people, if adopted, will just about "research" labor out of its last dime through a brand new five per cent sales tax in addition to those already existing.

The Twin Cities Research Bureau, Inc., is a high-sounding, misleading name for companies like General Mills, Inc. (the Cream of Wheat Corporation), the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co., the Soo Line Railroad, the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Co., and many others worth over half a billion dollars. Their president is F. K. Weyerhaeuser, a representative of wealthy lumber interests.

COOKING IT UP

Expense was not spared in launching this post-war plan. The Washington representative of Cowles Brothers "Look" magazine invited correspondents of the wealthy capitalist newspapers to dine on filet mignon and to wine on Scotch liquor and cocktails at the Statler Hotel. Lavishly printed explanations of the plan were given to the correspondents, along with an oral sales plea by John L. Connolly, tax expert for the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. of St. Paul. Press releases were printed in color.

The appealing ballyhoo for the plan was that "relatively heavy corporate income tax rates" must be continued after the war in order to reduce individual income taxes and to encourage venture capital. But the program proposed, in order to continue these "relatively heavy corporate income taxes," to CUT the present rate from fifteen billion dollars a year to five billion! Two and two are five, you see. In order to maintain this high rate of corporate taxes, undoubtedly, all corporation excess profits taxes would be repealed, and

all other corporate taxes except the basic forty per cent normal tax. Individual income taxes would be reduced from seventeen billion to five billion dollars. That sounds like easing the burden of the poor. Except that the greatest easing occurs in the upper income brackets, especially among the wealthy with their dividends. Four per cent of the hard-earned gains of coupon-clippers would be exempted. How the lower bracket incomes are to be aided remains a little obscure.

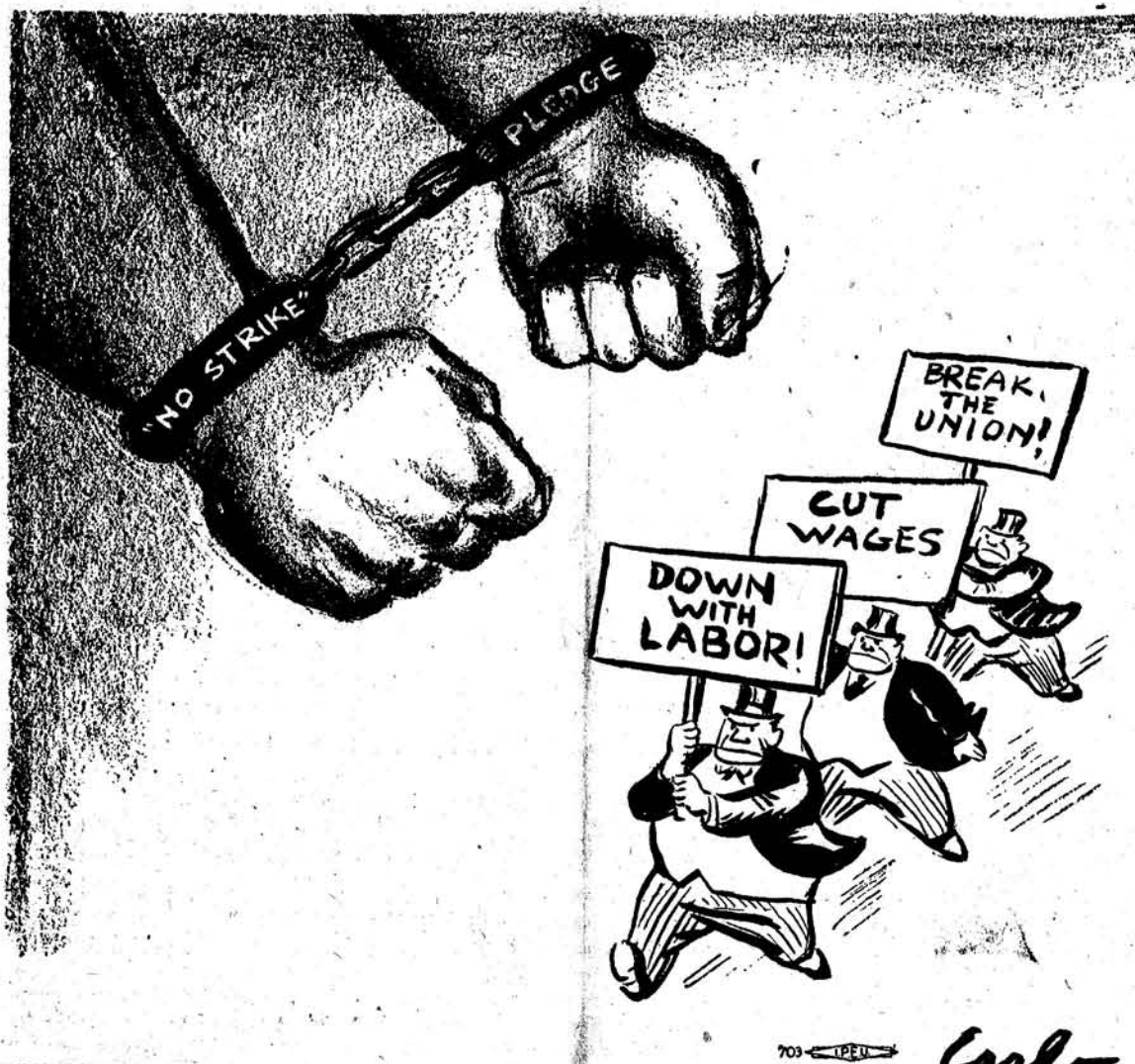
LAYING IT ON THE POOR

While venture capital and monopolies would be freed of taxes, the plan of the "researchers" would retain the war sales taxes and throw in an additional five per cent sales tax for good measure, chiefly on those who don't make enough now to pay income taxes. The fathers of the plan stated: "If this two billion (to be raised by the sales tax—Ed.) or any substantial part of it is to be removed from the taxes of the low-income group on the political ground that there are more voters in that area, the free enterprise system will be seriously jeopardized." ("Free enterprise" is what capitalists and their publicity agents call the profit system.)

All taxes would bring in an estimated total of eighteen billion dollars a year, which these business men figured would finance the government—exclusive of a new WPA and unemployment relief. Working people would contribute more than a third of these taxes.

Labor does not need a research corporation to know that business is planning for its own prosperity in such a post-war scheme—and for labor's continued poverty. The plans of these money-mad corporations do not even foresee jobs for workers after the war. Labor should free itself now from its no-strike bonds, raise its standard of living and place the tax burden squarely on the shoulders of those who can best afford to pay it, the big corporations! Labor should demand a one hundred per cent tax on all war profits above five per cent of their invested capital!

A Twist of the Wrist Would Put Them to Rout!



"DOLLAR A YEAR" REPRESENTATIVES OF BIG BUSINESS ON THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD AND TOP-RANKING BRASS-HATS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY WERE CAUGHT RED-HANDED LAST WEEK IN A DELIBERATE CONSPIRACY TO ENSURE MASS UNEMPLOYMENT IN AMERICA DURING THE VITAL PERIOD OF CUTBACKS AND RECONVERSION TO PEACETIME PRODUCTION.

BULLETIN—At press time, latest developments in the intra-WPB controversy described in this article indicate that a "compromise" has been worked out through the intervention of the Director of War Mobilization, James F. Byrnes.

The provisions of the "compromise" ostensibly lift the strictures of the WPB-big business majority against quick conversion to non-war production, but an examination of the actual "orders" agreed upon by them show no retreat from their established position.

The new "orders" permit a "minimum number" of models to be developed for "strictly experimental purposes." Other provisions tie up proposed "civilian production" in reams of red tape and leave all important requests for the wherewithal of prompt reconversion to the "discretion" of the big business majority on the WPB.

Therefore, we stand by our charge that corporate and financial wealth, presently in the saddle in almost all the seats of the Roosevelt Administration, is consciously plowing under the jobs of millions of workers in the interest of big profits!

On the basis of preliminary newspaper reports, the plan of the loudest advocates of "free enterprise" and "free competition" could be succinctly stated in this manner:

Houdi Workers Rap No-Strike Pledge, WLB

BUFFALO—Local 850 of the UAW-CIO has been conducting a long fight with the Houdi division of the Houdaille Hershey Corp. to increase wages and get equal pay for equal work for women. Both the company and the WLB have given the workers a run-around. At the last meeting the union took the offensive and voted unanimously to rescind the no-strike pledge. The union members are confident that their actions will help them in their struggle and they are urging all UAW locals to do the same. The resolution reads as follows:

"Whereas, the trade union leadership gave the no-strike pledge to the President of the U. S. without previously consulting the membership and allowing full and democratic discussion, and

Whereas, the President of the U. S. promised the labor movement in return that (1) prices would be kept down; (2) wages would be kept up; (3) the employers would not be allowed to sabotage collective bargaining in the shops, nor to take advantage of labor's yielding of its main weapon, the strike, and

Whereas, none of the promises have been kept, and

Whereas, prices have continued to rise continually and rapidly, until now they have increased 45.3 per cent above their level at the time the pledge was made, and

Whereas, wages have been kept down to fifteen per cent or less in many cases of their January, 1942, level by the Little Steel formula and the wage-freezing program of the government, and

Whereas, the employers, far from being kept in check, has broken down and are continuing to demolish the

(Continued on page 2)

"Big business wants NO competition and will brook NO 'free enterprise' from any but the established monopoly corporations. No company or manufacturer will be permitted to get the 'jump' on us while we are still 'loaded down' with fat war contracts. We don't care how many millions of workers are thrown out of work in the meantime—production of civilian goods will start ONLY WHEN WE'RE GOOD AND READY."

With the revelation of a sharp split in the WPB between Donald M. Nelson, its chairman and temporary defender of "small business," and big corporate interest led by General Electric's Charles E. Wilson, the issues in the conspiracy were of such a serious nature as to affect the whole economic future of the nation's fifty-five million workers.

The fight broke out into the open when the big business bloc in the WPB outmaneuvered a Nelson order to provide "small businesses" (by "small businesses" Nelson means large and small producers of consumer goods, not the hundreds of thousands of tiny businesses) with available materials and machinery for the resumption of consumers' goods production.

Signed on June 19 and scheduled to go into effect on July 1, the Nelson order required the WPB to make available to any manufacturer previously limited supplies of aluminum and magnesium, and allowed the purchase of machinery, tools and dies for the planning and production of civilian goods, wherever this did not interfere with war production.

IGNORE NELSON ORDER
In the meantime Nelson came down with pneumonia and the date set for compliance—July 1—went by without the order going into effect. The big business bloc of WPB vice-chairmen, which includes Donald Davis of General Mills, Arthur Bunker of Lehman Bros., William Batt of SKF Ball Bearings, and Len Boulware of Celotex Corp., simply ignored the order.

Their reasons were and still are the patently obvious and selfish ones

(Continued on page 4)

Greek Masses Nix the King

By JIM TANAKOS

At an official Greek conference, sanctioned by the King of Greece, which was held in Lebanon, Syria, in the early part of May, it was agreed that a "government of national unity" would be formed. The conference was attended by the Greek Premier and by delegates from all the political parties and underground organizations. A program was unanimously adopted by all the delegates present, and the creation of a new government, it was said, was only a matter of a few days.

Now, more than two months later, the government of "unity" has not yet been formed, and from all indications it will not be formed for a long time to come, if ever. The workers and peasants in Greece who have been risking their lives daily as members of the ELAS (the largest of the underground organizations) and its military arm, the EAM, refuse to accept the program that their Stalinist leaders helped to draw up at Lebanon.

STALINISTS IN ELAS

The underground movement in Greece, like all the others throughout Europe, has very limited and moderate demands. It is not too positive about what it wants, but it is sure about what it doesn't want. Despite all this, the Stalinist leaders gave up even the few demands and "guarantees" that the underground considered absolutely necessary.

The program accepted by the Stalinists contains eight points. The most important are intended to destroy the effectiveness of the underground armies as independent forces. The program speaks in pious phrases

of the establishment of personal security, satisfaction of material needs and political liberty "after liberation." Exactly what "after liberation" means is, of course, not defined. The Stalinist leaders of the ELAS and EAM waited in the Middle East for two months, ready to accept cabinet posts and enter the coalition government, but word came back from the mountains that the entire underground saw through the program as a sell-out.

The King of Greece and his Premier realized that the situation was serious and saw the possibility of the underground movement developing its own government in the mountains and the sections of Greece where Hitler's army had been driven out. The King therefore announced that he would not return to Greece until a plebiscite had been held on the question of the monarchy. This, by the way, is one of the elementary demands of the underground that the Stalinist leaders had not bothered with at Lebanon.

But the underground refused this promise of the King. They want their own army under their own control. Wherever they take over a town they want its administration to be part of their organization. What good is the King's promise if they give up all this and the King comes marching back? How can they stop him?

BETRAYING THE WORKERS

The latest reports are that the Stalinist leaders of ELAS have left the Middle East and are returning to Greece in an attempt to convince the "antartes" (guerrillas) in the mountains that this is the best possible

(Continued on page 4)

R. J. Thomas Warns on Contract Cancellations --1,650,000 Workers to Lose Jobs in 1944

The Brewster cutback was a preliminary tremor that was felt throughout the land by American workers. Now, chinks and fissures are opening throughout industry, and the Brewster firings, with no plan for a return to jobs, are becoming a discernible pattern across the country.

War production cutbacks are occurring at the rate of more than twenty a week and are due to continue with greater frequency, barring serious Allied military reverses. Although this fact is acknowledged by top-rung Army, Navy and government men, they are not making the figures public on outback unemployment.

This much is known, however. Already fifteen billion dollars in war orders have been canceled and they continue at the rate of nearly two billion dollars a month. According to R. J. Thomas, UAW president, the following industries will drop 1,650,000 by the end of 1944:

Munitions (800,000 already laid off)	1,000,000
Aircraft	300,000
Shipbuilding	200,000
Steel and aluminum	150,000

And that's only by the end of THIS year, presumably while we are still at war!

Thomas is urging a plan for reconversion: planning by a single government agency, dismissal wages, improved unemployment compensation, a full-scale program of public works and housing, development of a sound export program. The fallacy of his program is obvious: How can a government agency plan now, when it won't even recognize or publish information

on outback unemployment, the latter fact being acknowledged by UAW researchers? And what plan can a capitalist government effect when it has overproduced for the war and has not planned for what everyone knew was coming—unemployment in the period of conversion to civilian production?

The "plan" of capitalism at war is easy to follow: in order to win their markets for them, labor must give up the right to strike (to which Thomas has so gracefully acceded); labor must have its wages frozen, while prices climb; labor must pay for the war, while capitalist profits are in the stratosphere. Then, when labor is no longer necessary, and war jobs are done, labor is thrown out the door, to live for a few weeks on its war bonds, while capital has the wealth of Midas, gained in the war, to tide it over.

And the "plan" of capitalism for reconversion? Business Week gives the answer: "What can management do about labor's rebellion at layoffs? The only answers are generalities." If the problem isn't solved, the magazine declared, "broken windows, cracked skulls are not improbable; marches on Washington not impossible." And we know whose hunger marches these business men foresee, whose skulls they envisage as being cracked by cops' billies.

Let R. J. Thomas continue his urging. The moral we draw and which working people should learn is this: LABOR HAD BETTER GET ITS OWN PARTY IN THESE PITCHING! The alternatives are either a Labor Party which can plan for jobs for all, and relieve management of the problems that they are so obviously unable to solve, or the old round of short prosperity, long depression, war—and "cracked skulls."

Allied, Neutral and Palestinian Borders Closed As

Nazis Slaughter European Refugees

Two committees, the International Church Movement Ecumenical Refugee Commission, with headquarters in Geneva, and the Fluchtlingshilfe of Zurich, have released a report revealing the extermination of more than 1,715,000 Jewish refugees in Nazi execution camps from April 15, 1942, to April 15, 1944.

The record of Nazi sadism and bestiality, counted and recounted in numerous news reports and surveys since the Hitler regime first launched its campaign of extirpation of European Jews, has at no time, however, received more vivid affirmation than this latest one.

It confirms the existence of two "extermination camps" in Auschwitz and Birkenau in Upper Silesia, where the Nazis periodically shipped hundreds of thousands of Jews from the occupied countries to be slaughtered. Not including untold numbers slain elsewhere, the total number eradicated in the two camps show these figures:

Poland	900,000
Netherlands	100,000
Greece	45,000
France	150,000
Belgium	50,000
Germany	60,000
Yugoslavia, Italy and Norway	50,000
Bohemia, Moravia and Austria	30,000
Foreign Jews from various camps in Poland	300,000

To this total the committee adds a possible 400,000 Hungarian Jews, victims of "malicious, fiendish, inhuman brutality." These 400,000, the Ecumenical Commission says, "have been deported from their homeland since April 6 of this year under inhuman conditions to Upper Silesia. Those that did not die en route were delivered to the camps, where they were then worked to death or "selected" for the execution halls.

These halls, the victims were told, were "bathing chambers." The prisoners were led into cells and told to strip for bathing. Once the cell doors were firmly closed, cyanide gas was pumped into the enclosure, causing death in three to five minutes. The bodies were then removed to crematoriums holding eight to ten corpses.

The nine thousand word report by the Very Rev. Paul Vogt, head of the refugee organization in Zurich, includes an array of ghastly torture and extermination methods that should shock every decent human being. Its authenticity has been confirmed by an official report by the Czechoslovakian government in exile.

How many of Europe's Jewish population of seven millions are still alive to see the light of day is a matter of conjecture, but it has been conservatively estimated that more than four million of them have been massacred. Now, as the specter of military defeat haunts the Nazi rulers

of Germany, a systematic and unremitting program of mass destruction of these last remaining Jews is going full blast.

The responsibility of the "civilized, democratic" nations to rescue these victims of Nazi barbarism has been proclaimed by official spokesmen and representatives of those governments, with the exception of Russia, which has never, to our knowledge, admitted any interest or concern with the whole question.

Yet these quarters, despite their speeches and reports of condolences, have done little but regrettably confirm the reality of the extermination campaign against the Jews, and in isolated cases set up an agency or two as a gesture of recognition to those forces clamoring for action.

ALLIED INDIFFERENCE

When the refugee situation held out the possibility of immediately saving thousands of European Jews,

as in countries like Hungary, before the Nazis tightened their grip on their satellite, the Allies did absolutely nothing about it. They paid lip service to the desperate need of the innocent victims of Nazism, but acted in a manner that doomed them to the fate of the grave.

Thus did Britain, on April 1, put into effect the infamous White Paper that closed the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration. And the United States turned its back on this action, as if it did not see, or want to see, the practical consequences of putting up the bars to further entry. But even before the White Paper went into effect, the limited immigration quotas of the British authorities were the source of numerous tragedies, some of them heart-rending and inexcusable as the Nazis' worst offenses. Hundreds and hundreds of Jews had escaped through the underground method to

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

Slander Campaign Paces CP Scab Program

By DAVID COOLIDGE

Stalin's lackeys in the United States, led by Browder, Foster and the GPU, are terribly upset over the dissatisfaction workers are demonstrating over the no-strike pledge. Almost every day they have an article in the Daily Worker, howling, wailing, moaning, threatening and calling on the FBI to do something. They want the WPB to deny newsprint to "Trotskyite" papers. They pack CIO Industrial Union Councils and pass resolutions "condemning" LABOR ACTION. They buy space in capitalist dailies to "condemn" "Trotskyites" in the unions. They demand that the government "suppress" LABOR ACTION and throw the "Trotskyite" "secessionists" into jail.

The Stalin-Browder Communist Political Association, following the fascist Elizabeth Dilling, has organized its own "Red Network." Taking a leaf from the book of the Dies Committee, this outfit goes its lousy way, throwing filth in every place it is permitted to enter and on anybody who never made a pact with Hitler fascism.

THE LIARS AT WORK

They rant and rave about the KKK while at the same time they adopt the reactionary methods of the KKK. They talk against Gerald L. K. from one side of the mouth but from the other side they spew demagoguery and reaction in the manner of Smith. This can be seen as clear as day by anyone who dips into the Daily Worker from time to time.

Here are some gems from a column by George Morris in the Daily Worker of Thursday, July 6. "After all, a Trotskyite is a peculiar kind of animal. He steps from the group that publicly confessed in 1938-37 trials at Moscow to an agreement with Hitler..." But the facts are that no Trotskyist ever confessed. The Moscow Trials were properly characterized as the worst frame-up in history. Stalin used them to help purge his socialist opponents and to consolidate his bureaucratic regime. The trials were a vicious and ghastly frame-up concocted by Stalin and the GPU. "Confessions" were obtained by violence, threats and intimidation and were condemned by anyone and everyone not a Stalinist. Many are silent now only because Stalin is a partner of Churchill and Roosevelt.

But Morris has a queer memory. We advise him to stay out of Russia. He might get shot. As we remember history, it was Morris' boss, Joe Stalin, who made "an agreement with Hitler." Neither Stalin nor Morris will ever be able to rewrite this history. No amount of frame-up or GPU murder will destroy that record.

SOME FACTS

This agreement between Stalin and Hitler gave the fascist butcher the go-ahead sign for the invasion of Poland which was the prelude to World

War II. Right after the Stalin-fascist agreement, Molotov, another one of Morris' bosses, dumbfounded every decent human being with the announcement that "fascism is a matter of taste." That is, according to Molotov and Stalin, fascism is something like deciding on one brand of cigarettes or another. You decide which your taste prefers.

The Communist Political Association says that LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party are opposed to an American victory. The inference that workers are expected to draw from this is that LABOR ACTION is for a German victory. Here again they are trying to distort and rewrite history. LABOR ACTION and the Workers are consistent opponents of capitalist and imperialist wars. We have said that this is an imperialist war, that it is not a fight against the theory and practice of fascism. Only yesterday Churchill proved what we say by de-

Morris and Browder would like the working class to forget a few important historic events aside from the "agreement" between Stalin and the fascist butcher, Hitler. We are against capitalist wars and for peace, but we never made a pact with Hitler, helped an imperialist war going and then organized an American Peace Mobilization. We never organized a GPU and had it cooperate with the fascist Gestapo. We never aided Hitler and the fascists with the slogan: "The Yanks are not coming." We have never called Roosevelt a fascist. We have never uttered such a monstrosity as did Browder when he said: "The former distinction between the fascist and democratic nations has lost the meaning it once had, and is rapidly losing any serious political meaning at all." This came from the mouth of Earl Browder in Philadelphia on September 29, 1939.

William Z. Foster is also worried

no end about strikes and the no-strike pledge. This is the same Foster who organized and led the great steel strike of 1919. It is the same Foster who a few short years back was whooping it up for peace; any kind of peace, "negotiated" or otherwise, just so the "peace policies of the Soviet Union" were accepted.

Foster is frightened out of his skin at what he now calls "narrow sectarianism." He admits that the workers have grievances: "their living standards are being infringed upon by the rising cost of living..." there are "various unsatisfactory decisions by the War Labor Board" and "many of the employers" are "provocative." But, according to Foster, we must turn the other cheek because "the war is reaching its climax." Also revocation of the no-strike pledge could have highly detrimental effect in the presidential election by

strengthening the hands of the anti-Roosevelt opposition."

This is queer talk from people who a few years ago were telling us that Roosevelt was a fascist. And we are reminded that the Daily Worker is elated over the fact that Dan Tobin of the Teamsters Union is after the "Trotskyites." They are ready to lie down with Tobin in any old gutter. Now, Tobin is one of the AFL wheel-horses. Yet, didn't the Communist Party say a few years ago that "the AFL is outright fascist"?

Foster says in his Daily Worker article of July 9 that "the basic remedy for the auto workers' legitimate grievances, which the strike agitators are exploiting, is not to engage in a suicidal wartime strike policy but to improve the political work of the organization in Detroit, in Michigan, in Washington." How shall the auto and other workers improve their political work? Foster and Browder say by voting for Roosevelt. But Roosevelt is President now and has been for nearly twelve years. The grievances about which labor complains most now came under Roosevelt. How will they correct these grievances by taking Foster's advice and voting for Roosevelt again?

We like Foster's expression, "strike agitators." Where did we hear that and similar expressions before? "Foreign agitators." "If you don't like this country, go back where you come from." "These agitators who come into our community and disturb the peaceful relations between the workers and their employers." "They ain't nothin' but a bunch of communitists." Yes, we heard this before from the Chambers of Commerce, the KKK, Father Coughlin and reactionary little business men.

With the Communist Party all-out for "free enterprise" and big business, it doesn't sound strange coming from their mouths. Their line has changed again!

And What Company They Keep!

If there are many workers left who are not aware of the betrayal of labor by the Communist Political Association, it certainly is not the fault of that organization. The Communists, fortunately, by words and deeds, reveal their betrayals to the working class every single day.

But it remained for the Communist leadership of the Fur & Leather Workers Union to reach a new low. The Communist control over this union is more complete than over any other. Its international president, Ben Gold, is openly a member of the national committee of the CPA.

At the union's recent convention, where the workers' problems were conveniently by-passed for the Stalinist resolutions of the

day, a Mr. Hollander was invited as a featured speaker.

The fact that Mr. Hollander, a millionaire and head man of the fur dressing and dyeing industry, was invited to attend and speak at a trade union convention, is enough to make the average worker's blood boil. But the Stalinist leaders of the union do not react that way toward the bosses. And they don't want the union membership to dislike the members of the capitalist class, even the most ruthless and reactionary members of that class. That is why Mr. Hollander was invited to the convention.

The name of Hollander is a hated name to the fur workers. As far back as the period of the First World War he was resisting, with the most savage methods

the union ever faced, the attempts of the workers in his establishments to organize.

In 1933, when he was still fighting the union, two strikers, Novack and Rubin, were killed. In the organizational drive two more unionists were killed, M. Langer and Nately Balero. Langer was a leading figure in the union and well known as a member of the Communist Party. For years after his death the union and the Communist Party swore that his martyrdom would not be forgotten and correctly used it as an example from which all their members could learn—the depths to which the capitalist class will sink to keep the workers in bondage.

The Communists have reached the same depths.

Longshoremen Can Scuttle Bridges' Pro-Company Line

SAN PEDRO—Members of the International Longshoremen's Union will put Harry (The Scab) Bridges to the acid test of any union leadership this month when delegates from Pacific Coast locals caucus in San Francisco on the state of their contract with the shipowners.

The current contract expires on September 30 and the union must serve notice of its intention to negotiate a new contract by July 30 or the old one is automatically renewed for a year.

Preceding the delegates' caucus, which takes place on July 27 to 29, the International Executive Board will meet for three days. Here Bridges and the Executive Board are expected to advance the line of ap-

peasement and sell-out to the shipowners, who have had a profiteering holiday in the transportation of war materials.

Bridges has attempted to deprive the longshoremen of their most powerful weapon—the right to strike—in his widely publicized "no-strike now or ever" promise to the ship companies and the Wall Street banks that control them. Thus disarmed, the longshoremen would enter any negotiations with their backs to the wall.

Any longshoreman who ever carried a hook and a union card in his back pocket knows that the only way to get anything out of the shipowners is to FIGHT and FIGHT HARD! Three years of bitter experience with the no-strike pledge has netted them a stiff pain in the back and nothing more. On the other hand, the shipowners were wise enough to make use of their allies in the union, namely, Harry (The Scab) Bridges and his pals, to chisel on conditions all the way down the line.



Concretely, here are some of the demands of rank and file longshoremen: a raise in the basic pay rate from \$1.10 to \$1.25 per hour; adjustment of the ammunition penalty to equal that of the East Coast, where it is \$2.00 an hour and more; overtime pay on ammunition loading should be corrected to include the penalty, that is, time and a half PLUS the penalty, which is not being paid under the present set-up.

These are but a few of the very good reasons why the longshoremen need a new contract. If the rank and file can form a progressive bloc to oppose the flunk policies of Bridges and his fellow pie-card artists of the Communist Political Association, then there is some hope that they can win wage increases and other improved conditions.

Point number one on any such program for union victory must be:

Rescind the no-strike pledge! Labor must have a fighting chance!

Houdi Workers Rap No-Strike Pledge, WLB---

(Continued from page 1)

remnants of the system of collective bargaining won by the labor movement as a result of years of bitter struggle and strike action, and

Whereas, Philip Murray declared more than a year and a half ago that collective bargaining has broken down and that the employers are laughing at the helplessness of the unions with their hands tied behind their backs, and

Whereas, the WLB, a government agency to which the workers must go for redress of all their grievances, has added to all its other provocations a directive of May, 1944, directing employers to fire grievance men who lead their men in the fight against the company and remove the seniority rights of stewards who do the same, and

Whereas, the list of unsettled grievances has reached outrageous proportions, without any hope of being settled unless the labor movement takes back for itself its hard-won right to strike, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we call on our International Union at its coming convention to rescind the no-strike pledge, and be it further

Resolved, that the International Union withdraw the union representatives from the War Labor Board, and be it finally

Resolved, that all UAW locals in this area be sent copies of this resolution, asking their adoption of said resolution."



WORKERS WON FREE EDUCATION

Out of the Past

One of the first and foremost demands was for the public school and free education. As an institution the common school had no existence and agitation for it met the vigorous opposition of the ruling classes. From 1809 to 1835 the laws of Pennsylvania provided that only those who took oath that they could not send their children to private day schools should be allowed to send them to the public schools. The public schools were regarded as pauper institutions, a stigma of shame being attached to children who attended them. In Delaware and Maryland the schools were little better and were frequently taught by redemptioners and indentured servants. Schools were often in the hands of ignorant, brutal and immoral teachers, and school funds were often embezzled or neglected. The workers attacked the schools and by 1834 there were 200,000 children out of school in Pennsylvania. In September of that year the state provided for tax-supported schools and three months later petitions for repeal of the act were received from thirty-eight counties out of fifty-one and only a hard struggle saved the bill.

A Workingmen's Committee of Philadelphia in 1829 drew a model outline for a system of free education that would be a credit to experienced educators. In all the working class journals of that time and for many years after free education and the public school were prominent demands. The opposition to them read like the anti-socialist arguments of today. The National Gazette, of Philadelphia, in a number of editorials in 1830, ridiculed the public school as an impractical dream and as class legislation. This paper regarded it as "incompatible with the very organization and being of civil society." It affirms that the public school would place a premium on idleness. "A scheme of universal equal education... could not be used with any degree of equality of profit, unless the dispositions and circumstances of parents and children were nearly the same; to accomplish which phenomenon, in a nation of many millions... thus spoke the "educated" classes in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The public school as we know it came in time and it is only in recent years that historians concede that it is a monument to the genius and struggles of the workers during the first half-century of the republic.

By 1825 the development of industry called into existence a mass of trades unknown to the colonial period. Mill hands, mechanics, engineers, printers, increased with the economic changes so that a definite class of wage workers, marked by feelings, interests, habits and life that are typical of capitalist production, was forming. This was also the formative period of working class organizations and labor unions were organized in many of the larger cities. The workers at this period were fortunate to receive seventy-five cents for twelve hours work. Many were glad to work for "thirty-seven cents and even for twenty-five cents a day in winter who in spring and summer could earn sixty-two and a half cents or perhaps eighty-seven and a half cents by toiling fourteen hours." These wages drove children to beg or steal; girls crowded houses of shame to such an extent that such houses were pulled down in a number of cities. In the states bordering the Ohio, wages were higher owing to the scarcity of population—The Workers in American History, by James O'Neal.

WORLD EVENTS

By Europacus

Strange Fruits of "Liberation" in Italy

We have often been accused of giving a view of the Italian situation colored too much by our own political beliefs and hopes. We were accused of sacrificing objectivity for political bias. It might, therefore, be valuable to give a succinct report on Italian events based entirely on dispatches which have appeared recently in the big press. We will add no comment—these dispatches speak for themselves:

1. "Alexander Cuts Pay of Italians Hired by Allies" (New York Herald Tribune, July 5): "An order by Major H. H. Johnson, military governor of Rome, increasing wages paid to civilians by Allied armies, has been rescinded by General Harold Alexander, Allied commander in Italy. Officials in the Rome area said Allied forces here are now paying civilians less than the German army paid them—and below the scale fixed by the fascist labor code at the time the Allies entered Rome. Germans paid the scale set by the fascists last November. Truck drivers who received 135 lire (\$1.35) daily from them are now getting 90 lire (90 cents) from the Allies. Laborers who got 77½ lire are now getting 65 lire."

2. "Rome Cynical on Progress of Purge of Fascists" (New York Herald Tribune, July 6): "Dissatisfaction with the progress of the purge is increasingly reflected by the Roman press... The general cynicism is reflected in a cartoon appearing in the socialist paper Avanti. The cartoon shows a blackshirted Roman hurrying down the street and being accosted by a neighbor, who asks: 'Where are you going in such a hurry?' 'I have been appointed to the epuration committee and I have not even had time to change my shirt' is the reply. The cartoon was undoubtedly inspired by charges in the Rome press that two 'ardent fascists' are sitting on the Rome University's purge commission appointed by the AMG education officer... The honeymoon period is over."

3. "Poletti Says Italy Requires Guidance, Allies Must Stay After War" (New York Times, July 3): "After a year's experience in AMG government, Lieut.-Col. Charles Poletti, regional commissioner for the Rome area, is convinced that the Allies must remain in Italy after the war, at least until the Italians decide what form of government they want. Poletti said: 'The Allies would be doing Italy a great disfavor by packing up and moving out on Armistice Day.'"

3. "Crop Turnover to Be Enforced" (New York Times, July 3): "Italian

farmers who fail to turn over this season's crop to the people's granaries will be liable to a sentence of six years' imprisonment or a fine equivalent to twenty times the value of the crops, the newly formed Italian government decided yesterday."

4. New York Herald Tribune, June 8: "A strong plea for publication of the secret terms of the Allied-Italian armistice was made today by the socialist newspaper Avanti. 'It may be said that these terms, were they known, might have a dispiriting effect upon Italians now fighting in the North,' the newspaper said, 'but the truth couldn't possibly be as bad as what Italians already fear.'"

Also bothering the Italian press is the alleged brush-off accorded Italian partisans by the AMG. "Does it seem right," demands Il Risorgimento, "for the radio to send out reports for more and more partisans to fight in territories still occupied by the Germans, while here in liberated Italy the Partisans have been summarily disarmed... They are left to get along as best they may, without food or shelter and with only perfunctory hospitalization for the wounded."

5. "Romans Gripe and Talk of a Revolution" (PM, July 3): "Women of Rome get fretful as they queue in these streets to get their rations of olive oil and vegetables and bread... Menfolk who spend endless hours in quest of jobs likewise find much to be desired... Despite the slackness of the mind and of the spirit, you hear constant talk of revolution. It is not a subject whispered about in cellars. Men of all political parties speak about it walking in the streets... Mass meetings are forbidden on the ground that they might cause disturbances that would somehow interfere with the Allied war effort. Newspapers live under the tacit threat of censorship, but talk is free... Those who haven't given way to cynicism, petulance or despair seem to feel under a great compulsion to resolve their difficulties by violent means."

6. Moscow and the Vatican (New York Times, July 10): "There has been much talk about future relations between Moscow and Vatican City. The attitude of the church has not changed but the attitude of Moscow has. Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communist Party, went to high mass at the Church of San Fernando in Naples quite ostentatiously... The general program of the CP is more conservative than the Catholic Party."

THE BOX-SCORE

Shhhhh... Anybody around? Keep this quiet, friend, because this is just between you, me and the little man who isn't there... LABOR ACTION needs a couple of hundred new subscriptions—needs them every week and every month of the year.

Shhhhh... come over to this dark doorway where we can be alone... we only received about 225 subs during the month of June... No, I'm not kidding, only 225!

Know that Philadelphia LABOR ACTION Club that is usually way up on our lists?... Well, last month they sent us about half of their quota... same for New York and Chicago, too. Why, if it weren't for our Detroit friends, we simply don't know WHAT we would've done.

Get closer, friend, I don't want this to go any further than an inch or two... there's those fellers from a city in Ohio that produces tires... can they keep a secret? You can tell that they don't let out a

word about us to hardly ANYONE, because the number of new subs they sent us last month can be counted on your first two fingers.

Shhhhh... pardon me if I'm breathing on your neck, friend, but do you know that LABOR ACTION is the kind of paper that is financed solely by the subscriptions and contributions it receives from the workers and farmers of America... that it is devoted solely to their interests... that it is the militant shop steward of thousands of them in their daily struggle for a decent life... that it is their trusted and fearless guide in their political fight for a world free of insecurity and war... that its influence should be a thousand times more powerful than it is today?

What's that?... you say you're aware of those facts? Well, for the love of peace and plenty, keep quiet about it... Do you want the whole darn world to know there's such a paper as LABOR ACTION?

LABOR ACTION fights for the interests of labor in the shops, mines, mills and offices; forearms you with facts, analyses and a PROGRAM. Here's how to get your copy every week.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!
Introductory Offer—Only 25¢ for Six Months

Clip here and mail with twenty-five cents for your Sub TODAY

LABOR ACTION
114 West 14th Street
New York 11, N. Y.

Yes, I'd like to receive LABOR ACTION.

Enclosed find twenty-five cents to cover full cost of my introductory six-month subscription.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

Readers may use this blank to subscribe for friends or shopmates. Send in the quarter and we'll do the rest. Look at the last line of your wrapper. If it reads V8-29, this is your last issue. Send in your renewal with thirty-five cents before you miss an issue!

Ode To The War Labor Board

By JESS FERRAZA, President, Local 212, UAW-CIO

The War Labor Board is a great institution,
For all labor troubles they have a solution.
Just fill out some forms, a hundred or more;
Sure, they will accept them, and send you some more.
Don't phone us, they say, or send us a card,
Just fill out Form Sixty, in length but a yard.
And when we receive it, you'll hear from us soon—
In six months or so on some afternoon.
Your case is a tough one, we'll have to admit,
So our latest and best we are sending to you,
Form forty-four thousand, six hundred and two.

Please notice the clause to paragraph eight;
It cancels all forms you have sent us to date.
Page four hundred fifty, clause three hundred one,
Explains clearly, sir, that you start on page one.
Item six hundred two is the one you must watch—
Don't write it in English—please print it in Scotch.
If we haven't sent you the knowledge you seek,
Please write us again in Hebrew or Greek.
Our legal department, the best in the land—
Has all college theorists—they'll understand.
If you don't get our order that gives you more pay,
It's because our best men are processing your hay.

Your case has a place down deep in our files,
Which extend underground about twenty-one miles.
We assure you, they're kept both safely and clean—
They're brushed every morning and vacuum-machined—
Now, don't be impatient—you'll hear from us yet,
In eight or nine months—Oh, we'll not forget!
Your War Labor Board will then send to you
Form fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred and two.
When the war is all over and tyranny blasted,
And our staff is no longer afraid to be drafted;
When Hitler is dead, and his renegades run,
Then we'll docket your brief, boys, as CASE NUMBER ONE!

—Reprinted from "Voice of Local 212" (Detroit).

An Obituary to an Anti-Labor Cardinal

By MIKE STEVENS

The recent death of William Cardinal O'Connell, archbishop of Boston, did not go unnoticed. Eulogies were voiced in Congress and the press extolled his virtues. President Roosevelt issued a message in remembrance of the Cardinal's "rare gifts of leadership" and expressing heartfelt sympathy to the "flock which has lost its shepherd."

The workers in Massachusetts also noticed the passing of the Cardinal. But no resolutions were passed at their trade union meetings, even though in many locals the membership was made up mostly of Catholics. The workers living in poverty, working long hours at back-breaking jobs in the mills and factories—when they are not unemployed—very early in his reign understood that he was not speaking for them when he said "the present age is an age of luxury, and luxury ought to have no place in life." He certainly was not speaking for them.

AGAINST BARRING CHILD LABOR

The Cardinal not only did not speak for the workers, he worked actively against them. In the Massachusetts Legislature he wielded his political and religious pressure against the interests of the working class. He had a registered lobbyist, Fred W. Mansfield, an ex-Mayor of Boston, to check on all pending bills and to inform the legislators exactly what the Cardinal wished. In 1936 he was responsible for the Legislature defeating a bill that favored the enactment of the Child Labor Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. Even the New York Times of that period (April 23) admitted that the defeat of the bill was due to the influence of the Cardinal. He had a special law passed by the Legislature which made him the "corporation sole" of the Catholic Church in Massachusetts. He was its president, its officers, its board of directors. Due to his influence, Massachusetts is one of the two remaining states where a woman cannot obtain any birth control advice from her physician, even if her health is in such condition that bearing a child will mean her death.

His sermons were mainly against new scientific theories and socialism. In addition, he would condemn women for cutting their hair, Einstein as a "petty befogged professor," Rudy Vallee's singing, etc. His last public utterance to reach the press was against trade unions, that strikes should be outlawed.

The Cardinal, although born of very poor parents, became immensely wealthy and always spoke well of the rich. "The rich men and women of the United States need have no fear of failing to enter the Heavenly Kingdom," he once said.

Cardinal O'Connell owned a summer home in the Bahamas which was formerly the mansion of the colonial governor there. His home in Brighton, Mass., with its private golf course is valued at over \$200,000. In addition, he owned a large estate in Marblehead. Here people came to sit on the large rocks and enjoy the sea breezes. But when the Cardinal came into possession of the property he built a large fence around the rocks to keep the people away. An "irreverent wit" put up a sign along the fence saying: "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, but the rocks belong to the Cardinal."

HAD PRAISE FOR MUSSOLINI

On the question of fascism, he was one of the first to praise Mussolini. In 1924 he said that Italy was undergoing a process of "a marvelous transformation since Benito Mussolini seized the reins of government." Mussolini decorated the Cardinal in 1926 with one of the highest fascist orders, which caused the Cardinal, upon arriving home, to exclaim: "Mussolini is a genius in the field of government, given to Italy by God to help the nation continue her rapid ascent toward the most glorious destiny."

O'Connell had also received a decoration from the Mikado of Japan, a symbol of an ancient Shinto superstition, the Grand Cordon of the Sacred Treasure.

The Cardinal is now dead. The man referred to as "No. 1" in the State Legislature, as "the system" by the book dealers, and as "Big Bill" and "the Pope of Boston" in other quarters is no more. But the workers aren't passing any resolutions in kind remembrance.

PLENTY FOR ALL

The Meaning of Socialism

By Ernest Lund

IT TELLS YOU:

Why This Is an Age of Plenty
Why There Is Poverty in This Age of Plenty
Who Controls the Wealth Labor Produces
Why There Are Rich and Poor
What an Equitable Society Is
How It Can Be Achieved
Socialism as the Hope of Humanity

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW

Sixty Pages Ten Cents per Copy

Published by:

THE WORKERS PARTY

114 West 14th Street
New York 11, N. Y.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Fifth in a Series on American Fascism

Angling for Labor--The Hitler Way

By REVA CRAINE

One of the services which the native fascists perform for big business is spreading distrust and conflict inside the ranks of the labor movement, with the aim of so dividing and disrupting it as to render it helpless against the onslaughts of reaction and fascism. This destructive activity is carried on not only from outside the labor movement. On the contrary, any number of native fascists have wormed their way inside the working class and under the guise of calling themselves "workers'" organizations, have been carrying out their pernicious work.

The device used by the fascists is to set up organizations with "worker" names in order to create confusion. An additional reason, however, is to take advantage of the popularity of labor organizations. They even take the name "socialist," which is so popular with hundreds and thousands of workers. Thus, in Germany, Hitler calls his party the "National Socialist Workers Party of Germany." In Italy, Mussolini set up his labor corporatives, giving the impression that they were really organizations in favor of the workers, when, in reality they were the means of enslaving Italian labor for the benefit of the big business interests. The pattern, as already indicated, is the same in this country.

Unfortunately, some workers, though not many, have fallen victim to the propaganda of these fascists—and while sincerely believing that they have been helping the labor movement, they have actually been helping labor's most deadly enemy, fascism.

NWL MAKES HEADLINES

Prominent among these so-called "workers" (read: fascist) organizations has been the National Workers League of Detroit. It came into the limelight in the spring of 1942, when together with other local fascist organizations, Klan elements, and aided and abetted by Congressman Tene-rowicz, some government officials and the Seven-Mile Fenelon Improvement Association, its members sought to prevent by force a group of Negro families from occupying apartments in the Sojourner Truth Housing Project, built by the federal government for these families.

This attempt ended in a bloody riot, in which over a hundred Negroes were arrested, some twenty injured and only a few of the instigators of the riot were arrested. Although there had been trouble and repeated attempts to keep the Negroes out of the houses designated

for them since the completion of the project early in the year, the federal government did nothing to enforce their right to move in. This naturally encouraged the local hoodlums. When the rioting took place, the police stood by without coming to the aid of the lawful and rightful occupants of the houses.

Among those arrested were Parker Sage, head of the National Workers League, and Garland Alderman, secretary of that organization. The National Workers League was founded in 1938 by Sage as an anti-union, anti-Negro, anti-Semitic and highly nationalistic group. It attracted to its ranks Bundists, Silver Shirts, Klansmen, Christian Fronters and the remnants of the Black Legion, which had flourished in Detroit and through six Mid-Western states in 1935-36. The latter's membership had been composed of strike-breakers, convicts, rapists and murderers, and it functioned as a secret, hooded terrorist group, whose special duties consisted of bombing labor headquarters, burning the homes of prominent trade unionists and outright murder. At least fifteen murders were ascribed to this organization, but when the state of Michigan finally decided to clean out the Black Legion, only a few of its members were convicted. The real ringleaders were never brought to trial and the whole matter was mysteriously hushed up.

TERROR AND DIVISION

The National Workers League became the heir of the Black Legion. It changed the tactics somewhat, began to operate more shrewdly and subtly, but its aims remained the same as those of its predecessor—namely, the terrorization, disruption and eventual destruction of the organized labor movement. It was only natural that Detroit, the heart of the automobile industry and militant unionism, should be chosen as the center of operation by this group. Its main target was there, and from Detroit it hoped to spread out to other territories.

The NWL functions inside the factories of Detroit with the aim of spreading its poisonous race-hatred and anti-CIO doctrines among the workers. It places its members in industry so as to catch the ears and minds of these workers. Allied with the NWL is the Society of Tool & Die Craftsmen, an organization devoted to besmirching and prejudicing workers against the legitimate labor movement, Roy Carlson, in his book, Under Cover, relates what he was told by one of its hired thugs as to how these organizations operate.

"You begins your work by talkin' against the Jews and N...rs. The Jews got us into the war. You tell 'em that. The Jew is keeping labor down by controlling the money. It's the Jew who hires the N...rs and gives them low wages. There is angles, see; there is angles. When a guy in a shop gets up and talks against the kikes, and some other guy don't like it, we call on this second guy.... There is angles. You gotta loim 'em. You ties in the N...rs with the Jew, den you call the Jews Communists. That gets 'em."

There are angles, yes indeed. The angle taken by the NWL is the one of creating and sharpening the prejudices of the workers, the race and national prejudices, for the purpose of dividing and destroying the best protection that the workers have, the fighting trade unions. Division in the ranks of the workers is just what the boss is angling for, just what he is banking on to prevent the workers from putting up effective resistance or a successful battle for increased wages and better conditions. The NWL is thus the direct agent of the boss, operating among the workers in the shops.

Typical of their methods of operation was the "strike" last summer instigated by Klan elements at the Packard Motor Co. in Detroit against the upgrading of Negroes. Working closely with the industrial relations director of the company, C. E. Weiss, who told the white workers that they did not have to work with the up-graded Negroes, the Klan and its successor in Detroit, organized a walkout against the Negroes. When the Army stepped into the situation, it suspended some twenty-seven workers, including some of the Negroes, as instigators of the stoppage. Unfortunately, the union at the plant, under Stalinist domination, satisfied itself with pointing out who the real trouble-makers were, but did not come to the defense of the suspended Negroes who had stood up for their rights and were the real victims of the Klan action.

FRIENDS OF SMITH, ET AL.

The National Workers League has cooperated and continues to do so with any number of other known fascist organizations in this country. Many of its leading members got their first introduction to fascist thinking through the literature put out by Pelley and Coughlin. Gerald L. K. Smith is on very friendly terms with the leaders of the NWL, who in turn advertise and help build up his meetings. His secretary is an officer of the NWL, George E. Deather-

age, now on trial as a secessionist, was on the advisory council of the NWL. Robert Vietig, formerly of the America First Committee, works very closely with the NWL. Carlson mentions he receives aid and support from two top-rank industrialists, but unfortunately does not mention them by name.

Here is the heart of the problem. Behind every fascist movement, every fascist organization, stands big business, collectively or individually. Hitler was supported and financed by Ruhr industrialists. I. G. Farben, friend of the Standard Oil Company, spent millions to put the Nazis into power. Mussolini's main support came from Italian financiers, industrialists and rich landowners. We are certain that if information is made available, it will be found that behind the numerous fascist groups in this country are representatives of the big business interests anxious to destroy the labor movement.

In spite of its record and associations, the Dies Committee never investigated the NWL, although it did spend its time and large sums of the people's money going after labor organizations. Perhaps Parker Sage, head of the NWL, hit the nail on the head when he wrote:

"Dies does have a large nuisance value BUT we feel that the real reason he is against us probably is because he is a politician. Hell, we found that Dies is or was a Klansman. We have nothing to fear from him. The FBI have never bothered us and we never concern ourselves about them."

The job of cleaning out the fascists from the labor movement is the job of the labor movement itself. The CIO unions are absolutely in the right when they expel from their membership and cause to be dismissed those who are found guilty of spreading racial hatred and disunity in the ranks of labor. But that is only part of the job. The rest consists in the education, by the trade unions, of the workers that the way to victory lies through working class solidarity and unity.

The organized labor movement must take upon itself the struggle against all forms of race prejudice and discrimination, whether this be preached by the fascists or practiced by any section of the labor movement, by the boss or the government. In that way a tremendous beginning can be made in the fight against fascism and its organizations in this country.

Anti-Negro 'Incidents' Undiminished

By JESSE KAAREN

The frequency with which anti-Negro disturbances keep recurring throughout the country reveals a tension in Negro-white relations that is just as serious as ever, even though this tension has not as yet flared up into clashes as bad as those in Harlem and Detroit last year. Instead of attempting to improve the situation by chalking measures to end job discrimination and provide enough housing for workers, thus taking the lead in easing the tension, the government itself is one of the worst offenders.

When the facts about Jim Crowism in the Army are placed alongside the government appeal to Negroes for equality of sacrifice, by which is meant that Negroes should be willing to give up their lives in battle, buy war bonds on meager earnings, and work inhumanly long hours for wages that do not keep pace with the rising cost of living, the government's hypocrisy becomes all the more naked. When analyzed, all the fine-sounding speeches by government leaders who try to get the colored vote by promising to improve conditions for the Negroes, stand exposed as nothing more than a pat on the back, telling the Negro to work harder for less money. The insincerity of the New Dealers is exemplified by their creation of the FEPC, a body without power to enforce its decisions.

SOME RECENT EVENTS

A former petty officer in the Seabees, Isaac G. McNatt, who was dismissed as "undesirable" because he objected to segregation in the Navy, describes how white officers quartered Negro officers and men in separate barracks, fed them in separate dining rooms and made them buy supplies in a separate ship service store. A Negro steward housed with white sailors was threatened with bodily harm unless he found different accommodations for himself, and there was no one to lecture to the white sailors or discipline them for their actions.

In Texas, law enforcement officials are openly engaged in finding a legal formula for nullifying the effect of the recent Supreme Court decision which gives Negroes the right to vote in the Texas primaries. In fact, senators and congressmen have loudly proclaimed in the dignified halls of Congress that they "will find a way" of overcoming this challenge to "the white man's supremacy."

Southern politicians are so rebellious against this decision that in an

article in the Pittsburgh Courier, largest Negro daily in the country, it is charged that the recent revolt against Roosevelt's fourth term candidacy in the Texas Democratic Party is based on that.

However bitter the Southern Democrats are against Roosevelt because of the latter's flirtation with liberal-sounding sentiments, they are wrong in assuming that Roosevelt is the savior of the Negro or that Roosevelt would put himself out too far on a limb to make good on the bulk of his noble promises. Roosevelt has just as many anti-Negro elements among his camp followers as he has liberals and proof of this may be seen from the shameful way that the New Dealers in Congress joined in a bloc with the Southern Democrats to drop the question of repealing the poll-tax.

TEXAS IS NOT ALONE

Texas is not the only place where "law enforcement" officials are breaking their own laws in the drive to terrorize Negroes. In the little town of New Iberia, La., the sheriff, with two of his deputies, smuggled four Negroes from their homes, beat them up brutally and drove them outside the city limits with strict orders that they should not return to their homes. Then the town officials started terrorizing the rest of the Negro townspeople until all the professionals—doctors and dentists included—left town, and many others are trying to leave.

It all started after the president of the local NAACP wrote to the FEPC in Dallas, Texas, complaining about the fact that an industrial training school which had been started in

town refused to accept colored pupils and asking that a separate Negro school be set up.

A local Negro credit organization, called the Federal Credit Union, which had been built up by the Negroes because the banks in town refused credit to Negroes, was denounced of its officers in a similar manner by the sheriff and had to disband. Incidentally, the Federal Credit Union had sold \$21,000 in War Bonds to its members, a factor which did not shield its members from the wrath of the local "patriots" when they decided the Negroes were "forgetting their place."

CLOSER TO THE NORTH

In another Southern city, Memphis, Tenn., a police edict was issued forbidding A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, to address a labor rally in the city. When he went ahead and made his speech in a church hall, the church was immediately condemned as a fire hazard by city officials. This is only one of a series of terroristic acts in Memphis, which have brought about such a desperate situation for the Negroes that the Workers Defense League has asked the Department of Justice to investigate the town.

On a dining car traveling through Florida, a Negro waiter was kicked, beaten and threatened with a gun by a white conductor because he happened to be in the aisle sorting the laundry when the conductor was trying to pass. The other Negro waiters, who went on a protest strike, were taken off at the next town without being given rail accommodations to

their homes, and all were suspended from their jobs. After that affair, other waiters on the line were suspended and finally the dining service was cut out altogether between Jacksonville, Fla., and Savannah, Ga., "for their own safety," said the company.

AND IN THE NORTH

In Jamaica, N. Y., local branches of the YMCA and YWCA, for all of their professed liberalism, refuse to allow Negroes to use their facilities or become members. In Brooklyn, one of the worst flare-ups of recent days occurred when one hundred and fifty young hoodlums attempted to attack a group of tenants in the Fort Greene federal housing project. Young boys from the neighborhood of the Brooklyn Navy Yard came armed with baseball bats and knives to attack the regular Friday night dance. When they found a meeting of the basefall committee instead, these hoodlums tried to break in anyway and had to be repelled with force. After the tenants locked them out, the vandals roamed through the neighborhood, chasing Negroes from Fort Greene Park, from ice cream parlors and bars. Five Negroes had to be sent to a hospital as a result of injuries received that night, but the police dismissed the affair as a "kid fight."

It would be foolish to argue about who started the fighting because the discussion would not prove anything. An investigation into anti-Negro and anti-Semitic riots makes it apparent that in practically every town and neighborhood there are young, ignorant bullies willing to give vent to their resentment against society as a whole by starting a war against Negroes or Jews.

It is to the credit of many CIO locals that they have made white workers understand the fraternity of interests which exists between them and Negro workers. In shops where Negro-white disputes took place, they were settled on the basis of this understanding. However, the trade union movement as a whole needs a nation-wide, actively sponsored program of education in this field.

In addition, white workers need to participate more fully in a campaign to defend the civil rights of the Negro, and just as important for the Negro, self-defense organizations, associated with labor, which are militant and clear in their orientation, need to be built up—organizations that will be capable of hitting back in a warfare of the type started by the sheriff of New Iberia.

Hillman and the Corruption in U. S. Politics

By J. R. JOHNSON

The working class needs a political party of its own. If it does not have such a party it is defenseless against capitalist politics and capitalist corruption. Worse than that, capitalist political corruption takes on a particularly destructive character when it is preached by working class leaders and representatives. We have recently had a shameful and instructive example of this in the actions of the CIO Political Action Committee.

The Political Action Committee is led by Sidney Hillman, who has a reputation for being a "progressive." The committee is supposed to mobilize the working class in order to "induce the fullest participation by American workers and other progressives in the determination of our national policies and the selection of our government leaders." This quotation comes from a PAC pamphlet with the imposing title "Political Principles for All Americans."

HILLMAN SLANDERS THE WORKERS

What are the principles expounded for the workers by this supposedly working class document? Here is one of them:

"The truth is that politicians are no more corrupt than the people who elect them. The people corrupt the politicians. They demand traffic enforcement along with ticket-fixing. They want an efficient, honest police force and civil service so long as their sons and cousins get jobs—and a fine school system with the faculty staffed with relatives. The politician who refuses requests for patronage and spoils is told that he'll not be re-elected."

So, the people corrupt the politicians! Who writes this? Westbrook Pegler? Some open enemy, some capitalist slanderer of the working people? No! It comes from the Political Action Committee of the CIO, one of the greatest industrial organizations of workers the world has ever known. We are to believe from now on that the political corruption in Washington and the state governments, the cheating of the public, the financial swindles and deals, the open and secret load of the dice FOR the capitalists and AGAINST the masses of the people, the constant shifting of the burden of taxation onto the people, all this criminality, dishonesty and corruption are supposed to come from the people. The people are corrupt. If they were not corrupt they would elect honest politicians. Meanwhile, Hillman says, let us have Roosevelt for a fourth term.

Sidney Hillman and his pamphleteers must be told a few things they ought to know. Politics is always a reflection, a necessary counterpart of an economic system. The capitalist system is based upon the economic suppression and subjugation of the great masses of the people—the workers. They are thus compelled to work for their capitalist pay, just enough so that they can live on and reproduce more children to become more workers. The rest of the produce, over and above their wages, the capitalists use and divide among themselves.

The woe of capitalist society is organized by capitalism to maintain this system. The educational institutions, the church, the press, the radio, the political parties, of the capitalists, all are directed to keeping the people in subjection, to make them accept the system as natural, as an inevitable, as the only possible form of social existence.

CORRUPTION IS PART OF CAPITALISM

Thus economic subjugation of the people and their intellectual corruption is fundamental to capitalism. Therefore to expect clean politics from filthy capitalism is to look in a garbage pail for pure food. And this corruption, part and parcel of this system, the indispensable weapon the capitalists against the emancipation of the people, Hillman says comes FROM the people. It is their fault. This, the burden of the people, is supposed to be their creation. It makes one feel like spitting. So the workers now not only bear the consequences but must also bear the blame. And this from one of their own leaders and representatives!

One of their representatives? This is exactly where the mischief lies. Hillman, as director of the Political Action Committee, is a politician of the capitalist Democratic Party. He slanders the workers and fouls his own nest because he is playing capitalist politics.

The large majority of the workers in every country want clean government. If some of them seek some petty benefits from petty politicians it is because of the general corruption of the system and their recognition of the fact that all they can hope for from it is a special personal privilege here or there. If Hillman were a leader of a national independent Labor Party he and his fellow fakers would not dare to slander the workers and so shamelessly assist in their further corruption by the system.

FOR A PARTY OF LABOR

What is wanted is a party of the workers with a program for the workers and all the oppressed, a program to reconstruct the entire economic system, to place power in the hands of the workers themselves. The great body of the workers have no interest in political corruption. They are sick of it. They will learn in time that the only remedy is to form their own political organizations and run the government through them.

This shameful capitulation to capitalist ideas, capitalist political practices and capitalist slanders of the workers should make them reflect on the urgent need of the workers to have a party where these things could not possibly take place.

Bound in One Volume:

All 52 Issues of

Labor Action, 1943

Price: \$2.50

Send Orders to

LABOR ACTION

114 W. 14th St.

New York 11, N. Y.

IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL

The Invasion and the Future of Europe

By MAX SHACHTMAN

The Michigan Commonwealth Federation

By L. SMITH

A New Trade Union Program

By DAVID COOLIDGE

Harold Laski, St. Paul and Stalin

By J. R. JOHNSON

SINGLE COPY, 20 CENTS — ONE YEAR, \$1.50

One Year Combination with Labor Action, \$1.75

(Except New York and Bronx, \$2.00)

114 WEST 14th St.

NEW YORK 11, N. Y.

GOP Platform: The Corn's as High as an Elephant's Eye

By V. JENSEN

Platforms of capitalist parties are like fly-paper and have just about as much relation to the real programs. A long roll of paper, sticky with sweet sentiments, usually just about as streamlined as old-fashioned fly-paper and much less effective, the platform is hung out in the hope of catching the unsuspecting voter in November.

The Republican platform, unrolled last week in the Windy City, is a case in point. The boys in the back room, with a score of high-powered, over-paid publicity men, got together to mix a concoction that would offend nobody, please everybody, glean votes from labor, butter up the capitalists, please the reactionaries in the Republican saddle, but if there happened to be a stray "liberal," catch him too. Season with a few unimpeachable sentiments for God, home, mother and freedom, fold in a generous portion of generalities and double talk. Cook with gas provided by Luce, Hoover and Warren, and serve up liberally in the capitalist press. There you have it—the recipe for the Republican platform.

GOP PROMISES EVERYTHING

The Republican platform has been getting a going over by the Democratic press. They point out its obvious contradictions; it comes out for international cooperation, but in its traditional isolationism, refuses to consider any sort of machinery for

such cooperation. The Democrats scoff at the promise of full employment for the post-war period through private employment without government interference, reminding all of those who need to be reminded that this was the program of Hoover. The Democrats burst their sides laughing and pointing out that this program is not the program of the Republican candidates, that it satisfies nobody in the party—that it's just a piece of paper.

The Democrats are brave fellows who never fear to beat a dead horse. Of course, when their own program comes out and it will promise international cooperation but protection of America's sovereignty, full post-war employment and prosperity, with help from the government only when necessary; relief and encouragement for business and pie in the sky for labor; freedom and equality and democracy for all; a strong central government (read: preservation of the Roosevelt bureaucracy) and strengthening states' rights (read: preservation and extension of Jim Crow and poll-tax)—well, that will be a different and more serious matter.

WHAT THEY WANT

Actually the Democratic platform will be shot as full of holes and contradictions and sweet promises as the Republican platform is today.

The Republicans today are in as strong a position as they have been for some time, though not as strong

as they might have been a year ago, before the war started taking so sensationally a good turn for the Allies. They are striving to take advantage of the growing discontent of all parts of the population with the Roosevelt Administration. And so they make lots of promises—for the farmer they promise everything, including rain.

For the business man, they promise lower taxes, protection of small business against monopoly, though naturally without undue government interference with legitimate business practices (read: monopolies and trusts). The platform goes all out for security—unemployment, medical, educational. Of course, it also asks that this security be in the hands of the states instead of the government, which has proved a time-honored method of cutting down benefits and destroying efficiency.

The Republicans do not say how these measures are to be financed, since they are against taxation of business—but Republicans in Congress have shown the way. Their slogan is, let the poor pay—and on this score they have found excellent bed-fellows in their "opponents," the Democrats. Naturally, the Republicans won't need to tax the workers or anybody, since, as they tell us, with the Republican regime comes automatic and miraculous prosperity and freedom. With amazing tactlessness, the Republicans unveiled their living monument to this sentiment of

prosperity—Herbert Hoover, the Great Engineer of Prosperity.

But the biggest laugh at the Chicago circus was the elephant making a play for the labor vote. The Greedy Old Party, traditionally the party of the most reactionary elements of big business, traditionally in the forefront of anti-labor sentiment and action in this country, is trying to make an all-out effort to catch labor this November.

MAKING A PLAY FOR LABOR

The Republicans are aware of the growing discontent in the ranks of



labor with the Roosevelt regime. The workers are learning that Roosevelt

and the Democrats are in a campaign against their standards of living and are determined that labor shall bear the burdens of the war. The W.L.B., the wage-freeze, the Smith-Connally Anti-Strike Act, all these are the work of Roosevelt and the Democrats, the "friends of labor."

The Republicans try to take advantage of this turn against Roosevelt by coming out in their platform against the wage and job freeze, and for a "real" labor representative in the cabinet. But labor, knowing that the Republicans have been vociferous supporters of any anti-labor bill, whether Republican or Democratic-inspired, will not be fooled by such cheap talk. The Republicans voted for the Smith-Connally bill, and since the passage of the Wagner Labor Relations Act they have been consistently sniping at the benefits to labor it provided for.

The big business backers of the Republican Party, the Pews, Girdlers, Averys, have been in the forefront of the fight against labor. The GOP is the sworn enemy of labor's closed shop. It comes out against the job and wage freeze. Okay, but it does not come out against the War Labor Board, which is big business' most effective method of keeping labor's standards of living down. And the Pews, the Averys and Girdlers have not yet come out in a general offer of pay raises to their labor in brave defiance against this iniquitous wage freeze, though they have not

hesitated to defy the government when it came to maintaining an open shop or anti-labor practices.

This year the Republicans are trying to win back the Negro vote, which for the first time they lost to the Democrats and Roosevelt. Negroes have generally voted Republican because the Democrats and their "Solid South" were the official party of Jim Crow. Now the Republicans hope to win back the disillusioned Negro voter, who has found out that his "friend" Roosevelt has never stood up for the Negro in a crisis against the Southern Democrats. Jim Crow at home and in the armed forces has continued and expanded; poll-tax and white supremacy are the protected darlings of the Democrats—and Roosevelt has been silent.

But what does the Republican Party offer to the Negro? It comes out against lynching and for legislation against the poll-tax. But when the anti-poll-tax bill came up in Congress, Republicans ganged up with Democrats to vote against cloture, which would have made passage of the bill possible. Now the program, mealy-mouthed, comes out for a constitutional amendment against the poll-tax, which is a method of indefinitely postponing action. In his own state, Dewey, the Republican candidate, has had a disgraceful record of hampering and pushing aside an investigation into discrimination against Negroes in New York.

Because the Republican platform is

shot through with absurdities and contradictions, because it is a windy catch-all, does not mean, however, that the Republicans have no program. They do have a program and a serious one. That program is the official program of Wall Street and big business. It is a reactionary program for the protection of big business against any measures of social progress, against labor's right to organize economically or politically, for the continuation of discrimination.

The Republican program is the preservation of capitalism. They want to go back to the good old days when labor was unorganized and took what big business wanted to give it—which was nothing more than what was necessary to keep the workers alive. Back to the good old days of Harding and "normalcy," where nobody poked a curious nose into the graft and corruption of big business and its political machine. Back to the good old days of company unions and company towns.

Labor must teach the Republicans that "those days are gone forever." Labor must write its own platform, its own ticket, and form its own party. Labor has listened too long to the siren songs of the two capitalist parties. If labor is to avoid the horrors of post-war unemployment and depression, it must call the tune of social progress and security and for once make the rich pay the piper.

Editorials

Profits Come First in Reconversion

The fight in the War Production Board over reconversion is not a struggle in which one group favors capitalist interests and another those of labor. Press reports would seem to indicate that Chairman Nelson is fighting unemployment, while Vice-Chairman Wilson and the War and Navy Departments want mass unemployment. It goes without saying that mass unemployment is the key question in any plan for reconversion, but the matter of unemployment is not the chief consideration in the minds of either of the groups discussed in the lead story in this week's LABOR ACTION.

So far as it is possible to determine at the present time, the fight on the WPB is between two groups of capitalists who have different ideas on reconversion. Nelson's fight for the "small business man" is misleading. What he is really fighting for, and Senator Truman with him, are the consumer goods producers whose war contracts or sub-contracts have already expired, and those whose contracts will expire at a fairly rapid pace in weeks and months to come.

The big monopolistic firms in this country which grabbed the lion's share of war contracts are still engaged in war production and will be for another considerable period of time. These monopolistic corporations are opposed to having thousands of smaller and independent concerns begin reconversion before they are ready for it. In other words, they want to hold up reconversion until they are ready for it. That simply means getting the lion's share of civilian production, just as they gobbled up, with the help of their representatives in Washington, most of the war contracts.

Behind the fight of the big business interests stand the War and Navy Departments. They support Wilson, not only because their special preoccupation with the war causes them to think largely in terms of war production, but more so because they are deeply allied in thought and practice to big business and its interests.

But what is reported as a victory for Nelson and small business will turn out to be what LABOR ACTION's lead article says it is. Nothing concrete, i.e., practical, has been won by Nelson. Models will be drawn up; estimated orders for raw materials will be sent in; a great deal of shadow boxing will go on—but big business, dominating the whole economy, will really determine just when large-scale reconversion will take place. And big business will decide as it suits it, so as to guarantee for itself a monopoly over reconversion to civilian production—a monopoly over raw materials, machinery and orders.

How does all this affect the workers in this country? Well, Brewster is an example. The fight between the capitalists themselves over their con-

flicting aims, is of deep concern to the workers because it illustrates that big business is not vitally interested in how labor is to resolve the problem of living while the moneybags debate the issue of which reconversion plan is more profitable for the capitalists as a whole.

These gilded gentlemen talk about weeks, months and a year of planning, retooling, competition for orders, priorities for raw materials, etc. They can stand it. They can talk about it for days and weeks and months. But what about the workers? What are they to do in the meantime? How long can they stay idle? And where will their families obtain the means to live? From WPA jobs? But the WPA has already been liquidated. It would take months for a re-establishment of this great accomplishment of the capitalists and its twin—public relief for unemployed workers and the destitute.

What can labor do about it? Plenty! It can adopt LABOR ACTION's program, a program that means something, that can accomplish much for the workers of this country.

What are the labor leaders doing? They are writing a lot of plans without great value, while most of their energies are devoted to capitalist politics, endorsing and working for candidates of both political parties, thus guaranteeing another defeat for the American workers.

"Reducing Diet" for Occupied Europe

One of the weapons the Allies have been using in the war with Germany is the promise of food to the people of occupied Europe. The weapon is a potent one. The promises are on a grand scale.

Under arrangements approved by the President, Lieut.-Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, chief of Army Service Forces, is entrusted with the feeding of people in Europe and elsewhere for a period up to six months following "liberation."

Now for the planned diet. Last year's diet for people in the United Kingdom averaged 2,800 calories a day, despite strict rationing and difficulties of supply. Government experts estimate the average diet in this country to be around 3,200 to 3,400 calories a day. They point out these figures include even the inadequate diet of the sharecroppers in the South—due to which so many young men were rejected by the Army for malnutrition. The planned diet for the countries were are going to "liberate" is—2,000 calories a day.

In the meanwhile, everyone is aware of the derationing of meats and canned fruits and vegetables here. Not so many are aware of the "bare shelf" policy of the Office of Food Distribution. This policy is one of creating a scarcity in order to assure a high price and quick profits, rather than creating a stockpile which would result in lower prices and a bulwark against starvation. Lee Marshall, director of this office, stated the purpose of this policy is to assure the canners, processors and distributors of food "coming out as nearly even as possible" when the armistice arrives.

And what of this 2,000-calorie diet for the peoples of Europe—a diet that was calculated to be the lowest possible one at which the British people could function for three or four weeks and still maintain their efficiency in production, in the darkest days of 1940?

What of the Allies' promise, one of the "Four Freedoms" we are fighting for—freedom from hunger?

This promise is being put into effect. The appetites of the food industries are being gorged with the profits of war, and they're accumulating a stock-pile of profits for the post-war reserve. In the meanwhile, the "liberated" peoples must realize that hunger cannot stand in the way of "free enterprise."

Reconversion Conspiracy--

(Continued from page 1)

of the monopoly corporations. These interests do not want competitors to get a head start on them in the production of civilian goods. They want to maintain their huge concentrations of capital and plant facilities in the position to dominate the domestic and foreign markets, as in the past. In short, they want absolutely no competition from any other quarter and no interference with their monopolistic practices and control of American industrial life.

Furthermore, they want a huge reservoir of surplus (unemployed) labor on the market for the purpose of smashing existing wage scales, further depressing the living standards of the working class, and the effective crippling of the trade union movement of the United States.

TRUMAN'S STATEMENT

This bald and shocking position of the big corporations brought the special Senate committee investigating the national war program into the fray and caused Senator Truman, who heads it, to issue a statement that said:

"It (the order) has been opposed by some selfish business groups that want to see their competitors kept idle until they (big business) finish their war contracts. It has also been opposed by Army and Navy representatives who want to create a surplus of manpower with the hope that the consequent pressure on unemployed workers would result in some of them shifting to occupations or areas where there is still a manpower shortage."

Lashing at the phony scare stories of military brasshats that war production is inadequate, Truman states that the military has obtained or is certain to obtain sufficient war material. Singling out the Brewster shutdown as an example of WPA and Navy "mishandling" of contract cancellations, he warned that:

"Unless we begin now an orderly resumption of civilian production and use surpluses of materials and manpower developed as far needs are met, we must expect that many thousands of employees will face at least temporary unemployment and hardship."

LABOR ACTION put the spotlight on the deliberate stalling tactics and inexcusable bungling of the cutback and reconversion problems by both government and big business even before four thousand Brewster workers were thrown into the streets by the Navy's blunt disregard of their lives and welfare.

In the series of articles on reconversion and unemployment which Albert Gates commenced in the last issue of this paper, a detailed analysis was made of the estimates and prospects of capitalist spokesmen. Additional testimony on the extent that unemployment is expected to reach by the end of 1944 has come from R. J. Thomas, president of the United Auto Workers Union. All of these and a discussion of the practical program of LABOR ACTION and the Workers Party to provide PLENTY FOR ALL are contained in other articles in this issue. We urge you to follow them in this and succeeding issues of LABOR ACTION.

Massacre of Refugees--

(Continued from page 1)

neutral countries and there boarded every conceivable kind of sea-going conveyance chartered, for the shores of Palestine. But once having reached their destination they were cruelly forbidden to disembark. They were left to founder in the sea, without sufficient food, without the semblance of decent accommodations and without hope. Many of these improvised and rickety boats went to the bottom, carrying their human cargo with them.

In the United States, the efforts of the Roosevelt Administration have been purely vocal. Here the prestige and power of the richest government in the world could have cut through the red tape and taken real steps to assure a safe refuge for thousands of political and racial victims of the Gestapo. It could have negotiated with neutral governments, could have brought pressure to bear on numerous others, could have—if it really wanted to—demonstrated in a moment that action speaks louder than words.

U.S. AND RUSSIA SIT BY

President Roosevelt, persuasive politician that he is, could have brought the plight of these homeless refugees before the conscience of the nation and appealed for popular support to lift the bars of the one-time home of the "oppressed and hunted of Europe" to them. But FDR has confined his "humanitarianism" to meaningless commiserations and the establishment of an impotent, and apparently indolent, War Refugee Board, which to date has succeeded in establishing ONE "free port" for refugees in upper New York State.

The record of the other remaining partner in the big three of the United Nations, Russia, is the blackest of all. The country comprising one-sixth of the world's surface allowed no refugees from Nazism to cross its "socialistic border" for many years after Hitler's seizure of power. The excuse then was "How can we be sure they aren't Nazi spies?" During the period of the Hitler Stalin pact, German refugees appearing at the Russian border were delivered into the arms of the Gestapo by Stalin's obliging terror organization, the GPU. Foreign communists who were al-

lowed to enter were soon exterminated by Stalin as a reward for having served him well—or badly—abroad, according to whatever was the current "line" of the Kremlin counter-revolutionist.

With the approach of the concluding stages of the war it can be safely stated that the refugee problem will be relegated to the dusty archives of the State Department, while the little and big diplomats prepare themselves for the important job of div-

ying up the spoils of the imperialist war.

Their attitude seems to be: "Why bother about the refugees. The war is pretty much over and then the question will be settled."

Settled, indeed! The Nazis are "settling" the question by murdering the last remaining Jews in Europe and the United Nations are helping them "settle" it by their past record of complicity and their present policy of indifference.

The hundreds of newspaper and radio commentators who expressed no surprise at FDR's acceptance of a fourth term nomination must be written down as a fraternity of privileged insiders. And we're jealous.

No one suspected it—that is, no one but every literate person in the country. The New York Times reported that not even Eleanor knew, and if Eleanor didn't know, who would?

We were surprised out of our wits, and tonight we are sitting down to write a letter to the President protesting such underhand methods.



Nix Greek King--

(Continued from page 1)

program they could obtain at this time. The results will be very interesting to watch. The success or failure of the Stalinist leaders to convince the underground that this program should be adopted will be of utmost importance in determining the development of the underground movement. The Stalinist leaders are going back with many "convincing" arguments, food, arms, medicine, participation in the government to "direct it" and "clean out" the reactionary elements. Their failure will mean much more than just the displacement of weak leadership.

The treachery of the Stalinist leadership of the ELAS was borne out time and time again at the Lebanon conference. Premier Papandreu had lashed out at the ELAS and called upon its leaders "to agree to give up exerting influence on our armed forces and to dissolve ELAS." The Stalinists, of course, agreed because

ELAS is getting out of hand. But this is not all. At the time of the conference, hundreds of sailors and soldiers were in jail. They had rebelled against the government because it did not include members of the ELAS and parties of the left. The conference was being held because of their revolt. The Stalinists at the conference not only did not demand that these prisoners be freed and the charges dropped, but they sent a telegram to Winston Churchill speaking of "the madness of the actions of irresponsible persons, which, although sprung from a desire for national unity, have led to deplorable and disastrous results which must be condemned by all."

The telegram was signed by M. Rousos, member of the political bureau of the central committee of the Communist Party; M. Porphyrogenis, former communist deputy, and a professor that they drag around for a front.

GREAT BRITAIN

People Revolted by U.S. Race Prejudice

By W. F. CLAYTON

We truly live in "one world," and as United States imperialism dominates this world, the reactionary features of life in the USA are injected everywhere.

American race prejudice, however, has just received a sharp slap in the face from the British. Some time last summer L. N. Constantine, a West Indian Negro known throughout the length and breadth of the British Empire for his cricket playing ability, was invited to captain a West Indian team to play against a British team at Lord's, the headquarters of British cricket. Constantine was at one time the highest paid professional cricketer in England. He had played in India and in Australia, and is as widely known in England as Joe Di Maggio is in the United States. He occupies a responsible post in the wartime administration of Britain.

THE "CRICKETERS" CASE

To play in this important game he reserved rooms for himself, his wife, his daughter and his secretary in a hotel where he had frequently stayed before in years gone by. On his appearance, however, he was refused accommodation and told that "Negroes" were not wanted there. It was widely stated that the Americans who fill London hotels objected to the presence of Negroes.

The British people on the whole have long been disgusted with their recent experiences of the arrogance and barbarity of the transplanted Southerners' attitude toward Negroes. Constantine took the case to the courts and was represented by Sir Patrick Hastings, who rivals Sir Stafford Cripps as the most brilliant lawyer in England. Sir Patrick denounced the abuse of Constantine as a "N...r." He said it was a "gross insult." Both damages and an apology were granted Constantine. The popular personality involved, the distinguished counsel who pleaded and the general interest in the Negro question in Britain today, make this decision one of far-reaching importance.

ANOTHER "RAPE" CASE

Of even greater political significance is the mass pressure which forced a change in a rape decision of the American military command. A Negro soldier was accused of raping an English woman and was sentenced to death by a military court which included one Negro officer. The dishonesty of the evidence and the violation of justice were so shocking that the British people called it the English Scotsboro case.

The press, even some of the conservative press, protested against the verdict. Some of the papers printed long reports of the evidence and submitted it to devastating criticism. Protests to General Eisenhower poured in from all parts of the country. In direct concession to this mass agitation, Eisenhower revoked the death penalty and there for the time being the case stands.

A well known American who visited England some months ago reported that the English people were especially interested in two things American, namely, John L. Lewis and the miners, and the Negroes. Several British children who were sent to America to escape the blitz were interviewed some weeks ago on the eve of their return home. When asked what was their chief impression about America, their reply was unanimous. "We cannot understand the treatment of Negroes."

The British capitalists reserve their degradation of human beings chiefly for the colonies, and racial discrimination and segregation were not at all unknown in Britain before the war. But to experience the ferocity of American race prejudice is a shock to any European accustomed to the democratic regime in Europe before Hitler. The war has carried the American Negro question abroad.

Organized labor, the CIO and the radical movement in particular have a responsibility here to redouble their efforts to wipe away this foul stain from American civilization and to let the British people know that there is another America besides the race-prejudiced American military caste and the backward Southerners.

LABOR ACTION
A Paper in the Interests of Labor
Published Weekly by the
LABOR ACTION PUBLISHING ASSN.
114 West 14th Street New York 11, N. Y.
(Third Floor)
Vol. 8, No. 29 July 17, 1944
ALBERT GATES, Editor
T. R. COBB, Asst. Editor
Subscription Rate: 60 Cents a Year
75 Cents for Canada, New York and Foreign
Re-entered as second-class matter May 24, 1940,
at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the
Act of March 3, 1879.

Combination Offer: **THE NEW COURSE** by LEON TROTSKY
and in the same volume
The Struggle for the New Course by Max Shachtman
Regular Price \$1.50
PLUS A Year's Subscription to **The New International**
Regular Price \$1.50 **Both for \$2.50**
NEW INTERNATIONAL PUB. CO. 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.